



From the Director

It is not the progress I mind, it's the change I don't like.
—Mark Twain

As I returned from the 6th National Transportation Asset Management this past month I reflected upon the progress of the MRUTC. As I've now settled into the Director's position, I am awed at this progress.

Our portfolio of projects and activities is remarkable. We've conducted research in rail, highway, and transit modes. We have been able to award research projects to researchers in 5 of the six states of the region and received direct matching funding from 22 states. We've hosted dozens of workshops, symposiums, conferences, and forums. We've graduated over 80 new transportation professionals with advanced degrees in Grant Year 6 alone. We've established a multidisciplinary graduate certificate program and we've solidified a national reputation in Transportation Asset Management.

Continuation, however, will require us to make some changes.

With the passage of the Safe Accountable Flexible Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) we are well positioned to expand our transportation efforts. We know we will have two more years of funding for our current center. After that we will be asked to submit a new proposal to continue our efforts. At present, we know we are only utilizing a fraction of the region's resources and academic expertise and capabilities. We've begun collecting input from our team and our stakeholders, revisiting our theme and our consortium's strengths and potential weaknesses. We will strategically explore additional collaborations and leverag-

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6th MidContinent Transportation Research Forum Scheduled for August 2006

The Midwest Regional University Transportation Center will be hosting the 6th MidContinent Transportation Research Forum on August 17-18, 2006.

This event is sponsored by the MRUTC, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Center for Transportation Research and Education at Iowa State University, and the Iowa Department of Transportation. Check www.mrutc.org/ResearchPaysOff/ for further details and information. A Call for Presentations will be issued in January.

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UW-Madison to Host 2007 CUTC Meeting

The University of Wisconsin-Madison & the MRUTC will host the Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC) 2007 Annual Meeting June 14-15, 2007. CUTC's membership represents over 60 of the nation's leading university-based transportation research and education programs. Collectively, CUTC members have advanced the state-of-the-art in all modes and disciplines of transportation. In doing so, the membership of CUTC has made significant and lasting contributions to the nation's mobility, economy, and defense.

For more information on the CUTC, visit <http://cutc.tamu.edu/>. Check the MRUTC website (www.mrutc.org) for updated information regarding the upcoming meeting.

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ing. We'll update the theme to reflect our accomplishments and those accomplishments of others in the Transportation Asset Management arena during the past 6 years. As a subject of study, we've made a great deal of progress since 1999. States are implementing Transportation Asset Management systems. Municipal governments and counties have already begun to reap the benefits of better decision making. Legislators and the general public are recognizing the importance of adequately investing in ongoing maintenance efforts.

During these six years we've also learned a lot about building a program that reflects the strengths of our consortium and our region. Our efforts in establishing a regional freight corridor coalition and in working with regional transportation libraries have paid dividends. Our Deer Vehicle Crash Information Clearinghouse that was featured internationally over the summer. Our Center was featured or mentioned in dozens of newspapers and magazines this summer. We host the national library for transportation maintenance quality assurance documents and have recently agreed to cooperatively host the MidContinent Transportation Research Symposium in the coming years. This region is ripe for collaborative research and we intend to lead that effort in the years to come.

Change is always challenging. My role as center director is evolving within our internal and external organizations. I believe that we are well-positioned to build upon our strengths. These strengths will allow us to optimize our region's transportation investments and effectively design, build, operate, and maintain our integrated transportation network.

UWiTS Wins 2nd Chapter of the Year Award

The University of Wisconsin Transportation Society (UWiTS) was recently awarded the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) District 4 Student Chapter of the Year Award. This is the second consecutive year that UWiTS has received this honor. Andi Bill, UWiTS President, along with UWiTS members Tim Gates and



(L to R): Regan McKendry, Todd Szymkowski, Andi Bill, Robert Green, Tim Harpst, & Tim Gates at the awards presentation

Regan McKendry, and TOPS Lab Manager Todd Szymkowski, accepted the award from ITE District 4 Vice Chair Person Robert Green, and ITE International President Tim Harpst. David Noyce, Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is the faculty advisor for UWiTS.

