

UTC CONNECTOR

Urban Transportation Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago

Volume 4, Issue 1
Fall 2002

INSIDE

**A Message from
the Director**
page 2

**Fall Transportation
Conference**
A Great Success
page 3

**Advisory Board
Changes**
page 5

**Transportation
Research Board**
January 12-16
UIC presenters
page 6



A Renewed Interest In Regionalism

It seems that everywhere you turn today there is talk of regionalism. While some transportation planning projects are planned and conducted on a regional scale, there is growing awareness of the need for all planning to incorporate a wider geographical perspective beyond municipal and state boundaries. The challenge is how to manage this when federal funding is doled out on a state-by-state basis and the multiple municipalities within each state have their own – and often competing – objectives. The good news is that more and more transit agencies and planning entities are realizing that regional planning is more important than ever and the level of debate has greatly increased recently.

Local Conferences Focus on Regionalism

In recent months, a number of conferences and symposia have focused their agendas on regionalism. The 3rd Annual Fall Symposium on September 20th sponsored by the Urban Transportation

Center included panelists who discussed projects such as the “Alameda Corridor” for freight transport between Long Beach and Los Angeles, which entailed coordination with multiple municipalities and counties. This project and others showed how working on a larger geographical scale can result in more effective projects with dramatic results for a region.



Additionally, more than 100 prominent planners, engineers, politicians and developers assembled at the Connecting a Greater Chicago symposium sponsored by Lambda Alpha International on November 15th entitled, “Tough Choices in Forging a Regional Transportation Agenda for the 21st Century.” The record audience included 10 UIC students,

Director of the Urban Transportation Center, Sue McNeil and Dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, Robin Hambleton.

The outstanding group of panelists concurred that regional planning is critical and that Chicago is in need of embarking on an aggressive program of transportation upgrades and expansions throughout the region in the near future. The discussion included Chicago's Central Area Plan and how it was crafted taking into account the relationship between the region and the city center. Additionally, the panel discussed the importance of freight transport to Chicago and the need for facilities and systems to enable freight movement while reducing congestion in the city center, in an effort to retain competitiveness in this industry.

More symposia are planned to focus on the notion of regionalism and its importance to transportation.

Continued on Page 4

Urban Transportation Center Faculty & Staff

Sue McNeil, Ph.D.
Director, UTC

Vonu Thakuria, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Associate Director, UTC

Joseph DiJohn, MBA
METSI Director
Research Professor

Siim Sööt, Ph.D.
Director Emeritus

Karin Allen, MA
Research Transportation
Program Manager

Silvia Becerra
Program Coordinator

Gabrielle Brown
Visiting Program Coordinator

Lise Dirks
Transportation Research
Specialist

Kazuya Kawamura, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Jim Kelly, MPA
Assistant Director for Research
Programs

Jung-Taek Lee, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor

Paul Metaxatos, Ph.D. Research
Assistant Professor

Shamus Misek
Transportation Research
Program Manager

P.S. Sriraj, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor

George Yanos
Network Analyst

Affiliated Faculty

David Boyce, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Civil
and Materials Engineering

Peter C. Nelson, Ph.D.
Professor EECS

Anthony Pagano, Ph.D. Associate
Professor of Managerial Studies

David Perry, Ph.D.
Director, Great Cities Institute

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This September seven new research assistants joined the Urban Transportation Center bringing the total number of research assistants to twenty-eight. Professor Jotin Khisty, Professor Emeritus from Illinois Institute of Technology, also joined us as a Visiting Scholar. Right at the time the last newsletter went to print, Gabrielle Brown was appointed as a Visiting Program Coordinator. We are delighted to have our new students, Professor Khisty and Gabrielle here. Needless to say, life at the Urban Transportation Center is never dull!

We have now made the beginning of fall semester picnic, the extensive new student orientation and the fall symposium a tradition by repeating these successful events. These events provide us with an opportunity to expose students, faculty and staff to new ideas, get to know each other better, and build on our base of skills for analyzing and synthesizing transportation problems.

