

# UTC CONNECTOR

Urban Transportation Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago

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## Sprawl II Focuses on Broader Issues

The Urban Transportation Center's (UTC) second annual Urban Sprawl Symposium brought in some of the foremost experts on urban sprawl for the one-day event at the Hyatt University Village on October 19.

The second installment of the UTC brainchild recognized the broader context for sprawl as not only a transportation issue, but also one related to every aspect of urban fabric.

Focusing on a national perspective, Susan Handy, an Associate Professor from the University of Texas at Austin, opened the conference with a presentation on her work in the field of accessibility planning. Stressing the differences between accessibility and mobility (mobility as the potential for movement and accessibility as the potential for interaction), Handy made it evident that planning for accessibility rather than mobility is "one promising remedy for sprawl."

The University of Arizona's Sandra Rosenbloom followed



Factors other than Transportation were discussed at the UTC's second annual Sprawl Symposium.

Handy in the opening session with her perspective on sprawl as it relates to older segments of the population.

"Older people are explicitly the problem with sprawl," said Rosenbloom, citing the accessibility problems associated with low density suburban development. "They're not mindful of what they'll need [in terms of service] 10 to 15 years in the future."

The morning's second session, the Chicago Experience, included retired UTC director Siim Sööt, James Hoeveler of the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), and the Metropolitan Planning Council's (MPC) President

Mary Sue Barrett.

Each presentation included a housing aspect. Sööt said that efforts to curtail sprawl should investigate the effects of real estate taxes on sprawl, one element that encourages sprawl.

Hoeveler introduced the CNT's Location Efficient Mortgage program, which encourages homeownership in areas that are densely developed and close to bus and rapid transit lines.

The MPC Live Near Work Fund promotes home ownership close to employment while reducing employee turnover and relieving congestion on the Chicago region's road network.

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## Urban Transportation Center Faculty & Staff

Sue McNeil, Ph.D.  
UTC Director

Joseph DiJohn, MBA  
METSI Director  
Research Professor

Vonu Thakuriah, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor

Paul Metaxatos, Ph.D.  
Research Assistant Professor

Kazuya Kawamura, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor

Karin Allen, MS  
Research Transportation  
Program Manager

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

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

Shamus Misek  
Research Transportation  
Program Manager

Jim Kelly, MPA  
Visiting Assistant Director for  
Research Programs

Siim Sööt, Ph.D.  
Director Emeritus

Lise Dirks  
Research Transportation  
Specialist

George Yanos  
Network Analyst

Silvia Becerra  
Program Coordinator

### Affiliated Faculty

Peter C. Nelson, Ph.D.  
Professor EECS

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

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

David Perry, Ph.D.  
Interim Dean CUPPA

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This past semester is best characterized by the word change, both global change and changes within UTC. World events have touched us all and we are deeply saddened by the events of September 11 and the aftermath. We all have a new awareness for both personal security and the security and protection of our transportation systems. This will be reflected in both our research and education. Closer to home, there have been new projects, staff changes, new students, students graduating and conference, workshops and symposia in which we have participated.

In August, Rosalva Diaz assumed the position of Project Coordinator for the International Center for Health Leadership Development. While we were sorry to see Rosalva leave, this is a great opportunity for her and we wish her well. In November, Karin Allen joined us as a Research Transportation Program Manager working on the RTA Clearinghouse Project. Prior to joining UTC, Karin was the Van Pool Services Administrator for Pace. In December,

Silvia Becerra joins us the Program Coordinator. Silvia has spent 16 years with the Urban Planning and Policy Program so is a familiar face to many of us. Welcome Karin and Silvia!



Sue McNeil  
UTC Director

Over the summer, Saulath Sakina and Dejan Milenkovic completed their requirements for graduation and left UTC. Don Costello and Qian (Cherry) Xiong are in the process of completing projects and coursework and will graduate this semester. Don has served as the editor of the

newsletter and our resident opinionated sports expert. Don's talents will certainly be missed. The new research assistants joined us in August. They are Norma Pena-Rivera (PPA), Ying Bao (CEMM), David Fronczak, Haidong Zhu, Monica Akins, Shaumik Pal, Sudeshna Sen, Avinash Sinha (all MUPP), Victor Mora (MBA), and David Kralik and Arzmella Hammond (new to UTC but continuing MUPP students).

