



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Transit Research & Industry News Update Contents - August 2009

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SPECIAL

Moving Cooler: An Analysis of Transportation Strategies for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The *Moving Cooler* study is the first comprehensive analysis of transportation efficiency and its relationship to greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and consumer savings. The study was prepared by Cambridge Systematics, Inc., for the Moving Cooler Steering Committee. The *Moving Cooler* report provides an objective and scientific analysis of the effectiveness and cost of almost 50 scalable transportation strategies, both alone and combined, to reduce GHG emissions. *Moving Cooler*, published by the Urban Land Institute, looks at the possibilities of transportation efficiencies – investments in a less energy intensive transportation system, such as transit alternatives and more efficient driving – by examining two basic approaches: travel activity, and vehicle and system operations.

The *Moving Cooler* study was commissioned by several organizations that came together in agreement that the challenge of climate change can be met in a way that increases the nation's energy security, reduces pollution, and saves consumers money on their transportation costs. The sponsoring organizations of Moving Cooler were: the American Public Transportation Association; the Environmental Defense Fund; the Intelligent Transportation Society of America; the Kresge Foundation; the Natural Resources Defense Council; the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; the Rockefeller Foundation; the Shell Oil Company; the Surdna Foundation; the Funders Network for Smart Growth; the Urban Land Institute; as well as a number of federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency; the Federal Highway Administration; and the Federal Transit Administration. An Executive Summary and Fact Sheet and more can be viewed at: <http://www.movingcooler.com>

511 Transit Hailed as "great" Government Website

August 11, 2009. The 511 Transit page at www.transit.511.org has been cited by Government Computer News as one of 10 great government Websites nationwide for 2009. The magazine hailed the popular site as "a heroic act of interagency coordination." 511 Transit, which originally was launched in 2003 and periodically has been expanded and upgraded, is a one-stop source for transit information, offering online trip planning as well as route, fare and schedule data for dozens of different transit operators throughout the Bay Area. A total redesign of 511 Transit was completed in summer 2008 and further revisions are now underway. The 511 Transit page registered nearly 1.7 million individual user sessions in July 2009, a 47 percent increase over the monthly average in 2008. And the online trip planner at the 511 Transit page generated more than 1.5 million itineraries last month, compared to a monthly average of about 1.1 million in 2008. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/08/511-Transit-hailed-as-great-government-Website.aspx>

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Rail Capacity Improvement Study

FTA Project: CO-26-7011
Record Type: Research in Progress
Funding: \$300,000
Schedule: April 2009 – April 2010
Performer: Transportation Technology Center, Inc.
55500 DOT Road, Pueblo, Colorado 81001
Contact: Dave Mauger
Phone: 719-584-0758
Fax: 719-584-0711
FTA Project Monitor: Terrell Williams, TRI-20
Phone: 202-366-0232
Fax: 202-366-3765
Email: terrell.williams@dot.gov

Description. This project supports the efforts of the Transportation Technology Center, Inc., to evaluate the present rail capacity limitations versus ridership for three of the largest rail transit systems in the United States to determine how close they are to capacity and to forecast where and when they will reach capacity based on historical trends and under certain assumptions.

Index terms: Rail Capacity, Urban rail transit capacity, Ridership, Public transit

Rail Wayside Energy Storage System Demonstration Program

FTA Project: DC-26-7209
Record Type: Research in Progress
Funding: \$300,000
Schedule: June 2009 - August 2010
Performer: Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20002-2693
Contact: Joseph Krempasky
Phone: 202-962-5967
FTA Project Monitor: Roy Weishun Chen, TRI-20
Phone: 202-306-4062
Fax: 202-366-3765
Email: royweishun.chen@dot.gov

Description. This Project supports the efforts of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to examine and demonstrate the feasibility and cost effectiveness of installing a rail wayside energy storage system that will:

1. Capture and re-use regenerative brake energy,

2. Reduce peak period load and voltage sag,
3. Evaluate and demonstrate appropriate energy storage technologies and,
4. Determine “Return on Investment”

Index terms: Rail Wayside Energy Storage Technology, Feasibility, Voltage Sag, Regenerative brake energy, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, WMATA

Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium

FTA Project:	CA-26-7076-03
Record Type:	Research in Progress
Funding:	\$450,000
Schedule:	May 2009 – May 2010
Performer:	Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium 963 E. Anaheim Street Long Beach, CA 90801
Contact:	David M. Stumpo
Phone:	360-945-2150
FTA Project Monitor:	Gale Y. Brown, TRI-30
Phone:	202-366-0794
Fax:	202-366-3765
Email:	gale.brown@dot.gov

Description. This project supports the continuing effort of the Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium (Consortium) to provide an education and training resource network comprised of public and private organizations—focused on the development and employment of the transit industry’s workforce that is proficient in the standards, practices, and procedures for incumbent and new workers. It is a marriage of the transit industry with educational institutions in order to make use of local educational expertise for transit providers. The Consortium was created and incorporated in January 2004 in response to the industry’s need for a trained technical/mechanical labor workforce. More online at: <http://www.scrttc.com/>

Index terms: Transit Training Consortium, Mechanic, Technician, Workforce Development, Professional Capacity Building, Community Colleges

Wayside Charging and Hydrogen Hybrid Bus

FTA Project:	TN-26-7034.01
Record Type:	Research in Progress
Funding:	\$85,000
Schedule:	October 2008 – October 2009
Performer:	University of Tennessee, Chattanooga 615 McCallie Avenue Chattanooga, TN 37403

Contact: Ronald J. Bailey
Phone: 423-425-5536
Email: *ronald-bailey@utc.edu*
FTA Project Monitor: Patrick M. Centolanzi, TRI-20
Phone: 202-366-0234
Fax: 202-366-3765
Email: *patrick.centolanzi@dot.gov*

Description. The purpose of this project is to provide partial support purchase of an electrolyzer for generating hydrogen for use in hydrogen-powered buses. It will be implemented by the Center for Energy, Transportation and the Environment (CETE) at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration and several other partners. The electrolyzer is a more modest approach to hydrogen generation, storage, and dispensing than a large-scale hydrogen fueling station.

Index terms: Wayside electrical distribution, Hybrid vehicles, Buses, Hydrogen fuels, Electric vehicles, Research projects

FROM THE TRI RESEARCH CORNER

Portland Streetcar Event

The Portland Streetcar Prototype was introduced in Oregon on July 7, 2009. On August 5 - 6, Terrell Williams, the FTA Project Manager, visited the Oregon Ironworks facility in Portland to tour the manufacturing facility that produced the first modern, domestically produced streetcar in the U.S. in almost 50 years. Terrell also met with Tri-Met and Portland Streetcar staff to discuss the streetcar testing results and to discuss the new opportunities opening-up for Oregon Ironworks to produce streetcars for other cities. Secretary Ray LaHood gave remarks at the July ribbon-breaking ceremony. The streetcar is being developed by Tri-Met, Portland Streetcar Inc. and United Streetcar—a division of Oregon Ironworks.

Research Program Group; APTA Standards Presentation

On July 28, Patrick Centolanzi made a presentation to FTA's Research Planning Group (RPG) on the APTA Standards Program. The presentation concentrated on Commuter and Rail Transit. Among the topics discussed were Positive Train Control, Crash Energy Management, Shared Track, and Event Recorders. A general discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of the existing suite of standards as a basis for some future requirements for projects.

U.S./Africa Workshops “Developing Sustainable Transportation Systems

Planning is nearly complete for two U.S./Africa Workshops “Developing Sustainable Transportation Systems” to be held August 25 – Sept. 4, 2009 in Arusha, Tanzania and Windhoek, Namibia. These two capacity building workshops for African transportation professionals are regionally focused (East African Community and Southern Africa Development Community, respectively) and will address reducing urban congestion and building intermodal transportation infrastructure for transshipment of goods from seaports to rail and roads. Ron Boenau and Kay Nordstrom are coordinating the workshops for FTA with support from Al Logie, Africa specialist from FHWA. Representatives from MARAD will be attending. The Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) has arranged a delegation that includes seven members and their Executive Director that will be serving as speakers and as program support. The program in each city will include a two-day workshop, followed by technical tours and site visits. These workshops will serve as pilot programs for future workshops in Africa.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Albuquerque’s First Stimulus Funds go to Transit