This semester also brought three new projects. These are:

- Rural Public Transportation Brokerage in Illinois funded through Illinois Transportation Research Center (Principal Investigators:

- Anthony Pagano and Paul Metaxatos)
- Effectiveness of Collision Warning Systems in Heavy Trucks funded by the National Institute for Occupation Safety and Health (Principal Investigators: Jung Taek Lee, Sue McNeil and Vonu Thakuria)
- Asset Management Community of Practice Website funded by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (Principal Investigators: Sue McNeil and Laxmi Ramasubramanian)



Sue McNeil
UTC Director

With a reauthorization of the federal transportation bill due in September 2003 and a new state government in Springfield, there seems to be considerable uncertainty regarding the future direction for transportation research. At the same time there is no shortage of interesting transportation problems. At UTC we are particularly interested in regional transportation issues. Specifically, we have been looking at freight issues in a regional context, as it is clear that the trucks and trains do not stop at the city or the state lines. Similarly the interactions between transportation and land use are at the heart of ongoing work on urban sprawl and the spatial mismatch between jobs and housing. We are hoping

Continued on Page 5

UTC Connector

Volume 4, Issue 1

UTC Connector is produced by the Urban Transportation Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Connector Staff: Audrey Wennink, Roseann O'Laughlin and Jeromie Winsor. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Audrey Wennink at awitte1@uic.edu.

Urban Transportation Center

412 South Peoria Street Suite 340 Chicago, Illinois 60607

Phone: 312.996.4820 Fax: 312.413.0006

www.utc.uic.edu

UTC's Mission

"To improve the quality of life in the Chicago Metropolitan Area and other urban areas through the creation, dissemination, and application of transportation knowledge."

The Urban Transportation Center is structured as a research unit within UIC's College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA).

OTHER NEWS

UTC Hosts Fall Symposium on Transportation Lessons Learned



Panelists at the UTC Fall Symposium

Although failure was the subject of this year's fall symposium, the day was an undeniable success. On September 20th, 2002, the Urban Transportation Center held its annual event at the Student Services Building on UI C's campus. Entitled "Fortuitous Failures or Missed Opportunities: From Hindsight to Foresight," the symposium focused on the valuable lessons learned from past transportation projects, as well the challenges that remain when some proposed transportation solutions just don't materialize.

The symposium brought together representatives from nearly all of the major transportation-policy and -service organizations in the Chicago metropolitan area, who spent the morning swapping stories about past and future projects during two panel discussions.

The first panel was lead by Siim Soot, UI C professor and former director of the UTC. Entitled "Looking Back - Lessons Learned," it featured members reminiscing about two Chicago area transportation projects that didn't quite work out—

and one that had. Larry Christmas, former executive director of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, discussed the 1980s plan to create a downtown distributor subway that would have bisected the north and south portions of Chicago's Loop, a plan that was deserted following a change of mayoral leadership in the city.

Similarly, Richard Wendy, currently one of the deputy executive directors on a project for Stein & Co., U.S. Equities and ICF Kaiser, passed on the story of the never-constructed central-area circulator project, a light-rail transportation system for downtown Chicago that he had worked on for Stein. That project was shut down after the third leg of the funding, at the federal level, didn't come through. However, all agreed that even though the project wasn't completed, the need for better transportation within the downtown area still exists.

On the side of success, Sidney Mathias, current Illinois State Representative and former Mayor of Buffalo Grove, Ill., discussed the recently completed initiative to use an existing rail right-of-way for a new arm of commuter-rail transportation northwest of Chicago, a project that he spearheaded. In particular, Mathias proudly related how different municipalities worked together to bring the new spur into operation, and how continuing efforts are aiming to improve service along the line.