This semester we conducted an extensive student orientation over an eight week period covering ongoing projects, computer tools, and available data. During the first week, students were introduced to Chicago and public transit with a city-wide scavenger  
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## UTC Connector

Volume 2, Issue 2

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

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Don Costello, Editor, at [dcoste1@uic.edu](mailto:dcoste1@uic.edu). Eve Pytel is the Associate Editor of the "UTC Connector".

### 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).

Urban Transportation Center  
412 South Peoria Street Suite 340 Chicago, Illinois 60607  
Phone: 312.996.4820 Fax: 312.413.0006  
[www.utc.uic.edu](http://www.utc.uic.edu)

# METSI

## Six Studies Highlight Recent Research

### Truck Weight Study

At the direction of the Illinois General Assembly in conjunction with County and Township officials, the UTC is undertaking a study to determine the financial impact of improvements necessary to achieve 80,000 lb. capacity on local roads. A survey instrument is being developed in order to determine existing conditions.

### Regional Freight Planning

UTC staff has been active in the effort to improve the region's freight planning. Three subcommittees of the CATS Intermodal Advisory Task Force have been formed with Sue McNeil chairing the Finance Subcommittee and Kazuya Kawamura chairing the Planning and Research Subcommittee.

### Kane County Transit Study

Joe DiJohn has been assisting Kane County in their Transit Opportunity Assessment. A consultant has been hired and a kick-off meeting was held with county, municipal, transportation and planning officials. This first phase of the study will examine demographic shifts that will occur by 2020 and develop planning and land use strategies supportive of transit.

### I-55 Corridor Growth Study

Joe DiJohn, Kazuya Kawamura and Don Costello have been assisting the Will County Government League undertake an analysis of growth trends and demographic projections in order to update the county's land use plan and to enable planning for necessary infrastructure improvements. A presentation has been given to local

officials and a final report is being prepared for distribution.



Two of METSI's feature projects have focused on easing the region's freight congestion.

### Intermodal Freight

A joint project with Northwestern University has received funding from the National Science Foundation to identify and analyze bottlenecks in the flow of rubber tire transfer of rail freight containers in the Chicago region and recommend infrastructure

### IDOT Department of Public Transportation

Tony Pagano and Paul Metexatos with the help of research assistants have been undertaking two statewide studies; Intercity Bus Strategic Plan and Computer Aided Scheduling and Dispatch Systems. A final draft report was submitted on the Intercity Bus project and a survey questionnaire is being prepared for mailing to paratransit operators in Illinois.

## UTC Awarded RTA Clearinghouse Project

The UTC was recently awarded a two year contract by the Metropolitan Chicago Workforce Boards to undertake the Transportation Information Clearinghouse project to identify, inventory and document the region's transit services provided by employers, private and other non-traditional providers. The funding for the project comes from the Federal Transit Administration Job Access

Reverse Commute program with RTA providing the required 50% match.

The project will also undertake a needs assessment of the various stakeholders, identify transportation gaps as well as the special needs of welfare recipients and low income workers.

The goal is to build a database for assimilation by the existing region's traveler information systems. The

scope of work also includes inventorying municipal and social service providers and marketing the RTA's Transit Check to employers providing transit service.

If you are interested in being added to the METSI mailing list, contact Joe DiJohn at (312) 996-1458.

## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Joe DiJohn  
May 25, presentation of the history of transit in the region and a tour of the CTA, Metra control centers and the RTA travel information center to visiting transportation scholars from China.

July and October, presentation on the RTA Transportation Information Clearinghouse project to the CATS Community Mobility Task Force, the Regional Councils of Mayors Planning Liaison meeting and the Workforce Boards of the eight county region in northeastern Illinois.

July, presentation on the history of transit in the region to visiting scholars from Saudi Arabia.

August, presentation on the Illinois Department of Human Services Interagency Coordinating Committee to the CATS Mobility Limited Advisory Committee.

September, presentation on demographic projections at the kick-off meeting of the Kane County Transportation Opportunity Assessment project.

November, presentation on the final draft report of the I-55 Growth Corridor Study of Will County to the Will County Governmental League.

