



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

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Webcast: Green, Interactive, & Power-Generating Roads

In January, University of Washington (UW) Professors Steve Muench, Joe Mahoney, and Nancy Nihan met at the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) headquarters in Washington, DC to prepare a webcast covering exciting new transportation infrastructure research areas currently funded by TransNow and other research partners. Professors Muench and Mahoney addressed research on Green Roads, online pavement information and training, and a new concept entitled Power Roads. The webcast is scheduled to be broadcast via the ARTBA website to over 5,000 of its members.

Green Roads is a rating system that distinguishes sustainability-focused new, reconstructed and rehabilitated roads. It awards credits for approved sustainable practices and can be used to certify projects based on total point value. As with the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for buildings, such a system could provide a quantitative means to assess roadway sustainability and could also provide a tool for decision-makers that allows them to make informed design and construction decisions regarding roadway sustainability. Learn more about Green Roads at <http://www.greenroads.us>.

Work in online initiatives at the UW continues with ongoing development of Pavement Interactive (PI), an online pavement wiki. A wiki is a piece of server software that allows users to freely create and edit web content using any existing

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Pete Briglia to Chair TRB Operations Section

Pete Briglia, TransNow's Associate Director of New Initiatives in Freight and ITS, will succeed Daniel S. Turner, Director of the University Transportation Center for Alabama (UTCA), as Chair of the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Operations Section (AHB00) for a three year appointment.

Pete's role will be to support and coordinate the work of thirteen committees and serve as a liaison between the section and TRB management. Pete was member of TRB's Committee on Freeway

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TransNow at TRB Meeting

TransNow faculty, staff, and students played a large role in the 87th Annual TRB Meeting held in Washington, DC January 13-17. Faculty and students met with peers and other transportation professionals for a four-day exhibition of transportation-



Bruce Agnew, Nancy Nihan, and Steve Marshall

related research. The UW and WSU participants gave 17 research presentations based on current and previously funded TransNow research projects. Presentation subjects ranged from "Green Roads: Sustainability Rating System for Roadways" to "Google Map-Based Online Platform for Arterial Traffic Information

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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.

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TransNow's 2007 Student of the Year

TransNow named Kelly Pitera 2007 Student of the Year. Kelly was honored at the Council of University Transportation Center's (CUTC) annual banquet in Washington, DC on January 12th. The banquet was held in conjunction with the Annual TRB Meeting, and honored outstanding achievements by professionals and students within the transportation field.

TransNow awarded Kelly for the initiative, enthusiasm, and strong focus she consistently demonstrates in class and in her research. Kelly is a UW student currently completing a Master of Science in Civil Engineering with



Kelly Pitera and her guest, Cristen Shopay

a certificate in Global Trade, Transportation, and Logistics. Her research focus is exploration of the relationships between supply chain structure and transportation resiliency. Kelly plans to pursue a PhD at the University of Washington.

Students from UTCs across the country were also awarded at the banquet for excellence in education, research, and written theses. CUTC President Rod Diridon and Hon. James Oberstar, Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, were honored for distinguished service to the promotion of transportation research.

Nancy Nihan Honored by ARTBA

Nancy Nihan, TransNow Director and Professor of CEE at the UW, is the 2007 recipient of the American Road & Transportation Builders Association's (ARTBA) S.S. Steinberg Award.

The award, named after the founding president of the ARTBA Research & Education Division (RED), recognizes an individual who has made remarkable contributions to transportation education. The award was presented January 14 during the RED annual meeting, held in Washington, D.C.

Nihan was nominated by industry peers in recognition of her extensive career accomplishments, contributions to the field and academe in the area of transportation engineering, and for her successes as the President of the ARTBA RED (2004-2005). She is currently a member of

the association's Board of Directors.

One of her industry peers said of Nihan, "While her service to ARTBA and to the transportation profession and education community is considerable, it is my opinion that it is equally important to consider her contribution to women in engineering. Dr. Nihan blazed a trail for others to follow."

TRB Meeting

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and Analysis". For more information on TRB presentations please visit <http://www.trb.org/meeting/>.

TransNow was pleased to sponsor the attendance of several students by providing extensive travel support. Read some of their experiences below:

My trip to attend the TRB annual meeting was extremely rewarding for a number of reasons. First, it was an excellent chance for me to share my research with others.... I received a lot of valuable feedback from the audience. Second, the other TRB sessions provided an opportunity to hear new ideas and learn about other cutting edge research. Third, the formal and informal meetings that occur throughout the week provide an excellent chance to network and establish friendships with other people in the transportation field. This was especially beneficial for me this year because I am about to join the work force.... Finally, TRB provides an opportunity to serve. I am a member of two TRB committees in which I enjoy serving. - Mike Lowry, PhD Student

This year's TRB meeting was my second. [I] attend[ed] a committee meeting as well as... poster sessions rather than individual presentations.... The informal setting of the [poster] sessions [are] valuable as a networking tool. This direct contact is an important aspect in the reaffirmation of the importance of one's project, as well as a potential opportunity for its promotion.... I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the year's TRB meeting, as it is an essential venue for the exchange and generation of future research ideas. - Yegor Malinovskiy, Master Student

In conjunction with the TRB meeting, TransNow joined with other Region X University Transportation Centers (UTC) to host the Region X Transportation Consortium Reception on January 13. The event was an excellent opportunity for UTC faculty, staff, students, and transportation professionals inside and outside the region to network and further build relationships within the transportation field.



