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**UIC** University of Illinois  
at Chicago

## UTC Shines at Transportation Research Board Meeting

**Did we see you in Washington DC?** UTC faculty and students made their annual trek to the nation's capital to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 84th Annual Meeting, which was held on January 9-13, 2005.



P.S. Sriraj, Eric Welch, and UTC Director Sue McNeil at TRB

In preparation for this year's event, faculty and students diligently prepared and submitted conference papers. We were pleased to have twelve papers accepted for presentation or poster sessions. Paper submissions varied and included the following topics: advances in activity-based analysis of travel behavior, planning research and innovative services for transit, linking asset management to strategic planning, the effect of Ozone Action Days on transit ridership, use and research on American Community Survey data from the transportation perspective, transit passenger counting and electronic systems, transit innovations, rail transit system performance, geo-spatial information and technologies, and the socioeconomic aspects of 21st century transportation. Check out page 7 for a complete listing of UTC participation at TRB.

Every year TRB attracts professionals from around the globe. This year was no different. Conference events were well

attended and provided an opportunity for students and faculty to hone their networking skills by connecting with others in the transportation field and related disciplines. One student remarked that networking was easy at TRB—she was pleasantly surprised at how effortless it was to engage in a substantive conversation during the Environmental Mega Poster Session.

Being the largest transportation conference in the country, TRB naturally serves as a rallying point for research related discourse. In addition, it provides an opportunity for former students to reunite with professors and in our case, for past students to reconnect with UTC. Rumor has it that some people make the annual pilgrimage just for this purpose.

During UTC's homecoming reception on Monday evening, current students had an opportunity to meet and reconnect with former students. We were joined by alumni Ronald Eash (MUPP, 1987), Ed Christopher (MUPP, 1983) and other



UTC students enjoy themselves at UTC's TRB reception

graduates of the Center. In a welcome change from previous years, many recent graduates attended the center's reception as well. Shaumik Pal (MUPP, 2003) and

## Faculty & Staff

### Sue McNeil

Director, Professor

### Piyushimita (Vonu) Thakuriah

Associate Director for Research Programs, Associate Professor

### Joseph DiJohn

METSI Director, Research Professor

### Siim Sööt

Director Emeritus

### Karin Allen

Research Transportation Program Manager

### Silvia Becerra

Program Coordinator

### Gabrielle Brown

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### Lise Dirks

Transportation Research Specialist

### Kazuya Kawamura

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### Jim Kelly

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### C. Jotin Khisty

Visiting Scholar

### Susumu Kudo

Visiting Scholar

### Jung-Taek Lee

Research Assistant Professor

### Jie (Jane) Lin

Assistant Professor, CE

### Paul Metaxatos

Research Assistant Professor

### Abolfuzl (Kouros) Mohammadian

Assistant Professor, CE

### Shamus Misek

Transportation Research Program Manager

### Peter Nelson

Professor, Head of Computer Science

### Anthony Pagano

Associate Professor of Managerial Studies

### Laxmi Ramasubramanian

Research Assistant Professor

### Vanessa Smith

Assistant Director for Business and Finance

### P.S. Sriraj

Research Assistant Professor

### Norman West

Visiting Scholar

### George Yanos

Principal Research Programmer

## Director's Message by Sue McNeil

On a typical chilly, dull December day, I sat in my office sifting through emails, and pondering which of the many works in progress I would drag home to work on that evening. The phone rang. It was Representative Julie Hamos, chair of the subcommittee appointed by the Illinois legislature to review the transit funding issues for Northeastern Illinois. The committee was looking for researchers without a vested interest in the process or outcome to provide technical support to the committee. After some discussion on the role of the committee, her expectations as chair, and the time frame, I agreed to assemble a UTC team to take on the role of technical support.

I envisioned our product to be a nice neat table summarizing the various options provided by the committed for solving the "funding crisis." In the rows would be the policy options and each of the columns would provide a qualitative or quantitative assessment of each of the alternatives in terms of equity or adequacy. While we still may produce such a product, the process has been far messier than I ever imagined with hearings going on for as long as four hours, multi-megabyte spreadsheets that churn data provided by the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), PACE and Metra, and a growing stack of paper on my desk.