The second panel discussion, led by Joe DiJohn, professor at UTC, was entitled "Looking Forward - Facing the Challenges," and focused on some of the Chicago-area transportation projects that are being planned for the future. Frank Kruesi, president of the Chicago Transit Authority, presented his agency's plans for a new Circle Line, a circumferential line that would make use of some existing elevated-rail infrastructure to connect many current routes. He was assisted in his presentation by Michael Schiffer, a UI C professor on leave while he works as the director of planning at CTA. With another possible look into the future, Cheri Haramb, deputy commissioner of administration and planning with the Chicago Department of Transportation, revealed some detailed plans for a new multilevel, multimodal transportation station in the West Loop. In addition, recognizing the aforementioned need for central area transit, she outlined some ideas that CDOT has developed for bus rapid transit in the downtown area. Finally, Richard Bacigalupo from the Regional Transit Authority explained how his group has been working with municipalities stretching along the Northwest Tollway— Interstate 90 between O'Hare Airport and Schaumburg—to create plans for another possible new spur of rail transit.

Following a brief lunch, special guest Mark Pisano, executive director of the Southern California Association of Governments, gave a keynote address about the ambitiously large-scale Alameda Corridor project that has been undertaken in the Los Angeles area.

Continued on Page 5

FOCUS ON REGIONALISM

From Front Page

Mark your calendars for the Metropolitan Conference on Public Transportation Research (MCPTR), which will be held on June 6, 2003 at UI C. Additionally, next fall's symposium sponsored by the Urban Transportation Center will focus entirely regional issues.

UIC Academics— New Focus On Regionalism

In order to train future generations of planners on this issue of growing importance, UIC will offer a new course in the spring 2003 focusing exclusively on regional planning. Entitled Regional and Metropolitan-Wide Planning, the course promises to deliver an intense focus on regionalism including analysis of strategies put forth by differing regional agencies, the roles of federal, state and local agencies and the evolution of regional planning in the U.S. Furthermore, political and public planning processes will be investigated. Students will have the opportunity to follow three real cases of planning on a regional level and be involved throughout the planning process, including helping to plan public meetings.

Making Regionalism Work

As regional initiatives can be politically unpopular and difficult to manage across municipal and state lines, it is critical to find ways to broker new agreements. The challenge is finding one entity with the authority and negotiation skill to help lead and coordinate change on a regional level. As Robin Hambleton, Dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs noted at a recent UTC board meeting, educational institutions such as UIC are uniquely positioned to serve as neutral facilitators of regional initiatives. Academia's research perspective may be helpful in breaking

some of the roadblocks that have thus far resulted from multiple actors in our fragmented political system trying to operate in isolation.

The Bottom Line

The world has grown much smaller over the past decade. People regularly commute across state lines each day, and entire regions of the country depend on other regions for strategic business processes. The United States cannot afford to continue to develop large-scale planning and transportation initiatives on a city-by-city or state-by-state basis. The challenge that lies before us is a willingness to make new partnerships and take some political risks in order to get the best and most effective transportation projects developed and implemented.

Three Students Defend Theses

This semester three students successfully defended their theses.

Eric Holeman's thesis explores evaluation method for determining the best corridor for bus rapid (BRT). The research method he explored and found to be the most successful is concordance analysis. Additionally, as the CTA has been searching for corridors on the South Side of the city to better serve the high density

areas there, he applied this evaluation method to determine that the Cottage Grove corridor was the best option for BRT in this area.

In her thesis, Yihua Liao conducted research into how transportation spending decisions are influenced by various factors, especially income and housing subsidies. She chose this topic to further explore spatial job-housing mismatch issues and the role of transportation spending for subsidized households. She reviewed consumer expenditure data and evaluated factors

including income, household size, education vehicle ownership and housing location and their relationship

to transportation spending.

Arzmella Hammond conducted research on the travel patterns of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients. The study showed that many recipients live in the city but must travel to the suburbs to access entry-level jobs. Hammond also found that those who quit jobs tended to have longer commutes. On average TANF recipients have to commute longer than other commuters and are not receiving higher wages for these longer travel distances.



