



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

TRANSIT RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY NEWS UPDATE

January - February 2010

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SPECIAL

Statement of The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation Before the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies, United States House of Representatives

February 3, 2010. The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation appeared before the Subcommittee to discuss the Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2011 budget request for the U.S. Department of Transportation. "In my first year as Transportation Secretary, I have traveled throughout the country and I know first-hand how important a safe and reliable transportation system is to all Americans. The President's request totals \$79 billion, a nearly \$2 billion increase over FY 2010 levels. These resources will support the President's top transportation priorities: improving transportation safety, investing for the future, and promoting livable communities." More online at: <http://testimony.ost.dot.gov/test/lahood1.pdf>

Obama Administration Proposes Major Public Transportation Policy Shift to Highlight Livability

January 13, 2010. U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood proposed that new funding guidelines for major transit projects be based on livability issues such as economic development opportunities and environmental benefits, in addition to cost and time saved, which are currently the primary criteria.

In remarks at the Transportation Research Board 89th Annual Meeting, the Secretary announced the Obama Administration's plans to change how projects are selected to receive federal financial assistance in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Starts and Small Starts programs. As part of this initiative, the FTA will immediately rescind budget restrictions issued by the previous Administration in March of 2005 that focused primarily on how much a project shortened commute times in comparison to its cost.

"Our new policy for selecting major transit projects will work to promote livability rather than hinder it," said Secretary LaHood. "We want to base our decisions on how much transit helps the environment, how much it improves development opportunities and how it makes our communities better places to live."

More online at: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2009/fta0110.htm>

FTA Launches New Livable and Sustainable Communities Website

The new Livable and Sustainable Communities Website is an important step in FTA's effort to advance the Department of Transportation's Livability Initiative and the Interagency Sustainable Communities Partnership.

The website provides information about the Department of Transportation's role in livability and sustainable communities, the interagency partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and Housing and Urban Development, and how FTA is supporting these exciting new initiatives. Specifically, FTA has reworked the transit-oriented and joint development webpage, included information on transit and environmental sustainability, highlighted our efforts on affordable

housing near transit, and provided case studies that can be used by transit agencies and communities around the nation as they plan to make their cities and towns livable. More online at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/news/news_events_10009.html

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Bus Rapid Transit Peer-to-Peer Exchange

Project No: NY-26-7006
Record Type: Research in Progress
Funding: \$299,882.00
Schedule: October 2009 – December 2010
Performer: New York University
Rudin Center
665 Broadway, Suite 801
New York, N 10012-2701
Contact: Marta Panero
Phone: 212-998-7545
FTA Project Monitor: Helen Tann, TRI
Phone: 202-366-0207
Fax: 202-366-3765
Email: Helen.Tann@dot.gov

Description. This project supports the efforts of the Rudin Center at New York University to focus on transportation issues unique to very large U.S. cities. The scale and complexity of establishing exclusive bus lanes is one vital dimension of transportation issues facing large cities. This cooperative agreement funds development of best practices for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) running ways on heavily used streets in large cities, taking into account the unique challenges and constraints that are present in that context. Project activities include support for:

- three workshops that bring together experts and representative of target cities to share and exchange information about BRT and bus running way challenges and solutions,
- documentation of existing experience in large cities,
- best practices worldwide, and
- recommendations for implementing BRT running ways in large U.S. cities.

Research results will be organized to serve as a reference guide for any large city seeking to implement BRT or other right-of-way transit bus priority measures.

Index Terms: Bus Rapid Transit Challenges and Issues, Large Cities
Best practices worldwide, Transit bus priority measures, University Research

Transit Communications Interface Profiles (TCIP) Traveler Information Pilot Project

Project: J-04, IDEA 60
Record Type: Research in Progress
Schedule: April 2009 - Active
Performer: Ayers Electronic Systems, LLC

Richmond, Virginia
TRB Contact: Harvey Berlin
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FTA Project Monitor: Jeffrey Spencer, TRI
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Fax: 202-366-3765
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Description. The purpose of this Transit IDEA project is to install and field test a system that uses TCIP to track transit vehicles, and to provide information to transit customers. The use of TCIP will allow these systems to be built and delivered more cost effectively, and will facilitate the interoperation of systems provided by different suppliers. This project will include testing of the system at LYNX, the transit agency in Orlando, Florida, and will demonstrate TCIP interfaces in a transit agency environment.

Transit Communications Interface Profiles (TCIP) is an APTA standard that provides a means to define and implement interfaces for data exchange among transit business systems. The TCIP standard was released by APTA in the latter part of 2006. To date, such TCIP interfaces have not been implemented. This project will convert proprietary vehicle tracking data to TCIP, merge the tracking data from a bus being tracked with a TCIP-based AVL solution, and use the data from both sources to provide information to passengers via an electronic sign installed at the LYNX central station. The sign will receive bus location information for display to passengers via a TCIP interface. After the system is installed at LYNX, it will be evaluated and the results will be published in a final report.