The award, given out to the best student chapter, is based on a written report documenting each chapter's annual activities.

(See Award, continued on page 5)

Transportation Asset Management at TRB

Several sessions are scheduled for the 85th TRB Annual Meeting in Washington DC January 22-26, 2006 on Transportation Asset Management.

Poster Session 245 Monday, January 23, 2006, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Hilton

Tools for States and Locals: Performance Measures, Asset Management, and Data Management
Tools to Improve Communication and Decision Making (Poster Session)

Session 357 Monday, January 23, 2006, 3:45 PM - 5:30 PM, Hilton

Asset Management: International Perspectives

Committee Meeting Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM, Hilton

Transportation Asset Management Committee: Full Committee (ABC40)

Session 710 Wednesday, January 25, 2006, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM, Hilton

Wall Street Speaks: Transportation Asset Management and Ratings

Session 731 Wednesday, January 25, 2006, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM, Hilton

Asset Management as a Teenager: Out in the World, But Still Learning

(This session will feature work related to MRUTC project 06-02 Documenting Transportation
Asset Management Training Opportunities.)

UW in Driver's Seat with New Funding from the US DOT

With \$16 million in funding over five years from the U.S. Department of Transportation, UW-Madison transportation engineers will drive their research, education and technology-transfer efforts to the national level. President Bush signed the "Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users" August 10th in Aurora, Ill. The bill designates UW-Madison as one of 10 National University Transportation Centers charged with advancing research on critical national transportation issues and expanding the workforce of transportation professionals.

"The department of civil and environmental engineering has been positioning itself to take advantage of an opportunity like this for some time," says civil and environmental engineering Professor Teresa Adams, who directs the UW-Madison-based Midwest Regional University Transportation Center (MRUTC) and will direct the new national center.

U.S. Rep. Tom Petri of Wisconsin chairs the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and was instrumental in bringing the national center to UW-Madison. The designation recognizes the MRUTC's reputation as a
(See Funding, continued on page 4)

Freight Related Sessions at TRB

Several sessions are scheduled for the 85th TRB Annual Meeting in Washington DC January 22-26, 2006 on Freight Topics - particularly focused on the primary research thrust areas that the new National University Transportation Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is focusing on. This is not intended to be a comprehensive listing as several other sessions will feature freight elements as well:

Workshop 118: Sunday, January 22, 2006, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Hilton
Effective Integration of Freight Policy, Planning, & Programming Activities into Programs

Workshop: Sunday, January 22, 2006, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, Hilton
Multimodal Approach to Address Freight Air Quality Issues

Session 212: Monday, January 23, 2006, 8:00 AM - 9:45 AM, Shoreham
Freight Systems Capacity Issues: Part I

Session 222: Monday, January 23, 2006, 8:00 AM - 9:45 AM, Hilton
Freight Data for State Transportation Agencies: Statewide Transportation Data Peer Exchange

Session 301: Monday, January 23, 2006, 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM, Shoreham
Freight Systems Capacity Issues, Part 3: Supply Chain Structure and Restructuring

Session 348: Monday, January 23, 2006, 3:45 PM - 5:30 PM, Shoreham
Freight Systems Capacity Issues, Part 4: Operations Strategies as Response to Congestion

Session 363: Monday, January 23, 2006, 3:45 PM - 5:30 PM, Hilton
Prospects for Reducing Heavy-Duty Emissions and Fossil Fuel Use

Session 418: Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 8:00 AM - 9:45 AM, Shoreham
National Freight Policy: Toward an Action Agenda

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successful regional center, says Adams, as well as the university's breadth of transportation activities.

As a result of this existing transportation research, education and outreach infrastructure, UW-Madison civil and environmental engineering researchers associated with the new center can tackle a range of national transportation priorities-some of which include aging infrastructure, freight capacity and management, traffic congestion, materials sustainability, and environmental issues such as air quality and pavement runoff. They will collaborate with university experts in industrial and systems engineering, business, urban and regional planning, public affairs and other areas.