The press coverage of the funding issues does not even begin to document the issues and the tangled maze of history, deals, and needs that goes into the RTA Act and the complex mechanisms that support transit funding in Northeastern Illinois. Our team- Mike Pagano from Public Administration, P.S. Sriraj from the Urban Transportation Center, PA graduate students Dan Weiske and Benoy Jacob, MUPP graduate student Sonali

Tandon, and Joe DiJohn, resident historian – has begun to tackle sorting through the history, the facts, the data, and the hearsay. As Representative Hamos likes to say, we are helping to translate what the RTA and the service boards provide into language a legislator can understand.

We have reviewed the funding packages in other areas with similar complex arrangements of multiple operating agencies, and multiple jurisdictions. We have examined the funding, cost, revenue and ridership history, taking care to explore the trends in both constant and current dollars. We have broken down the recent data by location, line, and service. We have researched basic principles of financing and appropriate service measures. We have reviewed the service boards' plans for expansion of service.



Sue McNeil  
UTC Director

No matter which way you slice and dice it, several issues are clear

- Consensus is impossible.
- The service boards have fundamentally different cost structures, and deliver different types, frequencies and levels of service.
- Service coverage is not uniform through the region.
- Service cuts are not a palatable option.
- A functional, affordable and efficient transit system is critical to the health of the region.
- Tax increases are to be avoided.

We continue to examine options. In the end, the legislature will make the decisions. Along the way, we will have learned a lot more about transportation in our region. It is a fascinating business.

# Urban Transportation Center News

## News in Brief

### UTC Shines at TRB, continued



Michael Pagano and Lisa Kramer at the UTC Reception

Meghan Hammerle (MUPP, 2004) were among them. Continuing in the theme of meeting and networking with other

transportation professionals, we also welcomed new faces to the reception, like Michael Salvato (New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority) and Fred Salvucci (Center for Transportation and Logistics, MIT). Lisa Kramer (MPA, 2004) served as the evening's photographer. For more photos and a complete listing of reception attendees, visit our website at <http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/utc>.

TRB proved once again to be a time to reconnect with old friends and bring new ones into the UTC family. If you missed us this year, we hope to see you at next year's annual meeting.

### Cutting Edge Research Highlights

Innovative research in transportation access, planning, and engineering is what the Urban Transportation Center is known for both in the Chicago region, as well as throughout the nation and internationally. Through our emphasis on cutting edge research, UTC fosters innovative thinking to address the nagging problems facing our transportation systems. We would like to take this opportunity to feature some of the current research being conducted here at UTC.

#### Making ITS More Accessible for Local Planning Efforts

*Faculty: Piyushimita Thakuriah*

*RAs: Tim Gustafson, Peter Christensen, Lei Tang*

*Funding: Federal Highway Administration*

The use of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) is becoming very extensive within the urban environment. Determining which projects should be considered, ranging from electronic toll collection, variable message signs, to automatic vehicle location technology can be a difficult and costly process. The purpose of this study is to examine the decision making process for selecting

such projects and to create a decision support tool to facilitate planning efforts. The decision support program is also intended to make use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for displaying and analyzing the spatial impact of such ITS projects. The goal of the project is to improve the planning process for Intelligent Transportation Systems deployment.

#### Promoting Context Sensitive Solutions

*Faculty: Joe DiJohn*

*RA: Mary Ann Kaufman*

*Other participating organizations: METSI, IDOT*

Working in coordination with IDOT, this project will launch internal training seminars regarding Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS). IDOT has already written and posted their new Context Sensitive Solutions policies, but training is now needed for engineers in how to incorporate CSS during all phases of a project. This training will address the breadth, depth and quality of Context Sensitive Solutions to be included in transportation projects.

#### Research Assistant Wins Eisenhower Fellowship

Jiangping Zhou, UTC RA and MUPP student, recently was awarded the Dwight D. Eisenhower Grant for Research Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The award is a nationally competitive scholarship, and is awarded to graduate and undergraduate students to conduct transportation research and engage in development and technology transfer activities at USDOT.