More online at: <http://www.trb.org/TRBNet/ProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=2696>

Index Terms: Traveler information and communication systems Lynx, Automatic vehicle location, Tracking systems, Orlando (Florida), Vehicle tracking, Public transit, Transit operating agencies, Research projects

Synthetic Diesel Mass Transit Demonstration

Project No: OK-26-7016-00
Record Type: Research in Progress
Funding: \$215,471
Schedule: August 2009 –August 2010
Performer: VSE Corporation
2550 Huntington Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22303 - 1410
Contact: Hans Steiniger
Phone: 586-79901785 or 703-960-4600
FTA Project Monitor: Chen, Roy Wei-Shun, TRI
Phone: 202-366-0462
Fax: 202-366-3765
Email: RoyWeiShun.Chen@dot.gov

Description. The objective of this cooperative agreement is to support the efforts of the VSE Corporation to continue the Fischer-Tropsch synthetic diesel fuel transit demonstration at Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California and Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan. Fischer-Tropsch synthetic diesel fuel contains virtually zero levels of sulfur and aromatics, a major advantage in terms of exhaust emission reduction potential. VSE projects aim to demonstrate the operating performance, benefits, and market acceptance of Ultra-Clean Fischer-Tropsch diesel fuels in transit bus fleets.

Index Terms: Synthetic Diesel Fuel Demonstration, Fisher-Tropsch Diesel Fuel, Transit Bus, Exhaust Emission Reduction, Operating Performance

University Transportation Centers FY 2009

Project: DC-11-1123
Record Type: Research in Progress
Funding: \$7,000,000
Schedule: April 2010 - September 2012
Performer: Research and Innovative Technology Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590
Contact: Amy Stearns, RITA
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FTA Project Monitor: Jarrett Stoltzfus, TRI
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Fax: 202-366-3765
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Description. This interagency agreement provides continued support to the U.S. Department of Transportation's University Transportation Centers Program (UTC)—the only program in the United States that provides higher education for the next generation of transportation professionals and connects them to career opportunities in the industry.

The Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) administers the UTC program in accordance with the provisions of 49 U.S.C. Section 5506, as amended by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU), Public Law 109-59. This legislation reauthorized the UTC program, designated eight universities to be funded by FTA in FY 2006 and the following three years, and eliminated the 50 percent local match for those universities.

The UTC Program has evolved from 10 regional centers in 1987 to 60 centers in 42 states in 2005. SAFETEA-LU significantly increased the total number of UTCs and established five categories with funding levels ranging from \$500,000 to \$3,500,000 annually. The objectives of the grants awarded to the UTCs are to advance the state-of-the-art in transportation research and expand the workforce of transportation professionals through research, education, and technology transfer programs. More online at: <http://utc.dot.gov>

Index Terms: University Transportation Centers, Research, Technology Transfer, Education, Workforce Development, Professional Capacity Building

FEDERAL RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

2010 TRB 89th Annual Meeting: Compendium of Papers DVD Now for Sale

The TRB 89th Annual Meeting Compendium of Papers DVD, which includes more than 1,900 papers, is now on sale for \$105, for a limited period. Many of the papers included in the DVD will be published as part of the 2010 Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board series. The 2010 TRR Journal series will include approximately 50 volumes that will consist of collections of papers on specific transportation modes and subject areas. The Compendium of Papers Index provides the list of research papers included in the DVD. More online at:

http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/2010_TRB_89th_Annual_Meeting_Compendium_of_Papers_162791.aspx

Bus Crash Causation Study - Report to Congress

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) released a report to Congress that explores the results of the “Bus Crash Causation Study” (BCCS). The study was conducted in northeastern New Jersey with the goal to study 50 to 100 crashes in a year. The small number of bus crashes resulting in fatalities or injuries revealed only 39 crashes involving fatalities or incapacitating injuries (category A) or non-incapacitating injuries (category B) in 2 years. Despite the small sample, BCCS is considered the largest in-depth comprehensive examination of bus crashes ever conducted.

This report includes information on 40 buses involved in 39 fatal and A- or B-injury crashes occurring in New Jersey in 2005 and 2006. Nationally, during this same time span, buses were involved in 5.6 percent of all large truck and bus fatal crashes, but in New Jersey, buses were involved in 14.5 percent of all truck and bus fatal crashes. The study concluded that human errors by bus drivers, other vehicle drivers, and pedestrians or bicyclists were assigned the critical reasons for bus crashes in 90 percent of the cases in BCCS. More online at:

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/documents/congress-reports/Bus-Crash-Causation-Study-Report-to-Congress.pdf>

Collision Safety Improvements for Light Rail Vehicles Operating in Shared Right-of-Way Street Environment

Report FTA-CA-26-7007.2010.1 investigated the potential for reducing injuries to occupants of automobiles struck by a light rail vehicle (LRV). The study focused on improving both automobile passenger safety and the crash safety of LRT vehicles by retrofitting the vehicle with an appropriate front-end structure. This effort involved development of a novel prototype bumper system design with an improved profile and segmented energy-absorbing corner bumpers. The resulting bumper suitable for retrofit on LRVs showed marked improvements to automobile passenger safety for a variety of automobile types.

