

University Transportation Center for Federal Region X at the University of Washington

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**Transportation Northwest
Regional Center
Newsletter**

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TransNow's 20th Anniversary: September 1, 2008

TransNow celebrated its 20th anniversary in September 2008. With far reaching and controversial transportation measures on the November ballot and debate starting on the future of the federal transportation program, it seems like a good time to share where TransNow has come from and where it intends to go.

Two Decades of Growth and Success:

TransNow was established in 1988 as one of the original 10 regional centers in the USDOT's University Transportation Centers (UTC) Program. As the UTC for Federal Region X, TransNow represented a consortium of six universities in our four-state region: University of Alaska at Fairbanks, University of Idaho, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Washington State University, and University of Washington.

These universities have since joined UTCs in their respective states: UAF leads the Alaska University Transportation Center, a national UTC; UI leads the National Institute for Advanced Transportation Technology, a Tier 1 UTC; PSU leads the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium, a national UTC; and UW leads Transportation Northwest (TransNow), the Region X UTC.

These centers continue to work together. The newly established Region X Transportation Consortium now includes the four state DOTs and UTCs (10 participating university campuses) and is developing a pooled fund of \$200,000 per year for collaborative UTC research that addresses Region X transportation issues.

Education Program Growth: In September 1991, the original UTCs established Advanced Institutes of Education at their lead universities. Now there are Advanced Institutes at all the consortium universities

in each state of Region X supporting a growing number of undergraduate and graduate transportation students.

Because of the many transportation professionals who will retire in the next decade, this expanding effort to educate future transportation leaders is of crucial importance.

The Evolving Research Program: At the start of its 21st year of operation, TransNow is centering its research focus on the investigation of sustainable and resilient transportation infrastructure and operations systems. TransNow is already supporting a few research projects in this area such as *Greenroads: An Environmental Rating System for Roadway Design and*

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NIATT Director Mike Kyte Retires



Mike Kyte

Mike Kyte, Director of the NIATT UTC at the University of Idaho, is retiring from his director position effective June 30, 2009. Mike was one of the original members of the TransNow Board of Directors, representing the UI in TransNow's original six-university consortium. He became the NIATT center director in 1991, but stayed on as a TransNow PI and Board of Directors member until he was able to establish NIATT as a Tier 1 UTC in 1998.

As a founding member of TransNow and Director of NIATT, Mike became an

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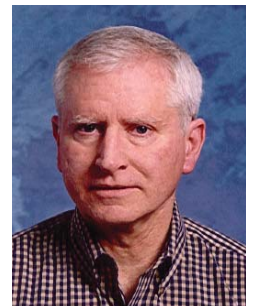
Meet Our Board

The TransNow Board of Directors meets twice yearly to discuss and vote on research, education, and technology transfer activities. Board members include TransNow personnel, Washington State Transportation Center (TRAC) Directors, Washington State Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration representatives.



Nancy Nihan has served as Director of TransNow since it was first established in 1988. Nancy has taught transportation engineering courses at the UW for over 35 years and specializes in traffic operations and intelligent transportation systems. In addition to teaching and serving as director, Nancy is involved with national transportation organizations such as the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) and the Transportation Research Board (TRB).

Scott Rutherford has served TransNow in a variety of capacities over the last 20 years. Currently, he is the Associate Director of Operations and Professional Development / Internships. In addition to overseeing TransNow's research and education efforts, Scott teaches transportation engineering courses at the UW and is the Director of TRANSPEED, an education outreach program at the UW.



Pete Briglia joined TransNow as Associate Director in 2006 and oversees Communications and New Initiatives in Freight and Intelligent Transportation Systems.

He has worked as a traffic and transportation engineer for over 25 years and came to TransNow from the Puget Sound Regional Council where he spent 9 months as a principal planner for ITS planning and regional operations. Pete is also Chair of the TRB Operations Section (AHB00).



John Stanton joined TransNow in 2008 as Associate Director of New Initiatives in Transportation Infrastructure. John joined the University of Washington in 1978 after working for a design practice for several years. He has taught and conducted research for 30

years, and specializes in seismic engineering. He most recently conducted work on developing new structural framing systems for buildings made from precast concrete.