Center staff also will work closely with the Wisconsin DOT to align their strategic plan with DOT priorities, says MRUTC Deputy Director Jason Bittner. "While it's still a University of Wisconsin effort, we'd be a little short-sighted to not take advantage of helping in the model of the Wisconsin Idea-the boundaries of the university are the boundaries of the state-as much as we can," he says.

The new center will enable researchers to foster existing relationships and cultivate new

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(Freight Sessions, continued from page 4)

Session 450: Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM, Marriott
Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Methodologies

Session 466: Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM, Shoreham
Inland Waterways Research

Session 467: Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM, Shoreham
Integrating Freight Facilities with Communities and Economic Development

Session 484 : Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM, Marriott
Costing Shared-Use Rail Infrastructure: Adding Apples and Oranges?

Session 497 : Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM, Shoreham
Border Shipping Challenges: Security versus Delay

Session 498: Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM, Shoreham
Emerging Innovations in European Freight Modeling

Session 547 : Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 3:45 PM - 5:30 PM, Shoreham
Current Research in Freight Modeling

Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM, Shoreham
Freight Systems and Marine Forum

Session 582 : Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM, Shoreham
Current Research in Commercial Vehicle Regulation

Session 630: Wednesday, January 25, 2006, 8:00 AM - 9:45 AM, Hilton
Truck Lanes and Road Pricing, Part 1: Reality of Today (Part 2, Session 682)

Session 682: Wednesday, January 25, 2006, 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM, Hilton

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UWiTS was selected out of a group of 18 student chapters within District 4 of ITE. District 4 includes the states of Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. UWiTS was a finalist for the national award, which was given to Florida International University. UWiTS' ultimate goal for the next year is to be the recipient of the national student chapter award.

UWiTS is a multidisciplinary student organization comprised of members from a variety of academic areas with a common interest in transportation. Its membership includes both undergraduate and graduate students. Those interested in UWiTS activities should contact Andi Bill at bill@wisc.edu.

**(From Funding, continued from page 4)**

ones, says Adams. "It provides a great opportunity to continue to work with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and other departments of transportation across the nation," she says.

(adapted from an article written by Renee Meiller, UW, Aug. 2005)

TOPS Lab Update

The Traffic Operations and Safety Laboratory (TOPS) at UW-Madison is as busy as ever. MRUTC Affiliated Faculty Members David Noyce and Bin Ran are the Directors of the TOPS Lab. The MRUTC, TOPS Lab, and Wisconsin Highway Research Program share staff and office space within the Wisconsin Transportation Center. Listed are some of the TOPS Lab's latest projects...

Crash Mapping Demonstration Project

TOPS is piloting a study to integrate GIS mapping and crash analysis data into an interactive interface. The ultimate goal is to have all vehicular crashes marked by pushpins on a map. Then, by clicking on any of the pins, the user could access any and all data that was reported about a specific crash event.

The project also involves merging the various official maps—one being the State Trunk Highway system map, the other being a map of all “local” roads (County Trunk and lower). The end result is to support the updating of Wisconsin’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

Traffic Management System Information Technology Support/Development

Nick Marhovic was recently hired as an on-site support staff specialist. Nick’s main task is to help the Milwaukee Traffic Operations Center (MTOC), but his duties will include being a liaison between TOPS and the MTOC.

Nick has been brought on staff due to the growth and transitional stages that the MTOC is in the midst of. The center has recently grown to handle the needs of the Marquette Interchange reconstruction, and because the center is changing from being solely a Milwaukee regional center to a statewide traffic operations center.



TRAFFIC OPERATIONS & SAFETY LABORATORY

Sue McNeil Moving to the University of Delaware

Sue McNeil, a former Director of the Urban Transportation Center and Professor in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at University of Illinois at Chicago, has taken a position in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Delaware. Sue also was a key research faculty member for the MRUTC, completing many projects which can be seen on the MRUTC website: www.mrutc.org.

Sue was the principal investigator on MRUTC projects involving the use of asset management in private sector transportation organizations, co-PI on a project looking at strategic planning and asset management, and on a current project involving capturing the benefits of asset management activities within an agency. Sue was an integral part of the asset management national conferences and a key collaborator on the Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Coalition work.

The MRUTC is saddened that we are losing Sue from this region but do hope that we can continue to work with her in her new role in Delaware. Good luck Sue!