Wednesday, July 22, 2009. The first federal stimulus dollars have come into the city of Albuquerque and will be used to purchase more than 500 bus shelters. Mayor Martin Chávez said that the City will start spending \$11.3 million in mass transit stimulus money. The city will spend \$9.8 million on bus shelters, \$1.3 million on 60 new fare boxes for buses, and \$225,000 for self-service transit kiosks, Chávez said. More online at: <http://albuquerque.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/stories/2009/07/20/daily53.html>

ARRA to fund \$1.5M TriMet Parking Facility

August 12, 2009. Portland, Oregon-based TriMet is using \$1.5 million of federal stimulus funds to construct a park and ride facility in Milwaukie, giving commuters in the SE McLoughlin Boulevard corridor convenient connections to transit. The project will connect riders to four TriMet bus lines. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/08/ARRA-to-fund-1-5M-TriMet-parking-facility.aspx>

Guest Blogger Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff: America’s Transit Systems are on Track with Recovery Investments

August 31, 2009. The Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff announced that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) celebrated the achievement of a very important milestone—FTA beat the September 1 deadline for providing all states and local communities at least half of their Recovery Act transit dollars. According to Administrator Rogoff, “Not only did we meet that critical goal, but we went even further. Working with nearly 600 transit providers around the country, FTA has awarded 88% of its Recovery Act transit formula funds—that’s \$6.7 billion of the \$7.5 billion apportioned

through ARRA. In celebrating this accomplishment, I couldn't be more encouraged as I reflect on how those funds are being put to use rebuilding our nation's transit infrastructure, creating good jobs around the country, improving the environment, and reducing America's dependence on foreign oil." More online at:

<http://fastlane.dot.gov/2009/08/federal-transit-administrator-peter-rogoff-americas-transit-systems-are-on-track.html>

Minnesota's Share of Transportation Stimulus Money is Credited for 2,130 Jobs

8/5/09. Federal economic stimulus aid has created 2,130 transportation construction jobs in Minnesota so far this year, and the program is on track to produce a projected 12,500 jobs over the program's two-year lifespan, state and federal officials said in a progress report. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has committed \$350 million of the \$502 million in stimulus aid the state will receive for roads and bridges. The state also will receive \$92 million for bus and rail transit projects. Overall, the state Management and Budget Department expects Minnesota to receive at least \$1.8 billion in stimulus aid for all programs. More online at:

http://www.twincities.com/ci_13001150?nclick_check=1

Missouri to apply for \$200M in High-Speed Stimulus

Eleven rail projects totaling \$201.3 million will be included in the [Missouri Department of Transportation](#)'s final application to the [Federal Railroad Administration](#) for a slice of the \$8 billion in stimulus money available nationwide for high-speed rail projects.

More online at: <http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/stories/2009/08/03/daily37.html>

ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

America's Energy Future: Technology and Transformation: Summary Edition

The National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering have released a report that analyzes the potential of a wide range of technologies for generation, distribution, and conservation of energy. This study will be of interest to policy makers, practitioners, and other professional in the transportation industry. The report considers technologies to increase energy efficiency, coal-fired power generation, nuclear power, renewable energy, oil and natural gas, and alternative transportation fuels. It assesses the associated impacts and projected costs of implementing each technology and categorizes them into three time frames for implementation. More online at:

<http://144.171.11.107/Main/Public/Blurbs/162115.aspx>. Order Online:
http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12710

Climate Change Policy: Preliminary Observations on Options for Distributing Emissions Allowances and Revenue under a Cap-and-Trade Program

August 4, 2009, GAO-09-950T. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on climate change policy that looks at the options for distributing allowances and

revenues under a Cap-and-Trade Program. Congress is considering proposals to establish a price on greenhouse gas emissions through a cap-and-trade program that would limit overall emissions and require covered entities to hold tradable emissions permits, or allowances, for their emissions. This report will help the transportation community better understand (1) the purpose of a Cap-and-Trade Program, to raise the cost of activities that produce emissions and thereby provide an economic incentive to decrease emissions, and (2) the potential benefits of emissions reductions, a cap-and-trade program could also impose costs on covered entities and consumers. That is, an increase in the cost of energy derived from fossil fuels—the main source of man-made greenhouse gas emissions. More online at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09950t.pdf>