#### UTC Provides Technical Assistance for County-Wide Transit Plan

Joe DiJohn and Shamus Misek have been working with staff in McHenry County since last fall to undertake a county-wide transit plan. Workshops were held this spring with employers and municipalities in order to obtain input on transit needs. The preliminary plan calls for expanded demand response service within and between communities. The final report is expected to be completed by TranSystems by this summer.

#### Advisory Board Welcomes New Members

UTC would like to welcome the following new board members:

*Jason Tai, Director of Public and Intermodal Transportation, IDOT.* Jason served as U.S. Representative William Lipinski's top transportation staffer prior to joining IDOT.

*Don Kopec, Acting Executive Director, CATS.* Don was Deputy Director and replaces Art Biciunas who recently retired.

*Don Gismondi, Acting Regional Administrator, FTA.* Don is a long time FTA employee who replaces the outgoing Joel Ettinger.

Continued on page 6

### Cultural Diversity Highlighted at UTC

In October 2004, the Urban Transportation Center's Director Sue McNeil sponsored a sensitivity seminar for all research assistants, faculty and staff at the Urban Transportation Center. As a result of this seminar, UTC RAs Gidon Berman and Mary Ann Kaufman, with the guidance of advisor Paul Metaxatos, decided to create a venue to further awareness of diversity issues within UTC.

Although they thought the seminar was a good start, they felt there was more opportunity for dialogue about cultural differences. The pair came up with the idea to hold a bi-weekly "Diversity Lunch" to highlight the many diverse

cultures that are represented at UTC, from the research assistants, to faculty and staff. "I think these events bring out the special cultural stories we all have, which can help us all better appreciate the amazing diversity of our work environment," said Mr. Berman.

A presentation is held every other week, where a fellow co-worker presents information and background on their country of origin, culture or religious background. Since last November, speakers have presented information on Albania, Australia, China, India, Israel and the culture and practices of the Latter Day Saints.



Saranda, Albania



Shanghai, China

### Seminars Provides Insights on Regional Transportation Issues

The Spring 2005 Seminar series at UTC has been a great success. The seminars, which are organized by Research Assistant Professor P.S. Sriraj and a committee of UTC faculty, staff and students, are held each Friday at UTC. The seminars provide a forum for information exchange on exciting transportation-related research and projects going on in the region.

Speakers this spring included Tony Smith from SB Friedman and Company, who discussed the STAR Line land use project; Nick Jackson from the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, on designing streets for better bicycle access; Piyushimita Thakuriah from UTC, presenting on partnerships for job accessibility and employment transportation; and Ray Ribich, private consultant and volunteer with the

Conservation Foundation, on context sensitive solutions in project design. Speakers in April include Jarrod Cebulski from Patrick Engineering, Inc. who will present more information on context sensitive solutions in transportation, Darcy Bullock from Purdue University, Bod Dilling from IDOT, and Zong Zhi Li from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

### New Assistant Director Joins UTC

Vanessa Smith, the new Assistant Director for Business and Finance, began at UTC on March 1. Ms. Smith comes to UTC from the Chicago Transit Authority, where she was the Senior Accountant for the past five years.

This is a new position at UTC. Ms Smith's responsibilities include overseeing all financial activity at UTC, including the forty-two current grants that fund

operations and research at the center. Two research assistants will be working with her, to reconcile and manage the grants, and ensure that grant agreements and requirements are fulfilled.

She is very excited about the opportunities she will have to strengthen the financial reporting and dissemination process at the center, and hopes to streamline the process and increase efficiency.

Vanessa received her bachelor's degree in Accounting from Roosevelt University, and her graduate degree in Finance from the Illinois Institute of Technology. A native Chicagoan, she has worked several years in the accounting and finance field. She enjoys bike riding and tennis, and spending time outdoors and at the park.