November, keynote address

to the Racine (Wisconsin) County Transportation Symposium of municipal and business officials on welfare to work issues.

November, presentation of the history of transit in the region and a tour of the CTA control center and the RTA travel information center to visiting scholars from India.

December, keynote address to the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference Transportation Workshop on the historic relationships of regional transit agencies and funding in the RTA region

Paul Metaxatos  
Articles  
Metaxatos, P., P.S. Sriraj, S. Sööt and J. DiJohn (2001). Effects of Whistle-Blowing Bans on Accidents at Gated Rail-Highway Crossings: The Northeastern Illinois Experience. Under review for publication in the Accident Analysis & Prevention.

Pagano, A.M., P. Metaxatos and M. King (2001). The Impact of Computer-Assisted Scheduling and Dispatching Systems on Paratransit Service Quality. Under review for publication in the Transportation Research Record.

Pagano, A.M., P. Metaxatos and M. King (2001). How

Effective is Computer-Assisted Scheduling and Dispatching in Paratransit? Results from a Survey. Transportation Research Record (forthcoming).

Pagano, A.M., P. Metaxatos and M. King (2001). Computer Assisted Scheduling and Dispatching Systems in Paratransit for the Elderly and Disabled: Impacts on Operations and Quality of Service. TRANSED 2001: The 9th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled People. Warsaw, Poland.

Reports  
Pagano, A., P. Metaxatos, E. Holeman, V. Mora, A. Morreale and K. Stanis (2001). Development of Intercity Bus Strategic Plan and Program. Final Report. Illinois Department of Transportation. November 2001.

Presentations  
A transportation needs assessment for welfare clients and other population groups: A spatial analysis: University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health, Epidemiology-Biostatistics division seminar series, September 2001.

Kazuya Kawamura  
Presentations  
Issues in Freight Demand Modeling, Chicago Area Transportation Models

User's Group seminar, METRA, July 11, 2001  
"Freight Planning and Demand Forecasting", "Shared Path" 2030 Planning Information Forum Regional Freight Planning, Chicago Area Transportation Study, July 26, 2001

Publications  
K. Kawamura. Empirical Examination of the Relationship between Firm Location and Transportation Facilities, Transportation Research Record 1747, 2001

Anthony Pagano  
Presentations  
"Rural Transit Initiatives" A presentation to the Rural Transit Assistance Center Spring Conference, April 4, 2001, Springfield, IL

"The Effects of E-Commerce on the Parcel Delivery Industry." A paper presented to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Forum, Williamsburg, VA, October 22, 2001. Published in the Proceedings of the Transportation Research Forum, 2001.

Julie DiJohn  
Starred in an extra role in the movie "High Fidelity", starring John Cusack which was recently released on video and DVD and is available at your local video movie house or retailer.

## OTHER NEWS

### Ortega, Niumpradit Win Awards; Xiong Completes Thesis

Juan Ortega, a research assistant at the UTC and doctoral student, has recently been awarded scholarships by the American Public Transportation Foundation (APTF) and the George Krambles Transportation Scholarship fund for his studies in the transportation field.

Ortega, a native of Colombia, is currently working on UTC's Job-Access Reverse Commute grant and is planning on completing his Ph.D. studies in 2002.

He was also the recipient of these two prestigious scholarships in the 2000-2001 academic year.

Dating back to 1982, the Krambles Scholarships have been awarded to more than 70 students interested in pursuing a career in the transit industry.

This year, the APTF honored 10 students as winners of the 2001 scholarship and essay



Juan Ortega



Cherry Xiong



Sanya Niumpradit

competition.

Qian "Cherry" Xiong completed her thesis titled "Route Structure of Chicago Regional Network: Comparison between User Optimal Solution and System Optimal Solution."

Xiong, a graduate student in Civil Engineering, will defend her research in December. In the study, she compares different route structures and routes that are taken by trips between each OD pair using EMME/2 software. Trips that are shifted from freeway to arterial streets are identified. She also analyzes change of congestion situation on freeway and arterial streets, especially in downtown area.

Sanya Niumpradit, a Ph.D. student at UTC, won the second-place student paper award at the Transport Chicago 2001 conference held at UIC in June. Niumpradit's research was on the evolution of transportation policy since 1944.