OTHER NEWS

Fall Symposium

Continued from Page 3

Feeding off of the panelists' perspectives about the challenges of piecing together the necessities of large-scale transportation projects—funding, public support, political backing, etc.—Pisano offered his perspective on a project that has taken over twenty years to pull together and is still not fully completed. In short, Pisano has had to work alongside a number of parties to move forward with a project that promises to solidify the Los Angeles-area seaports as the most important import and export node on the West Coast. The end product—of which much has already been completed—will be a freight rail right-of-way that extends directly through the metropolitan Los Angeles region and ensures expedient transport of goods to and from the ports. Overall, the project required the cooperation of a variety of government officials, rail companies and neighborhood groups, all of which needed to agree on the impacts, and benefits, of the plan and support it.

To be sure, the numerous complications and extended timeline involved in the Alameda Corridor project demonstrated some of the difficulties involved in bringing together a regional project of this sort, a topic sure to be explored more in depth during the next UTC fall symposium, with its scheduled focus on regionalism. In fact, one of Pisano's cautionary messages was that the Chicago region needs to solve its own diverse set of freight rail issues, or risk the possibility of having its position as a central hub of freight transport diminish.

Wrapping up the day was an entertaining discussion between all of the guests and the audience, which was lead by noted Chicago Tribune

columnist John McCarron, who teaches urban affairs reporting at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern and has worked with the Metropolitan Planning Commission in the past. As he brought the discussions to a close, one of the key messages that continued to come through was that even though—for a variety of reasons—many long-range transportation projects may not be completed, the impetus and demand that created those projects does not perish with them. In fact, in comparing some of the “missed opportunities” to the current transportation proposals, it became evident that the genesis for future projects can often be found in the research and ideas generated from some of those so-called failures. In essence, even defunct transportation projects never fully die; the lessons learned live on in current policies and discussions.

UTC Advisory Board to be headed by Phil Pagano

Phil Pagano, Executive Director of Metra, was elected Chair of the UTC Advisory Board at the December board meeting, replacing Richard Bacigalupo, Executive Director of the RTA and Chairman of UTC's Advisory Board, who is stepping down to accepted a position with the Orange County Transportation Authority in California. Rick has been RTA's Executive of Transportation and member of the UTC Advisory Board since 1995.

Stephen Schindel, Director of

Continued on Page 8

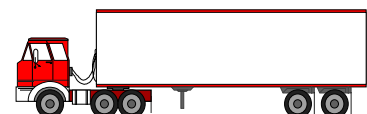
Message from the Director *(from p. 2)*

to continue to develop these projects and the interests of many of the center's researchers in regionalism.

The winds of change have also brought personnel changes for some of our associates. We are bidding farewell to two advisory board members. Richard Bacigalupo, Executive Director of the Regional Transit Authority and chair of our advisory board is leaving the area for Orange County. Rick has served not only as a committed leader of the advisory board but also as a strong supporter of UTC. He has patiently introduced me to the nuances and challenges of making transit work in Chicago. Stephen Schindel, Director of the Department of Public Transit, Illinois Department of Transportation is retiring. Steve and his office have worked with us in terms of setting directions and identifying specific projects. Many thanks to both Rick and Steve. You will be missed but we wish you well.

The spring semester begins with another “new” tradition – the Transportation Research Board Annual meeting. A large contingent of students, faculty and staff will be attending and center faculty, staff, students and affiliates will be participating in twelve different sessions. The College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs and the Urban Transportation Center will again be hosting a reception for alumni and friends. Please join us!

We wish you all the best for 2003.



OTHER NEWS

UTC Hosts Foreign Delegations

Local transportation systems have made Chicago a hot travel destination in 2002. This year the Urban Transportation Center has hosted six delegations of foreign transportation executives. Visitors have been received from China, Germany, Norway, Saudi Arabia and India. The groups have been interested in learning about how Chicago plans and operates its transportation systems. Particular goals, especially those expressed by the Chinese contingent of employees from government transportation agencies, included learning about:

- the structure of metropolitan transportation systems,
- reduction of congestion and improvement of mobility in high growth areas,
- financial management (annual budgeting process, setting of fare rates, conducting feasibility studies)
- future challenges for Chicago and plans for addressing them.

