

TRANSNOW

Federal Region X University Transportation Center at the University of Washington

In this issue

TransNow Students	2
ITS World Congress	3
Faculty News	3
TransNews	4

TransNow Hosts Historic UTC Meeting for Region X



Michael Kyte, Dave McLean, Chris Bell, Billy Connor, Steve Muench, Nancy Nihan

Representatives from universities and departments of transportation in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska joined forces for an organizational meeting of Federal Region X University Transportation Centers (UTC) at the Talaris Center in Seattle, Washington on October 13, 2005. With the passage of the new federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, each of the four states in Region X now has a UTC! The purpose of the October 13 meeting was to discuss how to coordinate UTC activities in ways that will optimize the benefits to the USDOT and to the Pacific Northwest Region.

Attendees included Chris Bell from Oregon State University (OSU), Robert Bertini from the National University Transportation Center housed at Portland State University (PSU), Billy Connor from the Alaska Transportation Research Center housed at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), Dan Dailey from the University of Washington (UW), Ken Dueker (retired university director from PSU), Anne Goodchild (UW), Mark Hallenbeck from the Washington State Transportation Center (TRAC), Eric Jessup

from Washington State University (WSU), Bernie Jones from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Michael Kyte from the National Institute for Advanced Transportation Technology (NIATT) at the University of Idaho UI, Joe Mahoney (UW), Dave McLean (WSU), Steve Muench (UW), Nancy Nihan from TransNow (UW), Leni Oman from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Scott Rutherford (UW), Greg Shelton (UW), Anne Vernez Moudon (UW), and Yin Hai Wang (UW).

TransNow Director Nancy Nihan began the meeting by giving a history of the Northwest Universities Transportation Research Consortium (NUTRC), which was established in 1988 with the UW serving as the lead university. The NUTRC was the original consortium that became the base for the TransNow regional UTC. TransNow has been one of ten regional centers in the federal UTC Program for 18 years. Region X, which has 4% of the nation's population and 25% of the nation's land, is a microcosm of our nation's transportation system with all of the transportation modes and terminals including seaports, airports, high-volume roads, low-volume roads, rail, ferries, and both urban and rural transportation challenges. Professor Nihan went on to explain that transportation research in the Pacific Northwest must address all the important transportation issues including transportation operations, freight mobility, transportation, infrastructure, and environmental impacts.

Meeting participants discussed central questions facing the group: Should the NUTRC

continued on page 3

TransNow now publishes three newsletters annually.

TransNow Funded Students 2005/06

University of Washington

Junsuk An (BSCE) is an intern with WSDOT.

Ryan Avery (PhD) is currently in Sweden with the TNW/Valle Scholarship program.

Craig Bosman (BSCE) received a TNW/Coral Sales Scholarship and is president of the ASCE Student Chapter.

Carrie Byron (MPA) received a TNW/WTS Scholarship. She is currently pursuing a joint Master's degree in Public Affairs and Marine Affairs.

Brian Chase (BSCE) is interning with WSDOT.

Patikhom Cheevarunothai (PhD) is an RA for Profs. Nancy Nihan and Yin Hai Wang on their Dual Loop project, and is also Prof. Nihan's TA, Winter Quarter 2006.

Peter Chen (MSCE) is an intern with Parametrix.

Katherine Davis (BSCE) received a TNW/Coral Sales Scholarship.

Hanzhi Ding (MSCE) is an RA for Prof. Nihan and Prof. Goodchild with NORPAC the new freight center.

Daniele Dunjic (MSCE) is this year's recipient of the Bulley Fellowship. She also received a TNW/Coral Sales Scholarship.

Kristina Evanoff (MSCE) is an intern with Sound Transit.

Erin Fletcher (MSCE) is an intern with HDR Engineering.

Eric Forsyth (MSCE) is interning with Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade and Douglas.

Kaori Fujisawa (PhD) is an intern with Puget Sound Regional Council.

Michelle Gribler (BSCE) is an intern with WSDOT.

Kendra Harstrom (BSCE) is an intern with WSDOT.