### Center adds Allen, Becerra to staff

Karin Allen has been brought aboard as a Research Transportation Program Manager to assist with the Transportation Information Clearinghouse (see Page 3). Allen worked at Pace Suburban Bus for eight years before joining UTC.

A Florida native, Allen has a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Truman State University in Missouri and a M.S. in Criminal Justice from Illinois State University. She is currently working on her M.B.A. at Lake Forest Graduate School.

Silvia Becerra's new job only required her to move 10 vertical feet, as she was the Program Services Specialist for the Urban Planning and Policy Program, which is one story below UTC office. Her new role with UTC is Program Coordinator, where she will manage the human resources, payroll and web page for UTC.

Becerra is a native of Tampico, Mexico, who has been living in Chicago for 23 years (16 of them with the Urban Planning Program). She has a B.A. in Spanish from UIC.

The UIC Office of Disability Services (ODS) works to ensure the accessibility of UIC programs, courses and services to students with disabilities. For additional information, please contact ODS at 312-413-2183 (voice), or 312-413-0123 (TTY).

This document is available in alternative formats for use by individuals with disabilities. Please contact Jim Marek, Director of Student Services, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (312-413-2403) to request an alternative format of this document.

### Sprawl II: Try Comprehensive Planning

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Gerrit Knapp of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign closed the conference with a slide show on "Growth Management, Smart Growth and Urban Development in Illinois."

Using Oregon's growth management initiatives and Maryland's smart growth plans, Knapp discussed ways in which the

Chicago region and Downstate Illinois could follow in the footsteps of the case studies that used comprehensive planning as the main tool for growth management.

Knapp criticized local governments in Illinois of ignoring the merits of comprehensive planning, saying efforts have been too narrow and ill-conceived.

## OTHER NEWS

# MRUTC Awards \$275,000 Strategic Planning Research Project to UIC & University of Minnesota

The Midwest Regional University Transportation Center recently selected a research team led by University of Illinois-Chicago Professor Anthony Pagano in response to its Request for Proposals on "Best Practices for linking strategic planning to resource allocation and implementation decisions using elements of a transportation asset management program." The research team also includes UIC faculty member Dr. Sue McNeil, Robert Johns from the University of Minnesota, and Libby Ogard of Tioga Group.

The RFP was posted this summer after release of the research agenda in transportation asset management completed through stage one of NCHRP Project 20-24(11) by Cambridge

Systematics. The project targets why several state Departments of Transportation hold notable strategic plans but encounter difficulty in linking these strategic plans to actual resource allocation and implementation decisions.

The research will build on past and ongoing work and also assemble a set of tools based on experiences and best practices in a diverse set of states. The team will deliver a summary of best practices demonstrating how specific agencies have linked strategic plans to resource allocation processes, a synthesis of metrics being used in the transportation agencies to determine how well the strategic plans are being implemented and recommendations on

metrics that might be considered but are not found in use among the surveyed agencies should also be included, a summary of factors, either in the agency culture or in the method of doing strategic planning, that might explain the greater success of one agency versus others in linking strategic planning processes to resource allocation processes, and a set of guidelines to help DOTs link strategic planning to managerial resource and implementation decisions. An expert panel of 5-7 members will be recruited from local and regional public and private sector senior executives and researchers to provide input throughout the course of the project. The project begins work December 1 .

## Director's Message: Several New Projects have Launched at UTC

From Page 2

hunt ending in a picnic complete with softball, cricket and soccer. The scavenger hunt required small groups of students to visit cultural and historic sites using public transit. The only group to get waylaid made a major detour to Devon Street to purchase a cricket bat and sample the food! The scavenger hunt idea was initiated by continuing students Eve Pytel and Eric Holeman when they discovered that one of their fellow students had not been further south than Roosevelt, further West than Ashland, further north than Madison and further east than Wacker Drive! Thanks to Eric and Eve for organizing this.

The beginning of the semester was a little rocky as we had anticipated new furniture to arrive in August and the center was at capacity. The

furniture finally arrived in October and the graduate offices and reception area are now functional workplaces thanks to support from the CUPPA Dean's office and the Provost's office.