The agenda for the groups included faculty and staff at the Center presenting an overview of the region's transportation systems and UTC's role in area transportation research. Additionally, UTC arranged tours of the CTA Control Center, the Metra Communication Center and the RTA Travel Information Center to demonstrate current management systems. The



Shamus Misek (left center) and Joe DiJohn (right center) of UTC with the Chinese delegation on their June visit to Metra's Communication Center.

Chinese were so impressed with their experiences observing operations in the U.S.'s transportation hub that a second delegation was sent two months after the first.

UIC Faculty/Students Present at TRB

UIC students, faculty and alumni will give more than ten presentations at the Transportation Research Board's Annual Meeting in Washington, D. C. held from Sunday January 12 through Thursday, January 16.

Additionally, the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs will be holding its second annual reception at TRB on Tuesday, January 14, 2003 from 5:30 PM-7:00 PM at the Hilton. Please be sure to support our speakers and join us at the reception. UIC

The UIC presentations are as follows:

Session 341

Monday, January 13
3:45 PM - 5:30 PM
Hilton, Thoroughbred
Topic Area: Circumferential Rail Systems
Title: A Spatial Multimedia Representation of the Chicago Transit Authority's Rail Infrastructure
Presenters: Sue McNeil, UIC; Michael J Shiffer, Chicago Transit Authority; Beth Donahue, UIC; Graham Garfield, UIC; Arnab Chakraborty, UIC; Ramakrishnan Srinivasan, UIC

Session 342

Monday, January 13, 2003,

3:45 PM - 5:30 PM

Hilton

Title: Robert Moses: Villain or Visionary?

Panelists: Floyd Lapp, Sam Schwartz LLC; Jameson W. Doig, Princeton University, David C. Perry, UIC; Marshall Berman, City College of New York

Session 336

Monday, January 13, 2003,
3:45 PM - 5:30 PM, Hilton
Topic Area: Advanced Data Modeling and Methodologies
Title: Application of Probabilistic

Continued on next page

Linkage to Commercial Motor Vehicle and Carrier Study

Presenters: Jung-Taek Lee, UI C, Piyushimita Thakuriah, UI C

Session 417

Tuesday, January 14, 2003, 8:00 AM - 9:45 AM, Shoreham

Topic Area: Incorporating Freight into Statewide and Metropolitan Planning

Title: Economic Benefits of Freight Policy Relating to the Trucking Industry: Evaluation of RTP Freight Policy for Chicago Six-County Region
Presenters: Anusha Seetharaman*, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, Kazuya Kawamura UI C, Saurav Dev Bhatta, UI C

Session 496

Tuesday, January 14, 2003 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM, Hilton

Topic Area: Rural Transportation and Intercity Bus Research

Title: Measuring Intercity Bus Transportation Unmet Needs
Presenters: Anthony M. Pagano, UI C, Paul Metaxatos, UI C

Session 519

Tuesday, January 14, 2003 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM, Hilton

Topic Area: Transit Management and Marketing Issues (Poster Session)

Title: Deriving Travel Costs with Web-Based Travel Information Centers for Various Travel Patterns
Authors: Eve Gibson Pytel*, Transystems Corporation
Sue McNeil, UI C

Session 562

Tuesday, January 14, 2003, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Topic Area: Markov Chain Monte Carlo in Action

Title: Markov Chain Monte Carlo Methods: Applications for Imputation of Missing Data in Transportation Databases
Presenter: Piyushimita Thakuriah, UI C

Session 628

Wednesday, January 15, 2003 8:30 AM - 10:15 AM

Topic Area: Asset Management Building Blocks

Title: Evaluation of Private Sector Asset Management Practices
Presenter: P. S. Sriraj, UI C