2005 International Conference on Ecology & Transportation

The 2005 International Conference on Ecology & Transportation (ICOET) was successfully conducted August 29 - September 2 in San Diego, CA. The conference drew more than 390 attendees from 15 countries and included the participation of nearly 40 students.

The Deer-Vehicle Crash Information Clearinghouse of the Midwest Regional University Transportation Center served as a bronze sponsor at the event. MRUTC Affiliated Faculty Member Dr. Keith Knapp, the Director of the DVCIC, presented his current DVCIC data and research in the exposition session. The MRUTC and the DVCIC combined to make the exhibit a success.



The ICOET conferences, held biannually, are the only of its kind, designed to address the broad range of ecological issues related to surface transportation development, providing the most current research information and best practices in the areas of wildlife, fisheries, wetlands, water quality, overall ecosystems management, and related policy issues.

ICOET is a multi-disciplinary, inter-agency supported event, administered by the Center for Transportation and the Environment at North Carolina State University.

ICOET participants offered a special donation on the final day of the conference to victims of Hurricane Katrina, which attacked the Gulf Coast states during the week of ICOET. CTE is forwarding the contributions to Brother's Brother Foundation, a four-star charity based in Pittsburgh, PA, which involves the international community in working with and through local agencies and organizations impacted by natural disasters to match available resources with people's needs. Donations aid in the distribution and provision of medical, educational, agricultural and other resources.

For more information on ICOET, please contact Dr. Keith Knapp at knapp@engr.wisc.edu.

(From TOPS, continued from page 6)

4 to 3 Lane Conversion Analysis

TOPS is currently assisting the Wisconsin DOT North-Central office in identifying issues with the conversions of stretches of roadway. The current area of investigation is associated with the conversion of a four-lane stretch of STH 13 into a three-lane roadway in Colby, Wisconsin (between Wausau and Eau Claire).

Detour Map Production/Automation Support

Terry Woodman has been hired to provide support at the Wisconsin DOT central office, regarding the weekly detour map publication. She will also assist the TOPS lab in determining options for map modernization. The main goal is to be able to electronically publish these maps, making them easier to update and distribute to anyone interested in up-to-date detour information.

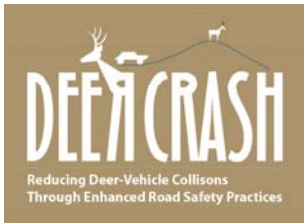


The current paper maps us a basic state highway map, on which construction detours are overlaid using orange ink. This current method is both costly, and very time consuming. However, paper copies will still be produced once the maps become electronic—mainly for the trucking firms statewide.

Deer-Vehicle Crash Reductions: Setting a Strategic Agenda

October 24-25, 2005 - Madison, WI

On October 24 and 25, 2005, the Deer-Vehicle Crash Information Clearinghouse sponsored a national meeting in Madison, Wisconsin at the Madison Concourse Hotel. This meeting brought together leading researchers, transportation and ecology professionals, AAA officials and insurance company representatives to develop a strategic agenda to guide future activities and policies related to deer-vehicle crash reduction.



In 2000 a similar meeting was held that helped produce a dramatic increase in deer-vehicle crash reduction activities. Attendees at this year's meeting:

- Reviewed the progress from action items proposed in 2000;
- Heard progress at the national level;
- Worked within focal groups to propose strategic action plans to guide future deer-vehicle crash activities related to:
 - Research and Data Collection
 - Funding

- Partnership Building
- Technology Transfer and Education

The information from the focal group sessions is currently being assembled, and should be available for viewing in the near future.

MRUTC Affiliated Faculty Member Keith Knapp leads the reknowned Clearinghouse effort. A companion Pooled Fund Research Center is planned to be part of the MRUTC and to kickoff shortly. For more information visit <http://www.deercrash.com>.

BioHazards Workshop

On July 18, 2005, the MRUTC partnered with the Jeff Western of the Wisconsin DOT and the Federal Highway Administration to help present the Workshop on Transportation Operations in Biohazard Situations, sponsored by the ITS Joint Program Office, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

The workshop drew a variety of attendees, including health professionals, emergency medical response specialists, law enforcement officials, agricultural experts, a wide variety of transportation officials, and academics.