## UTC Update

*Professor Susumu Kudo is a Visiting Scholar at UTC, and a graduate of the PhD program in Public Policy Analysis/Urban Planning at UIC. He is also a faculty member at Fukui Prefectural University in Fukui, Japan. The following is a short interview conducted by the Connector to learn more about his work and research interests.*

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**Connector: What similarities or differences do you find in transportation planning and research in Japan compared to the United States?**

Professor Susumu Kudo: To first give you a perspective of where I come from, I work in the Department of Economics in the College of Business at the Fukui Prefectural University in Japan. Fukui is located approximately 350 miles west or 4.5 hours by train from Tokyo, and one hour north of Kyoto. I think that Japanese research, not just in transportation but also in economics, is more theory-based with less real world application. The major reason for this is the lack of data available to the university researcher. For the first time in well over a decade, the Japanese government decided to conduct a national person-trip survey. We have many sophisticated tools for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), but I am not sure how connected these tools and methods are to larger policy and planning goals.

**C: What are your main research interests?**

SK: Since my background is in economics, I am interested in public policy issues in many areas including housing, health, education, economic development, and, of course, transportation.

**C: What are you working on currently?**

SK: Right now, I am working on a traffic accident analysis using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology for a relatively small city in Japan's Fukui Prefecture.

**C: Please share with us the most innovative or exciting research you have been involved in, either here or abroad.**

SK: My university puts more emphasis on teaching than research, so I have not engaged in as many research initiatives as I would like to. The most recent projects I was involved with include the Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative (IMRI) project in Chicago and the Inter-Jurisdictional Mobility Program (IJM), which was a Section 8 program conducted by the Metropolitan Council in Minneapolis-St. Paul, to move central city minority residents to the suburbs.

In my more recent work involving traffic accident analysis, I am hoping to learn more about newly developed spatial data analysis methods.

**C: Are you currently working in collaboration with other professors at UIC or at other universities?**

SK: Currently, I am helping to teach for a professor in a public health program at Fukui University. I am quite interested in the alternative medicine methods being introduced to medical doctors.

In the past, three faculty members from UIC- Professors Kheir Al-Kodmany, Kazuya Kawamura, and Tingwei Zhang- visited my university and lectured for my students. I would like to continue hosting faculty who are interested in teaching in Japan, but I would also like to develop more short-term intensive

planning and policy curriculums in cooperation with UIC professors.

Our university is going through a restructuring process, which will hopefully make it easier to initiate new projects. I believe

the prefectural government wants our university to be more policy and planning oriented, which will also encourage more collaborative efforts.

**C: What do you think will be some the most important transportation challenges that we will face, either locally or abroad, in the coming decade?**

SK: Reducing automobile use both in the metropolitan and rural areas is the top global transportation challenge we have to face. I don't think we can or should price out car owners by higher gas and other taxes. But, there are also people who are unable to drive and we have to take care of them as well. We must develop alternative transportation methods for various age groups to address work schedules, housing and job locations, as well as change our lifestyles to be less dependent on car usage. I hope to see a totally new technology to move people from point A to point B during the 21st century.



Aerial View of Fukui Prefectural University, Japan

## Transportation Research Forum (TRF) News

### UTC Presents at TRF Conference



The 46th Annual Transportation Research Forum (TRF) was held on March 6-8 in Washington, DC. The conference was co-sponsored by George Washington University Aviation Institute, TRF New York Chapter, and Patrick Engineering, Inc. Conference themes included financing transportation in financially constrained times, transportation security, freight transportation and global trade, and public-private partnerships in transportation.

Anthony Pagano served as Program Vice President for the event. In addition, UTC Research Assistant Professor

Paul Metaxatos served as chair for the Public Transit section, and METSI Director Joseph DiJohn served as chair for the Financing Transportation Services section.

Congratulations to the following UTC faculty, staff and students who developed research papers that were presented at TRF: Karin Allen, Gidon Berman, Joseph DiJohn, Kazuya Kawamura, Paul Metaxatos, Roseann O'Laughlin, Shamus Misek, Anthony Pagano, Hyeon-Shic Shin, Siim Sööt, and Norm West.

