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Year 24 Final Report

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UCNR24-32A: Spring 2014 Pilot Project Competition

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Introduction

This project is a small pilot research project competition administered in Fall 2014 and executed in full by May 2015. Proposals were solicited from UConn researchers working in fields related to transportation. Proposed projects were able to request a maximum of \$10,000. Five projects were selected for funding, spanning the topics noted below.

Project #1: Training the Next Generation of Transportation Professionals: Multi-media Communication Training for Transportation Sustainability

PI: Carol Atkinson-Palombo, PhD (Geography)

This project executed four workshops associated with two courses in Transportation Sustainability and Advanced Urban Geography at UConn in Spring 2015. The courses were to be designed with a Service Learning orientation to align with the university's goals to promote public engagement. Students were to learn how to create short films during the workshop, and would then work in groups to make short films about transportation sustainability issues in Connecticut. The project resulted in five films:

1. "MetroNorth" by Kristin Floberg, Diana Santanella & Stephanie Walker
2. "The Millennial Shift Towards Walkable Cities" by Adam Polinski and Ben Wargo
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EitewrczPbE>
3. "CT Fastrak-A First Impression", by Parker Sorenson and Angelika Zygo
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ifSHwxG3fQ>
4. "Living Car-Light in Storrs Downtown" by Zachary Guarino and Mishal Aljarbou
5. "BRT in Curitiba, Brazil" by Bruno Alves Sena, Maryanne Barcelos de Faria, Lucas Simon, and Rafael Flores

Two of the films (2 and 3 in the list above) were selected for screening at the New Urbanist Film Festival in Los Angeles in October 2015, an event that two of the students attended. Program and information about this event: <http://newurbanismfilmfestival.com/nuff2015/2015schedule/>. In addition, three of the best films (1, 2 and 3 in the list above) were selected for the First CUT—Connecticut Urban & Transportation Film Festival held at Storrs on September 23rd 2015. The event attracted over 100 attendees and featured films from students alongside a selection of films from previous New Urbanist Film Festivals.

Project #2: Interdisciplinary Seminar Series in Livable Transportation Systems and Urban Planning

PI: John Ivan, PhD, PE (Civil Engineering)

DATE & TIME	LOCATION	SPEAKER(S)	AFFILIATION / TOPIC
Feb. 27 12:15 PM	Konover Auditorium	John Massengale	Architect, New York City Co-author of <i>Street Design: The Secret to Great Cities and Towns</i>
Mar. 12 2:00 PM	Konover Auditorium	Peter Norton	University of Virginia, Dept. of Engineering and Society Author of "Fighting Traffic"

April 3 12:15 PM	BPB 131	Brian Taylor	UCLA, Director, Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, and Institute of Transportation Studies
April 10 12:15 PM	Gentry 131	Andrew Goetz	University of Denver, Dept. of Geography and the Environment
April 15 12:15 PM	Konover Auditorium	Emil Frankel	Eno Center for Transportation; Washington DC

Project #3: The Double Dividend: Capturing Environmental and Economic Benefits from Connecticut's Deep Water Ports

PI: Fred Carstensen, PhD (Economics)

Using the Regional Economic Modeling Incorporated's (REMI) model, coupled with other economic data, the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis (CCEA) studied the relationship between Connecticut's deep-water ports, transportation infrastructure, environmental impacts, and the state's economy. This study resulted in enhanced understanding of the dynamic interconnection between transportation, environmental quality, and the CT economy and yielded actionable recommendations regarding strategic investments.

Project #4: The Suburbanization of American Cities Post World War II: Documenting, Visualizing and Analyzing the Impacts using Hartford, Connecticut as a case study

PI: Norman Garrick, PhD (Civil Engineering)

This research has shown that it is possible to make tangible comparisons between Pre- and Post-automobile cities by locating the necessary historic data and converting it to a useable digital format. Having this information is a necessary step in understanding what Pre-Automobile Era cities looked like, how they functioned, and why they changed. The work from this research sets the stage for a more in-depth analysis of the neighborhoods and the downtown of the city on a number of fronts, encompassing the environmental, social, and economic life of the city in the 1920s and beyond. The documentation of the transition from trolley to bus will also provide better insight into the nuances of the changes that have taken place over the last hundred years, so that the evolution of transportation and its relationship to the surrounding land use may be more fully understood.

Project #5: Climate Adaptation in New London Harbor: Whoever Moves First Wins?

PI: Bruce Hyde (Land Use Academy)

When thinking about climate change, most people immediately focus on issues related to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. But while decreasing GHGs is an important and valuable policy focus, the reality is that anything accomplished on GHG reduction will impact society many years into the future. As a result, adapting to the actual impacts of climate change locally, regionally and globally presents a much more pressing policy challenge. This project examined one set of climate adaptation challenges (in New London, CT harbor) that provided insight into the multi-jurisdictional adaptation challenges that exist, analyze how those challenges can be met, and a model for policy planning that can be applied in many other locales facing climate adaptation demands.