The focus of this workshop was discussing and developing effective practices for responding to biohazard situations involving transportation. Three biohazard scenarios were introduced and participants discussed potential responses. In one scenario a biohazard was released in a major facility such as a sports stadium. In another, an undetected biohazard was released which affected people from around a statewide area. The third scenario involved the contamination of livestock and agricultural food products.

Following extended discussion of potential responses to these deadly situations, the focus shifted towards refining a biohazard operational concept to improve transportation responsiveness. New and emerging technologies to deal with dangerous situations were explored.

The workshop is indicative of the importance of security in transportation and the need for proactively working to improve the responsiveness of transportation facilities and personnel to security and safety threats.

The operational plan that is being developed as a result of this workshop will provide local and state decision makers with an appropriate, and comprehensive, transportation strategy in the event of a biohazard event.

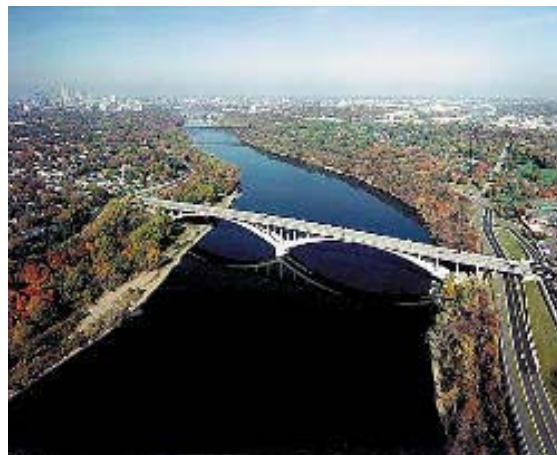
Civil Engineering's Role in Asset Management

Aging infrastructure is a major concern to many Americans and certainly to our elected officials. Of course, the costs to maintain, rehabilitate, replace, or even build new infrastructure is no surprise to civil engineers. However, the general public isn't as well informed, so decisions to spend can be unpopular, and this fact can impede progress toward more dependable, efficient, facilities. Truth be told, many elected officials and governing bodies aren't well informed either, typically because of insufficient data, not unawareness.

Improving asset management can go a long way in aiding the community impediments that plague towns, cities, and states every day. Thankfully, federal rulings, such as the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's Statement 34 and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Capacity, Management, Operations, and Maintenance regulations, as well as decisions at the local level in some states, are supporting such initiatives. But the true impetus should just be logic. Defining priorities and making expenditure decisions based on facts that result from data, analyses, and engineering principles is the only way to go.

Increasingly, civil engineers are providing asset management-related services. For example, sub-surface utility engineering, which involves utility designating, locating, and surveying; and structural health monitoring, which involves monitoring infrastructure to determine its condition, are becoming more common. Additionally, project work involving GIS, land surveying, 3-D laser scanning, and GPS for the purpose of asset management continues to grow. Also, information-technology-related services are on the rise. Civil engineering firms are assisting clients with capital program management systems, enterprise management systems, CAD/GIS data integration agendas, and implementation of mobile technology to maximize the efficiency of their asset management programs.

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MnDot Trading Cards

Several state departments of transportation—including Mn/DOT—are now creating "trading cards" to make it easier to remember and share information about their key projects. The Connecticut Department of Transportation, which came up with the idea, developed three cards to complement the presentations made by staff members at the 2005 Transportation Research Board meeting.

Designed to be easy to comprehend and inexpensive, the trading cards are a convenient way to pass along quick snapshots about transportation research projects. One side of each card includes a color image and title, while the reverse features succinct project highlights and contact information.

Six Mn/DOT cards have been created to date:

- Rural Crash Reduction (pooled-fund study #TPF-5(086))
- I-394 MnPASS High Occupancy Toll Lane (www.mnpass.org)
- North/West Passage #TPF-5(093)

(See MnDOT, continued on page 10)

Engineering Professional Development Course Offerings

The following transportation short courses are being offered at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. See individual course Web pages for more information.