More online at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/assistance/research/research_8850.html

Environmental Mitigation in Transportation Planning: Case Studies in Meeting SAFETEA-LU Section 6001 Requirements

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) included provisions intended to enhance consideration of environmental issues and impacts within the transportation planning process. The purpose of this case study report is to examine the ways in which metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) have responded to SAFETEA-LU new environmental and consultation requirements in transportation planning. By presenting key success factors and lessons learned, common challenges and gaps, and other observations, this report is expected to assist transportation officials across the nation in improving their transportation planning processes and outcomes. The U.S. Department of Transportation John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (Volpe Center), in Cambridge, Massachusetts, prepared this report for the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty.

More online at: http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/integ/pubcase_6001.asp

Guide to Transportation Decisionmaking

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation created this easy to read and understand guide to increase citizen and public awareness of the transportation planning process, focusing on how transportation decisions are made at the local, state, and national levels; and how to take advantage of the opportunities offered to contribute their ideas to the transportation planning process.

The guide states that the better the public understands the transportation decisionmaking process, the more it is that the transportation system will be safe and efficient, and that the planning process will be responsive to public needs and concerns about their communities and the natural environment. The process of identifying opportunities to improve transportation systems to improve the access and mobility of people and businesses is called *transportation planning*.

More online at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/decisionmaking/decisionmaking.pdf>

Guidelines for Conducting a Disparity and Availability Study for the Federal DBE Program

The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 644: *Guidelines for Conducting a Disparity and Availability Study for the Federal DBE Program* explores guidelines for state departments of transportation (DOTs) on how to conduct effective and legally defensible disparity and availability studies to meet the requirements of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program for federally funded projects. The report includes guidance designed to assist DOTs in determining when and if a disparity or availability study is recommended, a model scope of work that may be used in a request for proposals, and detailed recommendations on how to design and implement disparity and availability studies.

More online at:

http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Guidelines_for_Conducting_a_Disparity_and_Availabi_162898

http://www.trb.org/Pubs/TCRPLegalResearchDigests.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+02-09-2010&utm_content=Customer&utm_term=

Legal Handbook for the New Starts Process

TCRP Legal Research Digest 30: *Legal Handbook for the New Starts Process* presents a comprehensive overview of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Starts project development process and the legal issues associated with it. The purpose of this Handbook is to provide information to transit attorneys on the FTA's New Starts process. The report should be useful not only for transit attorneys and managers, but also for legislators, civic leaders, and local transit supporters interested in the overall New Starts process.

The Handbook includes 8 chapters that cover the New Starts Program's History and Framework; the FTA Project Evaluation and Rating Process; Alternative Analysis, Preliminary Engineering, and Final Design Phases; Full Funding Grant Agreements; Funding Recommendations; and Small Starts and Very Small Starts; as well as a Conclusion. Appendix A to the Handbook includes descriptions of New Starts projects that provide real-life examples of issues and problems that arise as a project proceeds through the New Starts project development process. TCRP Legal Research Digest 30 will be posted online at this URL: <http://trb.org/Publications/PubsTCRPLegalResearchDigests.aspx>

New Ideas for Transit: Annual Report of the Transit IDEA Program, January 2010

The Transit IDEA Program is funded by the Federal Transit Administration as part of the Transit Cooperative Research Program—a cooperative effort of the Federal Transit Administration, the Transportation Research Board, and the Transit Development Corporation, a nonprofit educational and research organization of the American Public Transportation Association. The program is managed by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies.

The Transit IDEA (Innovations Deserving Exploratory Analysis) Program supports development and testing of innovative concepts and methods for advancing transit practice. The program funds applied research and development of promising innovations to improve the efficiency, safety, security, and ridership of transit systems.

This report provides a descriptive summary of the active and completed projects funded by the Transit IDEA Program. It is a useful resource to transit agencies and others interested in innovations in transit practice. Summaries of results and payoff potential of completed projects and descriptions of current projects are included in this report. Listings of completed Transit IDEA project final reports as well as Results Being Used by Transit Agencies are included in this report. More online at: http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/sp/TCRP_IDEA_Report.pdf

Reaping the Benefits of Attending the TRB Annual Meeting: Utah Department of Transportation's Practical, Systematic Model

January 5, 2010. A featured article in the November-December 2009 issue of the TR News explores the Utah Department of Transportation's (DOT's) formal process to document the benefits of sending its personnel to the TRB Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

With the help of Utah DOT's research director, the article describes the process used to track and guide the implementation of the innovative and cost-saving ideas brought back from the TRB Annual Meeting. The article also presents two case studies.

In addition to the article, the National Academies has released a podcast, as part of its Sounds of Science series that highlights a process the Utah DOT uses that has allowed the Department to realize more than \$3.8 million in savings for every Utah DOT employee who has attended a TRB Annual Meeting since 2003. More online at:

http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Reaping_the_Benefits_of_Attending_the_TRB_Annual_M_162782.aspx

State DOT Best Practices for Title VI Compliance

This National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Research Results Digest 340 provides an overview of the Federal Transit Administration Title VI requirements for state departments of transportation (DOTs); provides information on best practices for state DOT compliance; and introduces a companion publication, *NCHRP Web-Only Document 147*, which includes a collection of material related to best practices for Title VI compliance for reference by state DOTs. Research Results Digest 340 and the accompanying collection of reference material were developed by KFH Group, Inc., Bethesda, MD, under subcontract with Cambridge Systematics, Inc., Cambridge, MA, for NCHRP Project 20-65(18).