Alaska



Idaho



Oregon



Washington

Regional News

Upcoming Region X Consortium Meeting

The next Region X Consortium meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 19-20 at the Alaska University Transportation Center (AUTC) in Fairbanks. For more information please visit: <http://www.uaf.edu/ine/AUTC/AUTCindex.html>.

OTREC Associate Director Receives Faculty Excellence Award

Marc Schlossberg, Associate Professor in the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management at the University of Oregon (UO), was a recipient of a Fund for Faculty Excellence Award. This award honors faculty members performing at the forefront of their areas of research at the UO. Dr. Schlossberg is an Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium (OTREC) Associate Director and Executive Committee member, and principal investigator on a project studying “active transportation, neighborhood planning and participatory GIS.”

NIATT Researchers Receive HERC Grant

Richard Wall and James Frenzel received a \$75,000 grant from the Higher Education Recruitment Consortium of Idaho to continue to develop new technology that will address an immediate need in pedestrian safety. In collaboration with state partners and private industry, Dr. Wall and Dr. Frenzel propose

to develop and deploy advanced interactive traffic signal technology that conveys information from the traffic controller and pedestrian signal to users via visual, auditory, and tactile feedback. Users will be able to indicate their communication and mobility needs so that the signal can adapt to provide individualized services while still maintaining efficient traffic flow using plug-and-play technology to simplify the installation of traffic signal systems.

Region X Transportation Consortium MOU Signed

A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was initiated between the UTCs and state DOTs in Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington, officially forming the Region X Transportation Consortium. The purpose of the consortium is to facilitate collaboration on transportation research and education projects of mutual interest among the consortium members and other transportation-related institutions in Region X. The MOU was signed by the final party on January 16, 2008.

OTREC Offers Podcasts of Visiting Scholar Lectures

Now available are audio files (mp3) of the Portland State University Transportation Seminar Series. Included in this series are Visiting Scholars hosted by OTREC. Download the files, or listen through iTunes: <http://www.cts.pdx.edu/seminars.htm>.

Research Webcast

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browser. The UW researchers have developed PI as the largest transportation-focused wiki in the world. It contains 383 information articles and has been viewed over 180,000 times since the fall of 2006 by people all over the world. Learn more about PI at <http://pavementinteractive.org>.

Power Roads is a new research concept from Professor Mahoney that fundamentally changes the idea of transportation infrastructure from an energy consumer to an energy generator. Power Roads would use photovoltaic collection systems to harness energy from the sun thereby making roads power generators. As photovoltaic collections systems evolve, the likelihood of using portions of highway infrastructure as a collection system appears promising. With the cost of oil approaching \$100 a barrel and over 4 million miles of paved roads in the U. S. the idea of collecting solar energy from roads is tempting.

The webcast was well-received by ARTBA. Professor Muench said of the impact of these research efforts that it is possible to “fundamentally change transportation.... [T]ransportation doesn’t have to be a necessary evil. We

can figure out how we’re doing, get better and, ultimately, make even the byproducts of mobility a win for our planet.”

New Chair of TRB Operations

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Operations from 1991 to 2006 and served as Committee Chair for the last six of those years.

TRB is one of six major divisions of the National Research Council—a private, nonprofit institution that is the principal operating agency of the National Academies in providing services to the government, the public, and the scientific and engineering communities. The mission of TRB is to provide leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange, conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary, and multimodal.

TRB is a resource to the nation and to the transportation community worldwide and provides opportunities for information exchange on current transportation research and practice, management of cooperative research and other research programs, analyses of national transportation policy issues and guidance on federal and other research programs, and publications and access to research information from around the world.

TransNews

TransNow Hosts Graduate Recruitment Reception

On January 24, TransNow faculty and staff met with CEE undergraduates to discuss applications for next year's Transportation Graduate Program. Faculty shared information about specific disciplines within the transportation and construction program as well as addressed internship and fellowship opportunities offered by TransNow.

Upcoming TransNow Advisory Committee and Board Meetings

The TransNow Board and Advisory Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled for April and will be held on the UW campus. The half-day Board meeting in early April will address the direction of research activity and proposed research projects for fiscal year 2008-2009. The Advisory Committee meeting will be held in late April. The meeting agenda is to be determined. Please visit <http://www.transnow.org/new/> for future updates.

TransNow Hosts Student Winter Reception

On February 22, 2008 UW Transportation students and CEE faculty and staff gathered for coffee and pastries at the Transportation Students Winter Reception. TransNow sponsors quarterly events for students and staff in order to build stronger ties within the transportation community at the UW. Approximately 40 students and staff attended the Winter Reception.

Students Awarded WTS Scholarships

UW Civil and Environmental Engineering students Chilan Ta (G), Kari Watkins (PhD), Kit Jeong (U), and Kelli Yamamoto (U) were awarded scholarships by the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS). Each student won \$2500 to further her educational goals. TransNow matched the award with an additional 60 percent of the amount for each person.

UW College of Engineering Open House

The annual COE Open House will take place on April 25-26, 2008. TransNow will sponsor three exhibits: MagLev, Transportation Jeopardy, and the Radar Gun Race. Each year, approximately 10,000 people from the Seattle area attend the event. Planning for the Open House is currently underway.

Kari Watkins to Attend ENO Leadership Conference

TransNow and the CEE Department at the UW has nominated Kari Watkins to attend the Eno Foundation Leadership Development Conference to be held May 19-22, 2008. Kari is a graduate student pursuing a PhD in Transportation. She was selected to attend the leadership conference because of her natural leadership ability and experience in the transportation industry. TransNow is pleased to sponsor Kari's attendance and will provide financial support to cover travel and conference expenses.