UTC also has several new projects. These include the following projects:

- Midwest Region University Transportation Center on "Evaluation of Near-Transportation Private Sector Asset Management Practices" and "Best Practices for linking strategic planning to resource allocation and implementation decisions using elements of a transportation asset management program,"
- Illinois Transportation Research Center on "Evaluation of Bridge Inspection and Assessment in Illinois,"
- National Science Foundation Partnership for Innovation Project (with Northwestern University) on "Freight Planning,"

- Northeastern Illinois Workforce Boards for a Transportation Clearinghouse, and
- Great Cities University Consortium (with the University of Alabama at Birmingham) on "Maintenance and Management of Transit Infrastructure."

Finally, UTC sponsored "Sprawl II" in October and UTC staff were participants in the planning of a one-day campus wide Sustainable Transportation Symposium held in November.

Change is a given at UTC. In January, we will hold a one-day retreat to help us plan our future and manage these changes. We are fortunate to have a dedicated professional staff and a group of enthusiastic and motivated students. We all wish you well for the holiday season and a happy, peaceful and productive new year.

## SPRING TRANSPORTATION COURSES

### Urban Travel Forecasting CEMM 508

Instructor: David Boyce  
Mon., Thurs. 6-7:30 pm  
Lab time: Thurs 7:30-9 pm (5 weeks)

The Urban Travel Forecasting course will cover theory and methods of forecasting travelers' choices of routes, mode, destination, departure time, trip frequency and origin and location in congested transportation networks.

Prerequisites are an introductory course to transportation engineering or transportation planning, differential calculus (first college level course).

The course objectives are to obtain an understanding of the formulation and solution of urban travel forecasting models, to gain familiarity with the use of EMME/2 system, and to develop an awareness of approaches to analysis and design of civil engineering systems.

### Urban Transportation Planning UPP 560

Instructor: Kazuya Kawamura  
Tues. 6-9 pm

This course introduces students to the issues, ideas, and techniques associated with urban transportation planning.

Topics to be covered include: the role of transportation in society, land use/ transportation relationship, domestic travel patterns and other transportation facts, overview of transportation planning methods, environment and transportation, recent development in transportation policy, and current perspectives on urban transportation planning. This course is designed to expose students to a wide range of issues surrounding transportation planning. Students specializing in areas other than transportation should benefit as well as transportation specialists.

### Transportation Management UPP 563

Instructor: Joe DiJohn  
Wed. 6-9 pm

The course provides an overview of the management issues in the public transit industry. It describes the current financial, political, economic, demographic and regulatory environment affecting the industry. The Transportation Management course includes a discussion of operations, planning, technology and management practices in today's transit agencies. Current federal and state policy issues of financing, labor relations, land-use planning, accessibility to persons with disabilities and privatization will be reviewed. Finally, the organizational structure and political environment in the six-county Chicago region will be discussed. A field trip to a transit facility will be included.

### Urban Transportation Center Advisory Board

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Executive Director  
Regional Transportation Authority

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Executive Director  
Chicago Area Transportation Study

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Illinois State Toll Highway Authority

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Illinois Public Transit Association

Thomas R. Walker  
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Chicago Dept. of Aviation

Mike Williamsen  
Chief  
Urban Program Planning, IDOT

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### The Cutting Edge

Provost's Spring Seminar Series 2002:  
Increasing Public Awareness in Rapidly Advancing  
Fields

Presents

Vonu Thakuriah, PhD  
Intelligent Transportation Systems:  
Vehicular and Road Technology of the  
Future

March 30, 2002  
UIC Behavioral Sciences Building  
1007 West Harrison, Room 250  
10:00 am to 11:30 am

For more information call  
(312) 413-3470

### Regional Freight Transportation Workshop

April 4-5, 2002  
University of Illinois at Chicago

This workshop will focus on regional issues and needs. Efforts will be made to build upon conferences hosted by FHWA and other industry interests to minimize and/or avoid duplicating previous efforts.

The primary focus will be to facilitate communication between regional public and private freight transportation interests to gain a better understanding of current decision making processes and at minimum initiate discussion of approaches toward regional efforts to address freight.

For information call: (312) 996-4820

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

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