### New Chicago TRF Chapter Formed

The first meeting of the newly formed Chicago Transportation Research Forum was held in February, and was attended by practitioners and researchers representing transit, planning, highway and freight industries, and local universities. Officers elected at the meeting include Joe DiJohn, UTC (President), and Chuck Abraham, IDOT (Secretary/Treasurer). Program Committee members include Leanne Redden (ISTHA), Tom Vick (CATS), Kazuya Kawamura (UTC/UPP), and Joe Schweiterman (DePaul University). The chapter looks forward to an interesting and informative local program. For more information, please contact Joe DiJohn at [joedi@uic.edu](mailto:joedi@uic.edu) or Anthony Pagano at [amp@uic.edu](mailto:amp@uic.edu).

## Research Highlights, continued

### Business and Site Specific Trip Generation Methodology for Truck Trips

PI: Kazuya Kawamura

Co-PI: Sue McNeil

Subcontractor: Elizabeth Ogard

RA: Hyeon-Shic Shin

Funding: Midwest Regional University Transportation Center, METSI

This study is working to develop a methodology for estimating freight demand based on analysis of business behaviors. Using the data collected from business establishments in the Midwest, prototype models for predicting truck trip rates to and from a business site will be developed. The model will capture the relationship between the demand for truck trips and business decisions at the firm level including the use of information technologies and various logistics and inventory management strategies.

### Exploratory Analysis of "City Logistics" Solutions to Urban Goods Movement

PI: Kazuya Kawamura

RA: Yandan Lu

Funding: Distinguished Graduate Scholar Fellowship, FHWA

In this study, the feasibility and applicability of various innovative strategies (known as "city logistics") for the Chicago region will be explored. City logistics concepts are aimed at alleviating the goods movement problems in urban areas that are associated with the first and last few miles of shipments. The study will begin by collecting information on various city logistics strategies and creating a list of existing and promising projects around the world. Then, the projects will be categorized into sub-groups according to objectives, strategy, administrative structure, etc. From each sub-group, several cases will be selected and reviewed in detail. This project will provide insight into the conditions that must be met for each type of strategy to be successful. Finally, the assessment of the feasibility

and effectiveness of each strategy for the Chicago region will be made based on how well various conditions can be met.

### Economic Impact Evaluation Tool for Freight Transportation Planning

PI: Kazuya Kawamura

RA: Mingxuan Wang

Sub-contractor: Rainer vom Hofe (University of Cincinnati)

Funding: FHWA

This project will develop a state-of-the-art tool for quantifying broad economic impacts associated with improvements in the efficiency of goods movement. This tool can be used to assess the broader impacts of transportation projects on the economy through economic productivity, freight flow, environment, road construction and maintenance. The operational framework of this tool will be the combination of transportation demand forecasting model and the Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model that will be developed for the Chicago region by the research team. The CGE model will be customized so that the multiplier effects of freight transportation including in-house carriers can be captured.

## Publications/Presentations *UTC faculty & RAs in italics*

### Publications/Reports

*Metaxatos, P., P.S. Sriraj, S. Sööt, and J. DiJohn.* Effects of Whistle-Blowing Bans on Accidents at Gated Rail-Highway Crossings: The Northeastern Illinois Experience. Journal of the Transportation Research Forum, Vol. 43, No. 2, Fall 2004.

*Mishra, S. and J. Lin.* Final Report on Need Based Archival and Management of AVL/APC Data. Prepared for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), January 2005

*Yu, Dan and J. Lin.* Applications of Chicago Transit Authority's Static Scheduling and Active AVL/APC Data. Prepared for the Chicago Transit Authority and the Urban Transportation Center, University of Illinois at Chicago, December 2004.

*Zhou, J.* Spatial Mismatch and Employment of the Low-Income: Literature in the West and Implications. Modern Urban Research, Vol. 19, No. 112 (in Chinese, with abstract in English).

*Zhou, J.* Survey and Datasets of Nationwide Transportation Planning Data: U.S. Experience and Implications for China. Journal of Urban Transportation, No. 4, pp. 24-29 (in Chinese, with abstract in English).