Well-to-Wheels Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis of Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles

The Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) has released a report that explores the energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Researchers at ANL expanded the Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy use in Transportation (GREET) model and incorporated the fuel economy and electricity use of alternative fuel/vehicle systems simulated by the Powertrain System Analysis Toolkit (PSAT) to conduct a well-to-wheels (WTW) analysis of energy use and GHG emissions of *plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs)*. More online at: <http://144.171.11.107/Main/Public/Blurbs/162089.aspx>

FEDERAL RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Benefit/Cost Analysis of Converting a Lane for Bus Rapid Transit

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Research Results Digest 336: Benefit/Cost Analysis of Converting a Lane for Bus Rapid Transit examines issues, potential solutions, and outstanding questions related to converting a roadway lane to bus rapid transit use. More online at: http://www.trb.org/Main/Public/Blurbs/BenefitCost_Analysis_of_Converting_a_Lane_for_Bus_162134.aspx

Model Orlando Regionally Efficient Travel Management Coordination Center (MORE-TMCC) Final Report

Report FTA-FL-26-7107-2008.1 presents a detailed review of the fifteen-month process of designing a travel management coordination center (TMCC). Its purpose is to provide the goals defined by the Mobility Services for All Americans (MSAA) initiative for a TMCC and the methodology for reaching these goals. MSAA goals include increased accessibility of public transportation and more efficient use of federal resources and funds. Orlando's MORE-TMCC was one of eight demonstration sites selected to develop a system that is driven by the local community, provides travelers with simplified points of access to transportation, supports coordinated operations and streamlines program management requirements and procedures. The methodology used and the lessons

learned during the system design provide other agencies with best practices for the design of a similar system. More online at:

http://www.fta.dot.gov/assistance/research/research_10017.html

Interoperable Communications-Based Signaling as a Basis for Positive Train Control

The Federal Railroad Administration has released a Research Results report that examines whether major suppliers of signaling equipment for the North American railroads could modify their existing safety-critical equipment to support operation of a vital interoperable positive train control system based on signaling principles developed over many decades. This project was undertaken to show a set of interoperability standards developed and maintained through an industry professional organization, such as the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association, could be implemented. Interoperability is important as trains frequently travel across multiple territories operated by other railroads. More online at: [Federal Research News](#)

Proceedings of Intelligent Vehicle Technology Transfer (IVTT) Joint Military/Civilian Workshop on IntelliDrive

The proceedings from the Intelligent Vehicle Technology Transfer (IVTT) Joint Military/Civilian Workshop on IntelliDrive (Workshop) are now available Online. The Workshop was held at the Holiday Inn, Gaithersburg, Maryland on July 30, 2009. The IVTT joint Military/Civilian Workshop on IntelliDrive was sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). It is supported by the Department of Transportation Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office; the Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center; the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International; the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America); and the Intelligent Systems Division of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (ISD NIST). Workshop proceedings are available online at: <http://www.transportgooru.com/?p=3564>

Transit and Congestion Pricing

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has released a primer that examines the interrelationships between congestion pricing and transit operations and use. The Congestion Pricing Primer Series is part of FHWA's outreach efforts to introduce the various aspects of congestion pricing to decision makers and transportation professionals in the United States. The primers are intended to lay out the underlying rationale for congestion pricing and some of the technical issues associated with its implementation in a manner that is accessible to non-specialists in the field. More online at:

<http://144.171.11.107/Main/Public/Blurbs/162090.aspx>

Transit, Call Centers, and 511: A Guide for Decision Makers

TCRP Report 134 provides a comprehensive review of the operational characteristics of the nation's 511 telephone traveler information systems and how 511 systems interact with transit system call centers. This report inventories existing 511 services throughout the country, documents the extent of transit participation and transit agency experiences with 511, and presents guidance to assist transit agencies and 511 system administrators in determining a viable transit-511 telephone strategy. More Online at: <http://www.trb.org/Publications/Public/PubsTCRPPProjectReports.aspx>