Maintaining Asphalt Pavements • epdweb.egr.wisc.edu/WEBG966 • Jan 11-12, 2006 • Madison, WI

Designing Optimized Traffic Signals and Systems Using TEAPAC, PASSER, TRANSYT and CORSIM • epdweb.egr.wisc.edu/WEBH111 • Jan 11-13, 2006 • Las Vegas, NV

The Maintenance, Rehabilitation and Upgrading of Railroad Track • epdweb.egr.wisc.edu/WEBH252 • Feb 1-3, 2006 • Madison, WI

Urban Street Design • epdweb.egr.wisc.edu/WEBH362 • Feb 6-7, 2006 • Madison, WI

Traffic Impacts of Land Development • epdweb.egr.wisc.edu/WEBH363 • Feb 8-9, 2006 • Madison, WI

Maintaining Asphalt Pavements • epdweb.egr.wisc.edu/WEBH237 • Feb 23-24, 2006
Orlando, FL

Maintaining Asphalt Pavements • epdweb.egr.wisc.edu/WEBH238 • Mar 8-9, 2006 • Allentown, PA

Railway Bridge Engineering • epdweb.egr.wisc.edu/WEBG071 • Mar 27-28, 2006 • Allentown, PA

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The benefits of maintaining assets with the big-picture perspective afforded by asset management systems have distinct advantages to utilities, municipalities, or other owners of public infrastructure. Designating assets, quantifying and locating them, and qualifying their status, as well as sharing such information throughout organizations, can bring vast efficiencies and benefits to the public. If infrastructure owners' goals include extending facility lifecycles and spending wisely, then investing in asset management is a necessity. Sure, asset management costs money, but sometimes you have to spend a little to yield a great return.

(adapted from a commentary written by Shanon Fauerbach, P.E., Sept 2005 CE News)

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- Is Your Mailbox a Safety Hazard? (www.lrrb.org, search NONE09 and NONE10)
- Toolkit for a Career in Civil Engineering (www.lrrb.org/CE_Toolkit/)
- A-Pillar Blind Spots: Forward-Looking Research (www.lrrb.org search report 2002-16)

If you would like copies of Mn/DOT's cards, contact Sandy McCully at (651) 282-2272.

Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Regional Strategy Workshop

November 15th marked the 45 day point of the Phase II Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Study/Upper Midwest Corridor Coalition regional freight efforts. The MRUTC hosted a multi-state workshop in Milwaukee in which over 50 representatives from around the region began to work on a regional freight strategy. The MRUTC teamed with researchers at University of Toledo, the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute, and UI-Chicago to create this regional vision for the future of freight transportation in the Upper Midwest. The workshop provided an opportunity for broad-based participation and intense interaction, free and open idea exchange, and frank evaluation and feedback.

The process for turning this vision into reality will require a multi-state, multi-jurisdictional partnership of public and private sector stakeholders. Workshop attendees highlighted potential items for consideration in rail, water, and highway modes. The workshop's broad participation from each of the states in the study area was essential.

Following the experience of many other corridors in the country, the research team will lead efforts to further demonstrate the benefit of regionalism. Regionalism will bring assistance in the area of influencing federal policy

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6th National Conference on Transportation Asset Management

"Making Asset Management Work in your Organization" was the theme of the Sixth National Conference on Transportation Asset Management.

Current MRUTC director, Dr Teresa Adams, former MRUTC director Ernie Wittwer (now running his own consulting firm), and MRUTC deputy-director Jason Bittner all represented the MRUTC at this year's NTAM Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Bittner and Wittwer served on the conference planning committee.

Dr. Adams presented her work on MRUTC Project 03-02: Synthesis of Best Practices for the Development of an Integrated Data and Information Management Approach. Her paper on Planning and Managing Data Integration Efforts for Asset Management was featured in a session targeting large agencies.

Bittner presented on efforts related to MRUTC Project 06-02: Documenting Training Opportunities related to Asset Management." This project is a compilation of research compiled by Jason Bittner, Mary Ebeling, and Ernie Wittwer and funded through the Transportation Asset Management Pooled Fund Research Program by the Michigan Asset Management Council and the FHWA Office of Asset Management. Bittner also presented in a poster session featuring the work of the MRUTC across a broad spectrum of projects.