Dave McLean serves as Professor and Chair of the CEE Department at WSU and joined the TransNow Board in 2006. Dave oversees TransNow research and education at WSU. In addition, he is Director of the WSU branch of TRAC.

Mark Hallenbeck joined the TransNow Board in 2006 and is the Director of the UW branch of TRAC. Mark specializes in traffic issues and is an Affiliate Faculty member for the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Urban Design and Planning at the UW.



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Alaska



Idaho



Oregon



Washington

Regional News

Region X Transportation Consortium Meeting

Members of the Region X Transportation Consortium teleconferenced on November 7, 2008. Members discussed the Pooled Fund Project, Communities of Practice, the June 2009 Education Conference, the FHWA Education Project, the Region X Student Conference, the TRB Region X Reception, and other important updates.

Region X Student Conference at UW

Region X Students met at the UW on November 7 for the annual student conference. The conference included a panel presentation by local experts in transportation engineering and planning, student presentations of research, and a keynote address by Dr. Stephen Van Beek, CEO of the Eno Foundation.

OTREC Supported designBridge Program Named Champion of Sustainability in Communities

The Sustainable Endowments Institute honored the University of Oregon's designBridge program as a Champion of Sustainability in Communities. OTREC is proud to support the innovative and award winning program.



Prof. Larco at a Re-newed Bicycle Parking area at Edison Elementary School, Eugene, OR

UO's designBridge program is a student-run organization founded by Professor Nico Larco. The program offers environmentally friendly, community-based design-build services to the Eugene area. For more information on the program please visit www.designbridge.org/.

Mike Kyte

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important leader in the development and implementation of multi-university TransNow projects and, more recently, led a successful effort to land a multi-UTC, multi-DOT education project funded by the FHWA. Mike has worked to increase collaboration between the universities and DOTs in our region and was influential in bringing about the adoption of the Region X Transportation Consortium's Memorandum of Understanding.

Mike will return to the Civil Engineering Department as a full time professor and researcher. He will also devote time to outreach and book projects. The staff at TransNow send their best wishes to Mike as he makes this transition and thank him for his dedication to the growth of collaborative transportation research and education activities in our region.

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Ken Casavant joined the TransNow Board in 1988. He currently directs the Advanced Institute program at WSU and the Freight Policy Transportation Institute. In addition, Ken teaches for the School of Economic Sciences at WSU.

Megan Hall joined the TransNow Board as a non-voting member in 2007 and represents the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Washington Division Office, for which she has worked over 17 years. Megan is a Research and Technology Transfer Engineer and is also responsible for the Federal oversight of the Local Agency Program in Washington State.



Jerry Lenzi joined the TransNow Board as a non-voting member in 2008 and represents the WSDOT. Jerry has worked for the WSDOT for over 30 years in various engineering and planning positions as well as served as the Regional Administrator for the Eastern Region. He is currently Director of Engineering Programs.

TransNews

20th Anniversary

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Construction, Rapid Construction of Earthquake-Resistant Bridges, and Washington State Freight System Resiliency Study.

Technology Transfer: This year TransNow redesigned its annual report and website to increase access to the center's work in research and education. In the future, TransNow will disseminate information electronically thereby saving financial and natural resources.

TransNow is preparing for significant change to the scope and priorities of the transportation industry and is working closely with colleagues, university administrators, legislators, and transportation associations to meet those challenges.

TRB Meeting Registration Open

Registration is now open for the Annual TRB Meeting in Washington, DC from January 11-15, 2009. Visit www.trb.org/meeting/2009/default.asp for information about registration and hotel accommodations. Registrations received by November 30, 2008 will receive the discounted rate.

Fall Student Welcome

On October 24, 2008 faculty and staff from TransNow and the UW CEE department welcomed new and returning transportation students to the 2008-2009 academic year with a pizza party and Pictionary.

TransNow sponsors welcome events every quarter as a means of building community among students and faculty in transportation engineering.

RFP 2009

TransNow research proposals for the 2009-2010 research year will be solicited beginning in early January 2009. For information about due dates and guidelines please visit www.transnow.org/research/rfp/.

TRB Region X Reception

TransNow is partnering with OTREC, NIATT, and AUTC to host the Region X Reception at the Annual TRB Meeting in January 2009. Visit www.transnow.org/ for further information on the reception including date, time, and location.

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