Session 633

Wednesday, January 15, 2003, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Topic Area: Current Research in Freight Transportation, International Trade, and Transportation Security

Title: Estimation and Accuracy of Origin-Destination Highway Freight

Weight and Value Flows

Presenter: Paul Metaxatos, UI C

Session 638

Wednesday, January 15, 2003, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hilton

Topic Area: Pricing

Title: Perceived Benefits of Congestion Pricing for Trucks
Author: Kazuya Kawamura, UI C

Session 706

Wednesday, January 15, 2003 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Topic Area: Modern Tunnel Construction and Evaluation Techniques

Title: The Application of Nondestructive Evaluation to Subway Tunnel Systems (03-3269)

Presenters: Norbert Joseph Delatte, UAB; Sue McNeil, UI C, Richard A Miller, University of Cincinnati; Shen-en Chen, UAB; Nitin Maini, UAB; Neville A Parker, CUNY Institute for Transportation Systems; Anil Agrawal, CUNY Institute for Transportation Systems; George Mylonakis, CUNY Institute for Transportation Systems; Kolluru Subramaniam, CUNY Institute for Transportation Systems; Akira Kawaguchi, CUNY Institute for Transportation Systems; Paul Bosela, Cleveland State University

*=alumnae of UI C

Urban Transportation Center Advisory Board

Phil Pagano, Chairman
Executive Director
Metra

Thomas Ashby
President
Illinois Public Transit Association

Aristide E. Biciunas
Executive Director
Chicago Area Transportation Study

Randy Blankenhorn
Chief
Urban Program Planning
IDOT

Thomas Cuculich
Executive Director
Illinois State Toll Highway Authority

John DeLaurentiis,
Deputy Executive Director
RTA

Miguel d'Escoto
Commissioner
Chicago Department of Transportation

Joel Ettinger
Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation

Neil Ferarri
Acting Director
IDOT Division of Public Transportation

Christine M. Johnson
Director of Field Services - Midwest
USDOT FHA

John Kos
District Engineer
IDOT-District 1

Frank Kruesi
President
Chicago Transit Authority

John McCarthy
President
Continental Airport Express
USDOT

T.J. Ross
Executive Director
PACE

Ronald L. Thomas
Executive Director
Northeastern Illinois
Planning Commission

Thomas R. Walker
Commissioner, Dept. of Aviation
O'Hare International Airport

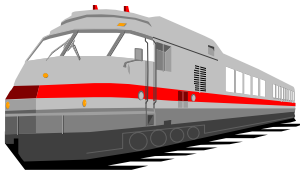
UTC Advisory Board

Continued from Page 3

the Division of Public Transportation at the Illinois Department of Transportation and member of the UTC advisory Board since 1995, announced that he will retire at the end of 2002 and conclude his term on the board.

John DeLaurentiis, Deputy Executive Director of RTA, will join the Advisory Board in January 2003.

The faculty and staff of the Urban Transportation Center wish our departing board members, two outstanding transit professionals, the best in their future endeavors.



Kirk Brown Retires

Kirk Brown, Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation announced his retirement effective at the end of 2002. Secretary Brown has more than three decades of service to IDOT and has been the Secretary for over a decade. Among his accomplishments are overseeing the state's complex transportation program, implementing Illinois First which provided over \$6 billion in surface transportation improvements and the planning for a Third Airport for the Chicago region. He has been a strong supporter of the Urban Transportation Center and his presence in the State of Illinois will be sorely missed.

Mark Your Calendars

Transportation Research Board
Annual Meeting
January 12- 16
Washington, D.C.

*

American Planning Association
National Conference
March 29-April 2
Denver, CO

*

Metropolitan Conference on
Public Transportation Research
(MCPTR)
June 6, 2003
UIC

**Urban Transportation Center (MC357)
University of Illinois at Chicago
412 South Peoria Street, Suite 340
Chicago, IL 60607-7036**

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, Illinois
Permit No.
4860