More online at: <http://www.trb.org/Publications/PubsNCHRPResearchResultsDigests.aspx>

TCRP Annual Report of Progress 2009

The 2009 Annual Report of Progress provides comprehensive coverage of the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP)—an applied research program that provides near-term solutions to practical problems faced by transit operators. TCRP is sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and carried out under a three-way agreement among the National Academies, acting through its Transportation Research Board (TRB); the Transit Development Corporation, an education arm of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA); and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

This 2009 progress report provides comprehensive coverage of the TCRP activities including: how TCRP programs are formulated, funded, organized, placed under contract, monitored, research results dissemination and applications, accomplishments in 2009, and much more. TCRP Annual Report of Progress 2009 lists the status of TCRP projects and all TCRP products to date, including: TCRP Research Reports, Research Results Digests, Legal Research Results Digests, TCRP Syntheses, Transit IDEA, TCRP Web-only documents, and TCRP CD-ROMS. More online at: <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/tcrpannual2009.pdf>

TCRP Research Results Digests (RRD)

The Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) is an applied research program that provides solutions to problems faced by transit operators. TCRP research products include not only published research project reports and syntheses of practice, but also Research Results Digests—

designed to promote early awareness of project results in order to encourage transit implementation. Research Results Digests also summarize specific findings that emphasize how the research may be used. The contents are organized in terms of the problem and the solution to it, the findings, and the applications. TCRP is sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration and administered by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies. More online at: <http://www.trb.org/Publications/PubsTCRPResearchResultsDigests.aspx>

Transportation Planning Update Newsletter Winter 2010

Winter 2010 issue is the latest edition of the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration's *Transportation Planning Update Newsletter*. The quarterly Newsletter is intended to communicate the latest information on Transportation Planning with our partners. More online at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/resourcecenter/teams/planning/publications.cfm>

Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS) Online Database

The Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS) Database is accessible online to the public via the Transportation Research Board's Website. TRIS is produced and maintained by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies with sponsorship by state Departments of Transportation and the operating administrations of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and other sponsors of TRB's core technical activities.

TRIS database is the largest online bibliographic database of transportation research and is available worldwide. TRIS now contains more than 650,000 records of published research covering all modes and disciplines of transportation. Since 1981, the Federal Transit Administration has been funding and uploading abstracted research products into the TRIS database. More online at: <http://tris.trb.org>

ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Clean Energy Fuels to Build, Operate Three CNG Fueling Stations

January 12, 2010. Parking shuttle and ground transportation operators at major international airports in Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, and Las Vegas have contracted with Clean Energy Fuels to design, build and maintain three new airport-adjacent CNG fueling stations. The new public access CNG stations, built on operator-owned properties, will support the transition of airport shuttle fleets to run on natural gas fuel.

Leading U.S. off-airport parking service provider, The Parking Spot (TPS), awarded Clean Energy a contract to build and maintain CNG fueling stations at TPS-owned sites adjacent to Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston International Airports. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2010/01/Clean-Energy-to-build-operate-3-CNG-fueling-stations.aspx>

Climate Change and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS): Looking to 2020

A Congressional Research Service report explores the European Community's five years of experience in designing and operating a greenhouse gas trading system as a potential means to provide some insight into cap-and-trade design issues currently being debated in the United States. The European Union's (EU) Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is a cornerstone of the EU effort to meet its obligation under the Kyoto Protocol. It covers more than 10,000 energy intensive facilities across 27 EU Member countries. The covered entities emit about 45 percent of the EU's carbon dioxide emissions.

More online at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R41049_20100126.pdf

UTC Fuel Cell Reaches Durability Milestone

On January 13, 2010, UTC Power, a United Technologies Corporation, announced that one of its latest generation PureMotion Model 120 fuel cell powerplants for hybrid-electric transit buses has surpassed 5,000 operating hours in real-world service with its original cell stacks and no cell replacements. This powerplant is aboard an Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) bus operating in the Greater Oakland, California area.

Three of AC Transit's buses are equipped with the fuel cell systems and have traveled more than 213,000 miles, with an average fuel economy that is 65 percent better than the control fleet of diesel buses running the same routes and duty cycles.

Fuel cell buses have a significant effect on reducing greenhouse gases, ranging from a 43 percent reduction over diesel buses if hydrogen is supplied from the reformation of natural gas, up to a 100 percent reduction when hydrogen is generated from on-site renewable sources like solar and wind power.

More online at: http://www.utcpower.com/fs/com/bin/fs_com_Page/0,11491,0325,00.html

Transitions to Alternative Transportation Technologies--Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles

February 15, 2010. The Board on Energy and Environmental Systems, part of the National Academies' Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences (DEPS), has released a report that suggests the costs of plug-in hybrid electric cars are high, largely due to their lithium-ion batteries, and unlikely to decrease drastically in the near future. The committee that produced the report advised that while a mile driven on electricity is cheaper than one driven on gasoline, it will likely take several decades before upfront costs decline enough to be offset by lifetime fuel savings.