INTERNATIONAL

4th Annual China High-Speed Railway Summit 2009

The 4th Annual China High-Speed Railway Summit is scheduled for September 23 – 25, 2009 at Renaissance Beijing Hotel, Beijing China. There will be more than 200 high level participants from around the world, including government authority, railway equipment provider, rolling stock manufacturer, insurance & securities, IT solution provider etc. It will be a more informative and cohesive platform for global railway industry players to familiarize the latest development of China high-speed railway projects, share viewpoints, to exchange information and to make contacts. More Online at: <http://www.chinadecisionmakers.com/rail/>

Intelligent Transport Systems - Thematic Research Summary (2009)

The ITS theme deals with several combinations of communication, computer and control technology developed and applied in the domain of transport to improve system performance, transport safety, efficiency, productivity, and level of service, environmental impacts, energy consumption, and mobility. More online at: http://www.transport-research.info/Upload/Documents/200907/20090729_144759_45188_TRS_IntelligentTransportSystems.pdf

An International Conference on Placemaking

In historic Krakow, Poland, October 1-2, 2009

The conference builds on the experience of Project for Public Spaces and the local initiatives supported by Environmental Partnership Sustainable Development, a consortium of environmental foundations from Central Europe. It will highlight examples from the U.S. and abroad as well as success stories from Central Europe that can serve as inspiration and provide a roadmap for a new direction for sustainable urban development internationally. This conference will create a dialogue between Polish and international participants and much more. More online at: http://www.pps.org/krakow_conference/

Rail Transport - Thematic Research Summary (2009)

Railways deliver economic, social and, particularly, environmental benefits and are an important mode of transport. This Thematic Research Summary deals with rail transport. The aim is to provide the reader with a synthesis of results of completed European projects related to the theme of rail transport. The paper is intended for policy makers at the European, national and local levels, as well as any interested reader from other stakeholders and from the academic and research communities. More online at: http://www.transport-research.info/Upload/Documents/200906/20090617_174327_20105_TRS_Rail_Transport.pdf

Transport and the Environment

Transport Research Knowledge Centre has developed a set of policy brochures that will help you better understand how transport research is contributing to policy making and transport operations illustrated by examples of particular achievements. This Policy `Brochure focuses on transport and its effects on the environment. Its aim is to inform transport policy makers and to assist them in designing transport policies that take better account of the environmental impacts of transport. This is broadly defined to include effects of transport on land, air, water and resources. We have chosen to omit those aspects such as vibration and water quality which are more limited in their impacts. More online at: <http://www.transport-research.info/web/publications/policy.cfm>

RESEARCH NEWS & RESOURCES

US Transport Secretary to View ‘Backpack’ Bridge in Maine

New technology uses collapsible carbon-fiber tubes to build bridges more quickly. 8/13/09. ORONO, Maine — The bridge-in-a-backpack technology developed by the University of Maine-based Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center went on display when U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood visited Maine on August 17, 2009.

LaHood and U.S. Representative Mike Michaud visited the center’s Advanced Structures and Composites Center on August 17 to explore the bridge technology, which uses collapsible carbon-fiber tubes to make a bridge the center’s engineers contend has a faster installation time and costs the same or less than a traditional bridge, but should last much longer. “LaHood is very interested in the economic impact at a national level and the reduction of the carbon footprint of [traditional] bridge construction,” composites center director Habib Dagher said. Link to story in the *Bangor Daily News*: <http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/115804.html>

Bus Rapid Transit Channel

Metro Magazine Bus Rapid Transit channel provides information on the latest bus rapid transit (BRT) news and projects around the world, with research, reports and industry links. Learn how advancements in fare collection systems and the latest bus technology can increase the efficiency of the BRT system. See how BRT systems are being implemented to meet the growing need for efficient and cost-effective mass urban transit. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/Channel/BRT.aspx>

National Bus Rapid Transit Institute

The Mission of the National BRT Institute is to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and innovation for increasing speed, efficiency, and reliability of high-capacity bus service through the implementation of BRT systems in the United States. More online at: <http://www.nbrti.org>

Capital Metro Refuses to Release Rail Start

Agency remains silent even after 4 missed deadlines. Updated: Monday, 10 Aug 2009 AUSTIN (KXAN) - Capital Metro Transit, the city agency that operates the public transit system in Austin, is refusing to release documents that would show its new projected start date for the much-delayed MetroRail service. Using the Texas Open Records Act, KXAN Austin News requested internal documents from Capital Metro that would indicate when the service could start. More online at: http://www.kxan.com/dpp/news/local/capmetro_refuses_to_release_rail_start