### Presentations/Posters

*Allen, K., J. DiJohn, and S. Misesk.* Transportation Information Clearinghouse. 46th Annual Transportation Research Forum (TRF), Washington, DC, March 2005.

*DiJohn, J., J. Berman, and S. Sööt.* Emerging Commuting Trends: Evidence from the Chicago Area. 46th Annual TRF, Washington, DC, March 2005.

*Hammerle, M., M. Haynes and S. McNeil.* Use of Automatic Vehicle Location and Passenger Count Data to Evaluate Bus Operations for Chicago Transit Authority. 84th Annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2005.

*Kawamura, K. and S. Mahajan.* Hedonic Analysis of Impacts of Traffic Volumes on Property Values. 84th Annual TRB Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2005.

*Mohammadian, A. and S. Doherty.* A Mixed Logit Model of Activity Scheduling Time Horizon Incorporating Spatial-Temporal Flexibility Variables. 84th Annual TRB Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2005.

*Mohammadian, A., H. Dastgir and L.T. Bui.* Non-Stop Mass Transit System: Feasibility and Preliminary Design. 84th Annual TRB Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2005.

*Mohammadian, A., M. Haider and P. Kanaroglou.* Incorporating Observed Spatial Dependencies in Random Parameter Discrete Choice Models. 84th Annual TRB Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2005.

*Pagano, A., P. Metaxatos, R. O'Laughlin and A. Morreale.* Strategies for Overcoming Barriers to Paratransit Brokerage. 46th Annual TRF, Washington, DC, March 2005.



### Advisory Board

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Please contact Silvia Becerra at [silabec@uic.edu](mailto:silabec@uic.edu) with any questions or comments.

## Publications/Presentations, continued

*Shin, H. and K. Kawamura.* Framework for the Disaggregate Truck Trip Generation Model Based on the Survey of Retail Businesses. 46th Annual TRF, Washington, DC, March 2005.

*Sööt, S., J.G. Berman, and S. Kudo.* Urban Sprawl: Changing Impacts on the Urban Environment. 84th Annual TRB Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2005.

*Thakuria, P., P.S. Sriraj, S. Sööt, Y. Liao, and J.G. Berman.* Activity and Travel Changes of Job Access Transportation Service Users: Analysis of User Survey. 84th Annual TRB Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2005.

*Thakuria, P. and Y. Liao.* Analysis of Variations in Vehicle Ownership Expenditures. 84th Annual TRB Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2005.

*Welch, E., X. Gu and L. Kramer.* Effects of Voluntary Mobile Emissions Reduction Programs on Urban Transportation: Panel Data Analysis of Ozone Action Days on Ridership of Chicago Transit Authority Trains. 84th Annual TRB Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2005.

*West, N. and K. Kawamura.* Planning Considerations for Projected Intermodal Rail Yards in the Chicago Region Studied by Key-Informant Interviews. 46th Annual TRF, Washington, DC, March 2005.

*Zhou, J.* Financing Rail Rapid Transit System Expansion in the 1990s: Comparison Between Chicago and Shanghai. 84th Annual TRB Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2005.

*Zhou, J.* National Transportation Planning Course Syllabus and Associated Case Studies. 84th Annual TRB Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2005.

## Upcoming Events

**May 11-13, 2005**  
**Census Data for Transportation Planning: Preparing for the Future**  
**Irvine, CA**  
Sponsored by TRB  
for more information:  
[www.trb.org](http://www.trb.org)

**June 3, 2005**  
**Transport Chicago Conference**  
**Illinois Institute of Technology**  
for more information:  
[www.transportchicago.org](http://www.transportchicago.org)

**November 8-10, 2005**  
**Sixth Annual Conference on Transportation Asset Management**  
**Kansas City, MO**  
Sponsored by TRB  
for more information:  
[www.trb.org](http://www.trb.org)

**January 22-26, 2006**  
**TRB 85th Annual Meeting**  
**Washington, DC**  
for more information:  
[www.trb.org](http://www.trb.org)

## CONNECTOR

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