According to the report, subsidies in the tens to hundreds of billions of dollars over that period will be needed if plug-ins are to achieve rapid penetration of the U.S. automotive market. Even with these efforts, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles are not expected to significantly impact oil consumption or greenhouse gas emissions before 2030. More online at:

http://www.trb.org/Publications/Blurbs/Transitions_to_Alternative_Transportation_Technolo_162903.aspx

Transportation Research Program for Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change and Conserving Energy

TRB Special Report 299: *A Transportation Research Program for Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change and Conserving Energy* suggests that federal, state, and local policy makers need informed guidance about the effectiveness, costs, feasibility, and acceptability of transportation strategies to mitigate transportation greenhouse gas emissions and conserve energy, and to adapt to climate change. This report covers strategies affecting travel and mode choice, models and decision tools, infrastructure investment options, and infrastructure construction, operation, and maintenance.

The committee that prepared the report recommends beginning a research and development initiative by making a modest investment of \$40 million to \$45 million annually in the next surface transportation authorization that would be used to develop the best available guidance quickly on the basis of existing information and then begin to improve that guidance over time as new research is completed.

More online at: <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/sr/sr299.pdf>

RECOVERY

Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) Grants

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Federal Transit Administration recently began awarding grants for 43 projects selected under the Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) program. ARRA made available \$100 million for a discretionary program to support transit capital projects that resulted in greenhouse gas reductions or reduced energy use. FTA published a Federal Register Notice on March 24, 2009 announcing the availability of funding and selection criteria for the program and inviting proposals. The FTA received 224 applications for 561 projects with a total value of over \$2 billion by the May 22, 2009 deadline.

On October 13, 2009, FTA published a Federal Register Notice announcing the selection of 43 projects to receive the \$100 million in funding available. This \$100 million will be going to transit agencies that pursue cutting-edge environmental technologies to help reduce global warming, lessen America's dependence on oil, and create green jobs. One such example comes from the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA). MARTA will use its TIGGER award to outfit bus canopies at its Laredo bus maintenance facility with solar-paneled roofs. The solar roofs on these 220 stalls will produce electricity for MARTA and enable them to sell surplus clean energy back to Georgia Power. Information on the program and individual grants can be obtained on FTA's Website.

More online at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/index_9440_9920.html.

FTA Contact: Matthew Lesh, telephone 202-366-0953, or email Matthew.Lesh@dot.gov.

Recovery Act Has Created or Saved 1.5 to 2 Million Jobs, Administration Reports

The Obama administration issued a report on January 12 stating the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has saved or created 1.5 million to 2 million jobs in its first 11 months of spending. These latest figures came from the White House Council of Economic Advisers. More online at: <http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/011510recovery.aspx>

SAFETY AND SECURITY

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Announces Historic New Safety Standards for Freight and Passenger Trains

Tuesday, January 12, 2010. U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Administrator Joseph Szabo announced historic safety regulations requiring that Positive Train Control (PTC) technology be installed on the nation's major rail lines as well as commuter and intercity passenger rail routes. The final rule will also allow railroads to immediately begin finalizing their PTC Implementation Plans, which are required by statute to be submitted to FRA by April 16, 2010.

Train control systems such as PTC are now mandatory for most passenger rail operations and for trains hauling certain hazardous materials, but are not required for passenger rail systems such as light rail, rapid transit and subways. PTC is a technology designed to prevent train accidents. The technology is capable of automatically controlling train speeds and movements should a locomotive engineer fail to take appropriate action.

More online at: <http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/press-releases/339>

Safety 2009: Security; Emergencies; Management; and School Transportation

Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2137 includes 16 papers that cover transportation safety management, emergency evacuation and services, the security and mobility of intermodal freight networks, and various aspects of school transportation. More online at: http://trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Safety_2009_Security_Emergencies_Management_and_Sc_162995.aspx

Transit 2009, Volume 3

Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2112 explores the pedestrian intersection safety index applied in planning access to new rail stations; a cluster-based hierarchical model for urban transit hub location planning; network analysis of world subway systems; benefits of advanced integrated rail service in a developing city; Metrorail recent ridership growth; a transit origin-destination table using the uncertainty maximization concept; and estimating linked transit trips in New York City using entry-only automatic fare collection data.

This issue of the TRR also examines a public education campaign to improve driver compliance

with streetcar transit lanes; control of public transportation operations to improve reliability; scheduling regional rail; business model for commingled operations of freight and passenger rail services; passenger environment survey; line length versus operational reliability—network design dilemma; transfer scheduling and control to reduce passenger waiting time; passenger choice models for impact analysis of real-time bus information on crowdedness; service-level classification of platforms in urban rail transit; and quantifying the impacts of transit reliability on user costs.