Bittner also participated on a panel charged with a look at the future research needs in the field of asset management, facilitated by MRUTC research partner Sue McNeil. The panelists focused on state, local, and university developments. The panelists focused on development of tools and training activities, as well as re-focusing efforts at the lower level activities rather than continued efforts looking at the theoretical benefits of TAM. MRUTC Project 06-06: Measuring the Benefits of implementing TAM Tools and Systems should lead the way on these research efforts.

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The 6th National Conference was co-chaired by MRUTC Executive Committee Member Katie Zimmerman of Applied Pavement Technologies.

Full articles and session summaries can be found on TRB's website: <http://www.trb.org/conferences/preservation-asset/>

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and in developing a more systematic view of a transportation network as an integrated set of parts. Previous corridor efforts also reinforce the value of communication between public agencies and between the public and private sectors. The main objectives of the current phase of the effort are:

- Help place the region in a stronger position for federal funding support to enhance the corridor;
- Enable both public and private sectors to leverage the resources and strengths each has toward developing a comprehensive approach toward freight;
- Share understanding of the processes and practices employed by neighboring states relative to freight;
- Consider project planning and delivery using a collaborative approach;
- Bridge the gap between the public and private sectors relative to decision-making

practices; and,

- Build on existing studies and efforts to ensure that duplication of efforts is avoided or at least minimized, develop a regional freight agenda, facilitating discussions of a regional approach to deploying commercial vehicle-related intelligent transportation systems, and maintain and improve the regional information system on freight.

The study is funded by the seven states in the region through a pooled fund administered by the State of Ohio. The participating states are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. In addition, the MRUTC and the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute have funded portions of the effort.



For more information on the Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Study, please visit

www.uppermidwestfreight.org/ .

GLMRI Launch

On June 4th, the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) and MRUTC consortium partner the University of Wisconsin-Superior (UWS) formally announced the launching of the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute (GLMRI).

At the ceremony the Great Lakes Region Director of the US Maritime Administration formally presented letters from Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian designating the GLMRI as a National Maritime Enhancement Institute for the Great Lakes.

Under the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, select institutions throughout the U.S. have been designated as National Maritime Enhancement Institutes (NMEIs). The purpose of NMEIs is to create a research-oriented atmosphere that lends itself to providing effective input for addressing maritime issues.

“Our objective is to improve our maritime transportation system for tomorrow,” Jamian said. “Research and educational opportunities are particularly important to excite and inspire the youth of today to help advance marine transportation systems to achieve greater levels of efficiency, safety, security and envi-

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ronmental responsibility.”

The institutes selected as NMEIs are capable of researching inter-disciplinary, intermodal problems, and have access to a broad spectrum of resources enabling them to address national concerns within their individual program areas.

The GLMRI joins the University of California at Berkley, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Louisiana State University, Texas Transportation Institute, and Marshall University as NMEIs.

GLMRI is a joint project between UMD and MRUTC Consortium Partner UW-Superior established to pursue research efforts in marine transportation, logistics, economics, engineering, environmental planning and port management. Representatives James L. Oberstar (D-MN) and David R. Obey (D-WI) announced in December 2004 an initial \$750,000 federal grant to fund startup of the institute, which will allow for this first-ever institute dedicated to the comprehensive study of Great Lakes maritime commerce.

“This funding will be very useful in furthering research about the unique characteristics of the Great Lakes maritime industry and trade

through the region’s waterways,” said Oberstar. “With the expertise offered by the UMD and UWS Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute, we can enhance the nation’s maritime infrastructure,” he said.

“I’m pleased that we have been able to secure funding for this initiative,” Obey added. “Conducting a study of a Lake Superior cross-border marine transportation system with the ability to transport commerce and passengers safely and economically will lay the groundwork for future economic development for the Twin Ports and the region. The joint effort by UMD and UWS will also serve as a model for future university, industry and government partnerships.”