Phil Hurvitz (PhD) is an RA for Prof. Anne Vernez Moudon

on her Managing Pedestrian Safety project.

Joshua Johnson (MSCE) is an intern with Parametrix.

Lin Lin (PhD) is an RA for Prof. Anne Vernez Moudon on her Managing Pedestrian Safety project.

Michael Lowry (PhD) is the 2005 TransNow Student of the year. He is the president of the UW ITE Student Chapter. We will have Mike's full profile in the next newsletter.

Quang Dai Nguyen (BSCE) is an intern with WSDOT.

Robert Nichols (MSCE) is interning with WSDOT in their Kent office.

Christie Parker (MPB) received a TNW/WTS Scholarship.

Adam Parast (BSCE) is an intern with WSDOT.

Euneka Robinson-McCutcheon (BSCE) is an intern with WSDOT. She also received a TNW/WTS scholarship.

Tyler Sprague (MSCE) is an RA for Prof. George Turkiyyah's Optimization-based project.

Nicholas Wilson (BSCE) is an intern with WSDOT.

Tony Woody (MSCE) is our first intern with PTV America, Inc., and also received a TNW/Coral Sales scholarship.

Guohui Zhang (PhD) is an RA for Prof. Yin Hai Wang on the Wang/Nihan Video project.

Jianyang Zheng (PhD) is an RA for Profs. Yin Hai Wang and Nancy Nihan on the Traffic Signal Priority project.

Washington State University

Grant Monson (MS) is an RA for Prof. Eric Jessup on his Transportation Security project.

Steven Schmitz (BSCE) received a 2005 TNW/Coral Sales Scholarship.

Lisa Schramm (BSCE) received a 2005 TNW/Coral Sales Scholarship. ^^

Thank-Yous from Students



Christa Lucas

"I just wanted to drop you a line to thank you and UW. I was recently promoted to both Senior Transportation Engineer and Associate within my company this year. I am certainly using my graduate course knowledge within my work on traffic operations analyses, master planning studies, and a recent peer review of transit operations for the MBTA Silverline. (Thanks to a class by Prof. Rutherford, I pulled the perfect transit reference from Urban Mass Transportation Planning for a client the other day!) Anyway—I just wanted to say thanks!"

Christa Lucas, UW MSCE 1998 (formerly Christa Crane) (For more information about Christa's position at Howard Stein Hudson see <http://www.hshassoc.com/article.asp?NewsID=19>).

"I am one of the two humbled recipients of the TransNow/Coral Sales Scholarship Award at PSU. It has recently come to my attention that TransNow played a key role in this scholarship and that I owe you a debt of gratitude. I want to thank you so much for your aid in my academic pursuit to become a civil engineer. Not only does this aid help cut down my student loan debt upon graduation, it also reminds me that hard work pays off. It sounds like you guys are doing a lot of good work for the northwest region in terms of involvement, support and valuable research toward overall transportation systems. Those loud explosions in More Hall three times per week sound pretty fun too." ^^



Jamen Giffin

Jamen Giffin, PSU

TransNow Student Attends World Congress on ITS in San Francisco

Patikhom Cheeverunothai, a TransNow PhD student with the Smart Transportation Applications and Research (STAR) Lab in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at the UW, attended and presented his work at the 12th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in San Francisco, November 6 – 10, 2005. The paper, entitled “Development of an Advanced Loop Event Data Analyzer (ALEDA) System for Dual-Loop Detector Malfunction Detection and Investigation,” was presented in

the session for Evaluation of Deployed ITS (Scientific).