Charlie Card Users Get New Online Options

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (www.mbta.com) commuters now have the option to pay for their Charlie Cards online and register them in case they are lost or stolen. Members of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority technical team said ... that no transit agency in the nation offers as many custom options. Link to story in *The Boston Globe*: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/07/29/charlie_card_users_get_new_online_options/

Complete Streets Included in Bills to Create Livable Communities for an Aging America

August 11, 2009. Several bills recently introduced in Congress recognize the clear benefits that complete streets provide for improving the safety and livability of a community for everyone living there—regardless of age or ability. More online at: <http://www.completestreets.org/policy/federal/complete-streets-included-in-bills-to-create-livable-communities-for-an-aging-america/>

CTA's \$2 Billion Transit Plan

Chicago Tribune. ILLINOIS - Eugene Rogers has spent most of his life on Chicago's Far South Side, an area Rogers calls a "public transit desert [that] has always been pushed to the back burner." So Wednesday's vote by the Chicago Transit Authority's board to extend the Red Line by more than 5 miles south to his part of the city is an outstretched hand to disadvantaged minority neighborhoods marred by empty lots, poverty and a feeling of isolation, said Rogers, 69. More online at:
<http://www.masstransitmag.com/publication/article.jsp?siteSection=3&id=9345>

40' Mass-Transit Bus: The GTB-40

August 2009. [Fisher Coachworks](#) final design and production launch of the GTB-40 PHEV Urban Transit Bus represents a highly advanced chassis design coupled with an efficient serial drive power train utilizing a high-capacity electrical energy storage system. About half of the energy used during a drive cycle is provided by the batteries and regenerative braking, with a turbo-diesel engine producing the remaining half in a range-extending charge mode. This on-board stored electrical energy concept qualifies the GTB-40 as one of the world's first plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) mass-transit bus. *Weight reduction* is noted as the single most important factor for improving the overall efficiency of a hybrid transit bus. The GTB-40 bus has achieved a 50 percent reduction in Curb Weight over competitive 40' bus designs. More online at:
<http://www.fishercoachworks.com/>

GIS goes Vertical, with Integration across State, Local, Federal Lines

GIS applications and data are increasingly being linked thanks to informal information-sharing efforts. Cover Story Aug 10, 2009 -...The advantages of mapped data haven't been lost on government agencies at the local, state and federal levels, which have developed GIS capabilities for a vast array of uses. For example, many states and counties employ GIS applications to monitor traffic flow... and first responders are using GIS applications to help them respond more quickly. However, as powerful as they are, most GIS applications were created in isolation from one another—with different programming tools and ... It has often been difficult or impossible for one agency to access data collected by another agency. *However, that situation is changing quickly.* "The whole essence here is to take interoperability to a very different level," said David Boyd, director of the Command, Control and Interoperability Division at the Homeland Security Department's Science and Technology Directorate. More online at:
http://gcn.com/articles/2009/08/10/gis-integration-state-local-federal.aspx?s=SL_130809

Link's Ticket System Confounds Seattle Riders

The Seattle Times. WASHINGTON - The first time she tried Link [light rail](#), Jennifer James boarded without paying. She didn't notice a ticket machine inside Seattle's downtown transit tunnel. When a security guard asked for proof she had paid, she promised to buy a ticket at the end of her ride. In Tukwila, a Sound Transit helper

showed her how to work the machine, but the ticket wouldn't come out. An unfamiliar payment system, frequent machine freeze-ups, language barriers and the region's uncoordinated transit policies are forcing thousands of riders to make an extra effort to pay their fare. More online at:

http://links.cygnusb2b.com/rmgo.asp?tid=1072222&eid=18638&sb_id=363911,363911

MARTA Launches New Website and Asks for Customer Feedback

Press Release. Monday, August 03, 2009. MARTA launched its revamped website, [<http://www.itsmarta.com>], premiering new user-friendly features, streamlined content, and a more accessible format for all customers. Website visitors will enjoy real-time service alerts and up-to-date system information, integrated rail and system maps, pictures and videos, an event calendar, and a more modern look and feel. The website features Georgia's 511 free phone travel information service that includes real time traffic and travel information, and more. Georgia 511 can be accessed from anywhere in Georgia, by simply dialing 5-1-1. The redesigned site automatically ensures that content is 508 Compliant, making it accessible to individuals with disabilities. More online at:

http://www.itsmarta.com/newsroom/press_releases/rel.asp?id=320

Minnesota Transit Agency Unveils New Marketing Campaign

August 17, 2009. Minnesota-based [SouthWest Transit](#), the award winning public transit agency serving Eden Prairie, Chanhassen and Chaska, unveiled a new marketing campaign designed to showcase how a quality transit experience can increase personal "quality time" and benefit the public good. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/List.aspx>

MTA Releases Key Reports for Public Comment

On Monday, August 10, 2009, the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) released its "2010-2029 Twenty Year Needs" and "Preliminary 2010-2014 Capital Program" for public review and comment. Taken together, these documents identify the MTA's long-term infrastructure needs and a short-term plan to begin addressing them within current budget expectations. The documents are available at www.mta.info, where the public can also submit comments.

New York MTA Tells Blogger to Share Profits for iPhone App

Agency [MTA] says train schedule information is its property. Updated: Thursday, 13 Aug 2009. New Haven (WTNH) - A blogger that created an application for the iPhone has been asked to cease and desist by the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) because they say he is distributing their train schedules without their consent. Link to story and video on WTNH-TV:

http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/new_haven_cty/news_wtnh_mta_blogger_defends_iphone_app_200908131200

'Rail'-Time Information

New York State Department of Transportation has set up Twitter accounts for all of New York City's subway lines, so now the user can receive a warning on how bad -- or good -- the commute will be. By using the Website <http://twitter.511ny.org/>, you can arrange to follow the tweets for the subway line you use and also get traffic and transit information for different regions throughout the state. Link to story in the *New York Post*: http://www.nypost.com/seven/07292009/news/regionalnews/rail_time_information_181841.htm

Stray Dogs Learn How to Use the Subway in Moscow [Ananova article]

Scientists in Moscow say stray dogs have learnt to use the subway to travel to the city centre in search of food. Biology professor Andrew Poyarkov said he had seen several dogs unaccompanied on the city's underground rail system. He claims the dogs travel into the city centre, where they can more easily find food, each morning and travel back to where they live each evening. "They do not just go to the subway station, they actually board the trains," he said. More online at: <http://image.examiner.com/x-9231-Denver-Dog-News-Examiner~y2009m8d15-Stray-dogs-learn-how-to-ride-subway>

Tennessee 511 Receives 2 Millionth Call

TN.govNews. Released on Monday, August 3, 2009.
NASHVILLE – More than two million people have called Tennessee 511 for information since the program launch in August 2006. On Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 9:53 p.m. Eastern Time the 2,000,000th caller dialed 511 for information about Tennessee's roadways and weather. Motorists may dial 511 from any cell phone and use either the phone's keypad or the voice recognition feature. People may also dial 511 from any land line phone or visit the Tennessee 511 website at <http://www.tn511.com/> to access this information before leaving home. More online at: <http://news.tennesseeanytime.org/node/2333>

Train Operator Blacked Out in S.F. Muni Rail Crash

July 21, 2009. A light rail transit operator had turned off the automatic train controls right before he lost consciousness, and his train collided with a parked train, according to the president of San Francisco's transit workers union. Dozens were injured, and 47 people, including the operator of the striking light rail vehicle, were taken to San Francisco hospitals. The NTSB is leading an investigation on the accident. More online at: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_12875638

Transit Execs' Take on the 'Authorization' Act

With SAFETEA-LU set to expire on September 30, 2009 a new surface transportation bill is top priority for both the transit industry execs and the Obama Administration. And despite differing opinions on how and when new legislation should be passed, all parties

agree on one thing: The next surface transportation bill will not be a reauthorization to extend the same programs, policies and funding levels as found in previous bills, but rather an authorization that takes new approaches to address the country's critical infrastructure needs. More online at:

<http://www.progressiverailroading.com/pr/article.asp?id=21137>

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