In addition to bringing together the strengths of the transportation programs from both universities, the consortium will host relevant research affiliates from other Great Lakes universities to serve as project researchers. The Great Lakes Maritime Academy is a research affiliate university of the GLMRI.

An advisory board of Great Lakes maritime and shipping experts is being established to provide input into the annual research agenda. Members of the board include: the Maritime Administration, US Coast Guard,

the Lake Carriers Association, the Great Lakes Commission, American Association of Great Lakes Ports, the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, and the Duluth Seaway Port Authority

Research will be coordinated with the Maritime Administration (MARAD), the agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation responsible for promoting the development of a merchant marine sufficient to meet the needs of national defense and the domestic and foreign commerce of the United States.

Co-directors of GLMRI are Richard Stewart, from the UWS Transportation and Logistics Research Center, and James P. Riehl, Dean of the UMD College of Science and Engineering.

GLMRI is working closely with the Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Coalition and will be a partner of the new National University Transportation Center. For more information about GLMRI, visit <http://www.glmri.org/glmri/main.htm>.

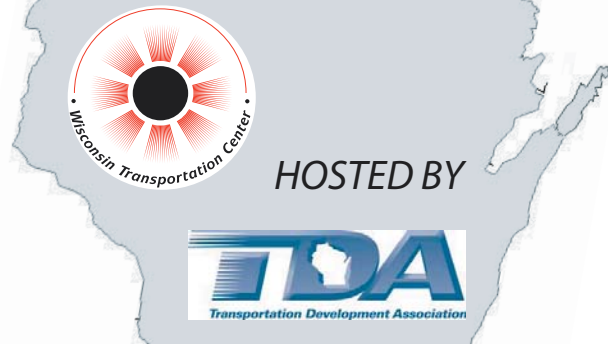
(adapted from article written by Susan Beasy Latto, UMD)



You are invited to the

Wisconsin Transportation Reception

During the TRB Annual Meeting



HOSTED BY



Tuesday, January 24, 2006

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Omni Shoreham Hotel
Bird Cage
2500 Calvert Street NW
(at Connecticut Ave.)
Washington, D.C.

SPONSORED BY

- UW-Madison Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Midwest Regional UTC
- HNTB
- UW-Superior
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- ITE Wisconsin Section
- Marquette University
- Wisconsin Asphalt Pavement Assoc.
- Wisconsin Concrete Pavement Assoc.
- Wisconsin Highway Research Program
- CH2M Hill
- TranSmart
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Spring 2006 Colloquium on Transportation Management and Policy (CEE 970)

The topic of interest for the Spring 2006 section of CEE 970 will focus on the impact of Freight on the Transportation Systems. Those who choose to enroll in this course will be introduced to key issues and concepts related to the study of freight and given opportunities to interact with people who are active in the transportation professions.

Classes will be offered on Thursday afternoons, from 4—5:15pm, once a week for 15 weeks. A variety of guest speakers will lecture on their specific areas of expertise and how it relates to freight. Past speakers have included professionals from the Wisconsin DOT, MRUTC consortium partners, and several private firms. Check the UW timetable website: <http://registrar.wisc.edu/timetable/> or the MRUTC <http://www.mrutc.org/> website: for the latest information about this upcoming course.



Upcoming events related to Transportation Asset Management and the University Transportation Center programs.

January 2006

TRB 85th Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Date: January 22-26, 2006

February 2006

National Urban Freight Conference, Long Beach, CA

Date: February 1-3, 2006

Midwestern Pavement Preservation Partnership, Indianapolis, Indiana

Date: February 1-3, 2006

March 2006

Conference on Transportation & Economic Development, Little Rock, Arkansas

Date: March 29-30, 2006

Transportation Development Association of Wisconsin Washington Fly-in, Washington, DC

Date: March 29-30, 2006

April 2006

67th ASPA National Conference, Denver, Colorado

Date: March 31 - April 4, 2006

Quality Roundup Conference, Phoenix, Arizona

Date: April 5-6, 2006

Happy Holidays from all of us at the MRUTC



Visit www.mrutc.org/about/calendar.htm for the latest updates.

Event titles are links to Web sites (where available)