More online at: http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Transit_2009_Volume_3_162757.aspx

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Expansion of the Border Crossing Information System

The University Transportation Center for Mobility at the Texas Transportation Institute published this report with the research objective to develop specifications for a comprehensive information system for border operations and planning—the Border Crossing Information System (BCIS). The study indicated that no reliable system was intact to measure and report border crossing times to either commercial trade or travelers planning to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. This research project, in combination with three other already funded and ongoing projects, provides a prototype of such a system. The result is a real-time international border crossing travel time information system prototype. More online at: http://utcm.tamu.edu/publications/final_reports/Villa_08-30-15.pdf

Report Explores Plan for Transportation Knowledge Networks

The Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota was part of the research team for a National Cooperative Highway Research Program project that recently published NCHRP Report 643: *Implementing Transportation Knowledge Networks*. The report explores a business plan for the development of TKNs in the United States. The business plan defines 10 key products and services to be provided to transportation practitioners by regional TKNs, with support from a national coordination function. TKNs are defined as decentralized, managed networks linking information providers to users wherever they are located.

More online at: <http://www.cts.umn.edu/Publications/CTSReport/2010/02/report.html>

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Cooperative Mobility Showcase: - Not to be missed!

The IV Source, intelligent vehicles newsletter has been reborn as part of the Thinking Highways Website. The February 25 issue of IV Source newsletter highlights an event not to be missed—Cooperative Mobility Showcase: Smart Vehicles on Intelligent Roads.

This event—a world-class showcase of innovative vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure technologies—will be held in and around Amsterdam RAI from 23 to 26 March 2010. The showcase is organized in association with Intertraffic Amsterdam 2010, the world's

leading exhibition for infrastructure, traffic management, safety and parking. The showcase will feature the final results of the three major European integrated projects: COOPERS, CVIS and SAFESPOT, co- financed by the European Union's Sixth Framework Program for Research.

Visitors will have the unique opportunity to experience the new techniques in vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communications hands-on. Delegates of the Cooperative Mobility Conference 2010 are guaranteed to be able to participate in these unique demonstrations.

More online at: <http://www.cooperativemobilityshowcase2010.eu/>

Thinking Highways Europe/Rest of the World Magazine

Volume 4, Issue 4 of “Thinking Highways” highlights the long- awaited and much- previewed Urban Mobility Action Plan—published and released by the European Commission. The Urban Mobility Action Plan is made up of 20 actions, and discussed on pages 10-14 of this issue of Thinking Highways. The publication is designed to tackle the growing problems that European cities are coping with. The intent is to come up with actions in the coming years to make urban transport easier, greener, and better-organized. The author of this article, Voice from Brussels, dedicated the article to attracting the attention and involvement of ITS professionals.

More online at: <http://www.thinkinghighways.com/>

Road Safety in India: Challenges and Opportunities

This report seeks to analyze the traffic safety situation in India and to identify countermeasures for areas in which the total harm caused by crashes can be substantially and readily reduced. The report focuses on two aspects of traffic safety in India—challenges and opportunities. Part 1 of this report provides a comprehensive analysis of the current traffic safety situation in India. The analysis indicates that fatality rates have increased both on highways and in urban areas during the past few years. Based on the present analysis, six areas are identified as having potential for substantially reducing fatalities in India. Part 2 of this report outlines several promising countermeasures for each of the six areas. Part 3 presents a brief comparison of major traffic safety challenges in India and China.

More online at: <http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/2027.42/61504/1/102019.pdf>

TRISWorld Database – A New Product for TRB Sponsors

TRISWorld is a new product of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), available online to all TRB sponsors. The database provides access to about 750,000 records of published transportation research worldwide.

TRISWorld combines the TRIS database records with an additional 113,000 records of the International Transport Research Documentation (ITRD) database. ITRD is a multi-lingual database that delivers high quality information on global developments in transport and transport research. ITRD newest feature is TRIP (Transport Research In Practice)—a new database of ongoing transportation research, available to ITRD members.

More online at: <http://trisworld.trb.org>.

RESEARCH NEWS & RESOURCES

Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS) Database – New Home

The Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS) database, formally housed on the National Transportation Library's website, is now accessible through the Transportation Research Board's website. TRIS is the largest database of published transportation research, containing some 650,000 records of journal articles, conference papers, technical reports, and books on all modes and disciplines of transportation. More than 50,000 of the records in TRIS provide links to the full-text documents.

With funding from the state departments of transportation, the component administrations of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and other sponsors of TRB, the TRIS Database has become the largest and most comprehensive resource for published transportation research. As part of the website change, the National Transportation Library is developing an information portal that will include access to TRIS and other transportation information resources. TRIS offers flexibility in searching. It includes both simple and advanced query screens and offers browsing of recent publications by mode.

TRIS allows users to print, download, e-mail, or share search results. TRIS also offers users the ability to subscribe to RSS (really simple syndication) feeds to get the latest publications on a specific topic and to submit publications for indexing. More online at:

http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/TRBs_Website_is_the_New_Home_for_TRIS_163029.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+03-02-2010&utm_content=Web&utm_term=

APTA: Public Transit Saves Riders \$9,242 Annually

Individuals riding public transportation can save, on average, \$9,242 annually based on the January 11, 2010 national average gas price and the national unreserved monthly parking rate.

"The Transit Savings Report" released monthly by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) calculates the average annual and monthly savings for public transit users. The report examines how an individual in a two-person household can save money by taking public transportation and living with one less car.