The event was packed. There were hundreds of presentations of technical and scientific papers in ITS, many professional development opportunities, and the latest transportation technology demonstrations. The exhibit hall featured state-of-the-art products and services for ITS. Participants discovered the advantages of ITS technologies through the program’s interactive activities and pre- and post-conference gatherings. 🌿

New Professor Joins UW Transportation Team

Anne Goodchild joined the UW faculty as an Assistant Professor in December 2005 after completing her PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. Her research interests lie in the analysis of logistic systems, with an emphasis on freight transportation. Her dissertation work examined the impact of a crane operating strategy on port terminal operations. Other research experience includes strategic routing and schedule planning in aviation, intelligent transportation systems, and the interaction between transportation operations and air quality. Before attending Berkeley she worked in consulting for five years in Europe and North

America, for PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and Applied Decision Analysis, Inc., modeling business problems such as airline fleet maintenance scheduling. She holds an MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, and a BS (with High Honors) in Mathematics from the University of California at Davis. Prof. Goodchild will be one of the research faculty for the new NORPAC (Northern Plains-Pacific Freight Mobility) Center. 🌿



TransNow Hosts Historic UTC Meeting

continued from page 1

continue? Should the UTCs in the different states share a core advisory group? What multi-center research and educational projects would make sense? How should collaborative multi-center projects be administered?

After much discussion four regional task forces were formed, focusing on Education, Research, Training, and Teleconferencing. These task forces have already begun to meet and members of all four will reconvene on May 1 and 2, 2006 to report their results and recommendations. The research task force is arranging a two-day workshop for national and regional FHWA representatives, and representatives of Region X UTCs to identify potential research projects of interest to FHWA. TransNow will host the Region X research workshop on June 8 and 9, 2006.

If you would like more information about the initial meeting and the makeup of the task forces visit the What’s New section of the TransNow website. The October 13 meeting has generated a lot of excitement and bold new plans for the future of transportation research and training in the Pacific Northwest region. 🌿

TransNow Program Supervisor Andrea King will be leaving TransNow to pursue a new career opportunity. Andrea has been a central pillar for TransNow during the past ten years and will be missed by staff and faculty alike. 🌿



TransNow PI Receives Royalty Research Grant

Yinhai Wang received a Royalty Research Fund award from the UW for his project “A System Optimization Approach for Traffic Signal Timing at Full-Actuated Intersections.” In recent years traffic signal timing research has received increasing attention. Two-thirds of urban vehicle miles of travel in the US are on signal-controlled roadways, and the quality of traffic signal operations is crucial to the efficiency and safety of these roadways. This study aims to develop a new system-optimization approach for traffic signal timing at fully actuated intersections using information extracted from video sensors. The research is a spin-off from TransNow transit signal priority research. For more information contact Prof. Wang at yinhai@u.washington.edu. 🌿

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Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 62

62-2512



*Transportation Northwest
Regional Center
Newsletter*

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The Transportation Northwest Newsletter is published three times a year by the Transportation Northwest Regional Center to inform readers about its research, educational, professional, and service activities. Opinions expressed by the editors/authors do not necessarily imply endorsement by the University of Washington or any of the other universities involved in the Consortium. For more information, or to be added to the mailing list, contact
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TransNews

UW College of Engineering Open House will take place April 28 and 29, 2006. TransNow will plan and recruit both student and staff volunteers for the Civil and Environmental Engineering portion of the event. There will be a cash prize contest for the best demos.

A Graduate Certificate in Transportation is now being offered at PSU, following approval by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education. For more information see <http://www.pdx.edu.news/7861/>.

Student-Led Conference
The consortium's third student-led conference was held February 9, 2006 at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center in Corvallis, OR. The conference was in conjunction with the Northwest Transportation Conference, also held in Corvallis, February 7-9. Students from all over the region competed in a poster contest and also presented their research. TransNow, OSU, and PSU were co-sponsors for the event.

New National Centers at PSU and UAF
Beginning in 2006, PSU will be the lead university for Oregon's new National University Transportation Center. PSU will be in partnership with the University of Oregon, OSU, and the Oregon Institute of Technology. The University of Alaska in Fairbanks (UAF) is the lead university of the Alaska Transportation Research Center.

New Patent at UW
The Washington Research Foundation is sponsoring a patent for the LOOP SIMulator (LOOPSIM) Vehicle Traffic Control project developed by Prof. Yin Hai Wang, Prof. Nancy Nihan, and PhD student Patikhom Cheevarunothai.

ARTBA Executive Committee
TransNow Director Nancy Nihan is the 2005-2006 President of the Research and Education Division for the American Road & Transportation Builders Association.