Riders can save on average \$770 per month. Amount is based on the cost of the national averages for parking and driving, as well as the January 11 national average gas price of \$2.75 per gallon for self-serve regular gasoline as reported by AAA. More online at:

<http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2010/01/APTA-Riding-PT-saves-individuals-9-242-annually.aspx>

APTA Launches New Center for High-Speed Rail

On January 8, 2010, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) launched the Center for High-Speed Rail to advance and promote high-speed rail in the U.S.

"With the impending announcement by the Obama Administration on the distribution of the first federal high-speed rail funds, the establishment now of the Center for High-Speed Rail will bring together the expertise of its members and APTA's education and advocacy resources to realize the vision of high-speed rail in the United States," said APTA President William Millar.

The new Center for High-Speed Rail will build on the efforts of other already existing APTA committees, including the High-Speed and Intercity Rail Committee and the Legislative Committee. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2010/01/APTA-launches-Center-for-High-Speed-Rail.aspx>

CVSA Releases 2010 Out-of-Service Criteria

February 4, 2010. The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) is releasing the 2010 North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria (OOSC), providing law enforcement and the motor carrier industry with a tool designed to improve commercial motor vehicle safety by promoting uniformity in compliance and enforcement throughout North America.

The new criteria becomes effective throughout North America April 1 each year. The OOSC is used by certified state, provincial, territorial and federal law enforcement personnel in identifying Critical Vehicle Inspection Item violations following a roadside inspection that can prohibit a motor carrier or operator from driving or operating a commercial motor vehicle for a specified period of time or until the defective condition is corrected. Approximately four million commercial vehicle roadside inspections are conducted annually across North America by government enforcement agencies. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2010/02/CVSA-releases-2010-standard-out-of-service-criteria.aspx>

Excellence in Service for Paratransit Managers – Free Training Course

Easter Seals Project ACTION is offering this free, 10-week virtual training course, designed for ADA Complementary Paratransit managers who are new to the field. Content highlights the history of the disability movement and how to engage the disability community in the service area, while gaining a greater understanding of the ADA and sensitivity toward people with disabilities.

Excellence in Service for Paratransit Managers is a free training course that will be conducted online, April 5 – June 11, 2010. Participation in a live closing teleconference on June 10 is required. Please apply online by March 5, 2010. Easter Seals Project ACTION is a congressionally created national technical assistance and training program, sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration, to improve transit access for persons with disabilities. More online at: http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA_online_training_Paratransit_Managers&autologin=true

Feds Raid Houston Bus Companies

Federal agents raided several Houston bus companies suspected of transporting illegal immigrants across the country, according to a report in the *Houston Chronicle*. Twenty-two people have been charged with conspiracy to transport illegal immigrants, with each conviction carrying a maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a fine of up to \$250,000. Full Story online at: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6850105.html>

511 Pennsylvania Travel Information Service

511 PA is Pennsylvania's official traveler information service. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (DOT) launched its statewide 511 travel information service on September 4, 2009. It is designed to provide travelers with reliable up-to-the-minute traffic, transit, and weather information to help them reach their destination in the most efficient manner when traveling in Pennsylvania. The same information can be accessed by dialing 511 on the phone and via mobile devices 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

More online at: <http://www.511pa.com/>.

5-1-1 is the nation's three-digit telephone number, designated by the Federal Communications Commission for the National 511 Traveler Information Service. 511 deployment status indicates that 511 was accessible by 70 percent of the nation's population in 2009.

More online at: <http://www.deploy511.org>

Hawaii's Cummins-Powered Buses Reach 1 Million Miles

February 23, 2010. Two Cummins-powered transit buses with M11 engines, operated by TheBus located in Honolulu, Hawaii, became the first of its kind to earn recognition in the Cummins Million Mile Club. Cummins Million Mile Club awards customers who have amassed at least one million miles on their Cummins engine.

The two Cummins-powered buses, #767 and #771, which are owned by the City and County of Honolulu and operated by Oahu Transit Services Inc. (OTS), are the first transit bus applications to be inducted into the club. The milestone was celebrated with a ceremony at TheBus' Pearl City maintenance facility in Honolulu. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2010/02/Cummins-powered-buses-reach-1-million-miles.aspx>

Leaders Discuss Personal Rapid Transit for Minnesota

February 2010. Transportation engineers and planners have discussed personal rapid transit (PRT)—the use of small, on-demand podcars to serve public transportation needs—since the 1960s. On November 19, 2009, the Minnesota Department of Transportation brought together PRT companies and policymakers to discuss the potential of PRT in Minnesota and beyond. The Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota hosted the event for Minnesota Department of Transportation.

More online at: <http://www.cts.umn.edu/Publications/CTSReport/2010/02/leaders.html>

Madison Metro Driver Highest Paid

February 2010. Madison's highest paid city government employee last year wasn't the mayor. It wasn't the police chief. It wasn't even the head of Metro Transit. It was bus driver John E. Nelson. Nelson earned \$159,258 in 2009, including \$109,892 in overtime and other pay. He and his colleague, driver Greg Tatman, who earned \$125,598, were among the city's top 20 earners for 2009, city records show. More online at:

http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt_and_politics/article_24af32d4-13f4-11df-86b2-001cc4c002e0.html

New Direction for High-Speed Rail in America

Lewis J. Goetz, a founder and former chairman of the U.S. High Speed Rail Association, recently announced the formation of the American High Speed Rail Alliance (AHSRA).

The new organization, under the leadership of president Eric C. Peterson, will broaden its scope to promote high speed rail in cooperation with the broad range of stakeholders; including federal and state governments, associations, manufacturers, service providers, consumers and advocates. All parties share the vision of creating and sustaining a clean and energy-efficient advanced national high speed rail system serving key transportation corridors across the United States.

More online at: <http://www.americanhsra.org/>

New on the Job in Norfolk

After a few days on the job, new Hampton Roads Transit leader Philip Shucet said Wednesday, February 3, that he is working to correct poor project management practices on Norfolk's light-rail construction and eliminate a culture of fear that has gripped the agency.

Both have contributed to the spiraling cost overruns and schedule delays on the light-rail project that has cast a pall over the transit agency. More online at:

<http://www.masstransitmag.com/publication/article.jsp?siteSection=3&id=10648>

New Sample Bill will Aid States in Banning Texting While Driving

February 22, 2010. U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood unveiled sample legislation to be used as a starting point for states crafting new laws to prohibit texting while behind-the-wheel, the latest step in the campaign against distracted driving.

The sample state law, prepared by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and a cross-section of safety and industry organizations, would authorize law enforcement officers to stop a vehicle and issue a citation to drivers who are texting while driving. More online at: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>

Preliminary Rail Plan Includes Station in Brookfield

WISCONSIN - As part of President Barack Obama's plan to spur high-speed rail systems across the country, state officials last week learned Wisconsin would receive \$823 million to help

develop a passenger rail line between Madison and Milwaukee that would include a stop in Brookfield. But city officials say they're not yet sure how that money will be spent.

Mayor Jeff Speaker and Community Development Director Dan Ertl said they are waiting on details from the state about funding, a proposed timetable for construction of the rail system and stations, and other issues. Speaker said the city plans to meet with state Department of Transportation officials later this month to get specifics. More online at:

<http://www.masransitmag.costm/publication/article.jsp?siteSection=3&id=10645>

New Transit-Funding Rules Make Streetcars More Desirable

January 15, 2010. The Obama administration said it was revamping rules on federal transit funding to funnel more of the money to streetcars, bus routes, urban circulators and other projects that promote "livability." The new policy announced January 13, part of a broader effort by the Obama administration to use transportation and housing programs to reduce driving, contain sprawl and create transit-related jobs, could lift the fortunes of makers of light-rail and other transit equipment sold to states and cities. More online at:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704675104575001560050211080.html>

Senate Jobs Bill Becomes "Jobs Agenda"

February 5, 2010. Senate leaders outlined plans to address the extension of the federal highway and transit programs and funding for the Highway Trust Fund as part of a \$81 billion economic recovery finance package.

Senate Majority leader told reporters that the Senate's jobs agenda would address the following transportation issues, in addition to various tax issues: a one-year extension of surface transportation programs, and an expansion of the Build America Bonds program that subsidizes interest payments on taxable bonds to finance infrastructure projects.

More online at: <http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/020510agenda.aspx>

Traffic Congestion Returns as Economy Shows Signs of Recovery

Study Shows Recession Reset Traffic Congestion Levels Back at least Five Years; 2010 Outlook Depends on Jobs, according to INRIX National Traffic Scorecard. INRIX® released its 3rd Annual INRIX National Traffic Scorecard revealing that traffic congestion and commute travel times in 2009 are back on the rise as the economy emerges from the recession. The 150-page free report is available online at: <http://inrix.com/scorecard/>.

Trains, Buses Steal Gold for Vancouver

February 24, 2010. Vancouver's driverless trains have been steady winners at the Winter Olympics during which passengers have poured on to a transit system that has stretched way beyond expected capacity but not snapped.

Vancouver's Translink local transit system says usage has averaged 1.6 million people a day over the Games so far, more than twice the normal daily average of 750,000 and well above the pre-Games forecast of 1.1 million passengers.

More online at: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35562637/ns/travel-seasonal/>

Understanding H1N1 Risks in the Transportation Sector-New Course

National Transit Institute (NTI) in collaboration with the Federal Transit Administration is scheduling a series of half-day regional train-the-trainer sessions for a new course, "Understanding H1N1 Risks in the Transportation Sector."

Contact Fran Conti at 732-932-1700 ext. 238, or fconti@rutgers.edu.

More online at: <http://www.fta.dot.gov/>

U.S. Lags Behind Other Nations in ITS Deployment, Report Finds

February 5, 2010. America is falling further behind other industrialized nations regarding the use of new technologies to address major transportation congestion, safety, and environmental problems, according to a report released recently by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation.

"Explaining International IT Application Leadership: Intelligent Transportation Systems" explores why the United States has developed fewer intelligent transportation technologies compared to nations such as Japan, South Korea, and Singapore. The report was released at a seminar led by Robert Atkinson, ITIF president. The report offers recommendations on how the U.S. government can accelerate the deployment of intelligent transportation systems to remain economically competitive with other industrialized nations. Full report online at:

<http://www.itif.org/index.php?id=332>

More online at: <http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/020510its.aspx>

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