

ITS Berkeley Director's Letter [View this email in your browser](#)



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Having just returned from the 2016 Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, I would like to wish everybody a belated happy new year with this January email. I am thoroughly amazed by the presence of ITS on the ground in Washington this year! A rough count of our footprint this year shows participation of our people in 60 workshops and sessions, 24 faculty and staff attended this year, along with 41 students, delivering 55 presentations, 27 posters and 13 people serving as session chairs! Practically all our centers and affiliates had representatives, including SafeTREC, TSRC, PATH, UCTC, UCCONNECT, PRC, Smart Cities, NEXTOR, Tech Transfer, the ITS Library, LBNL and IURD. As this was the second TRB conference at the new venue, people are still adjusting to the new geography, flow and dynamics. Our ITS reception was extremely well attended – several hundred people came, and some stayed almost an hour after the party closed! It was really nice to see so many familiar faces come and join us for these relaxing moments in the middle of the usual TRB frenzy, oscillating between talks, sessions, workshops, plenaries and exhibit hall demos. I encourage you to tag ITS Berkeley in your Facebook posts, and visit our Facebook page to see some pictures from the event.

On another note, as we approach the anniversary of former ITS Director Bill Garrison's passing, former Director Professor Marty Wachs organized a very poignant memorial session about his predecessor. Bill's family attended the memorial, with some very moving photographs ranging from his military years to late career years at Berkeley. In a series of very touching speeches, several of his former students and ITS Alumni or colleagues (in particular David Levinson, Brian Taylor, Dan Sperling, Betty Deakin, Paul Schoenfeld, Susan Hanson, Jonathan Gifford, and Reginald Souleyrette) shared their own memories of Bill and his Directorship at UC Berkeley. The legacy of Bill is humbling, and his impact on the field of Geography is still palpable through these memories and an inspiration for all of us. In the near future, we hope to be able to share a video recording of the memorial session. The Association of American Geographers' (AAG) will also hold a memorial in his honor on March 31, 2016 at the AAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco for those who were unable to attend in Washington DC. Details will be announced as the event approaches.

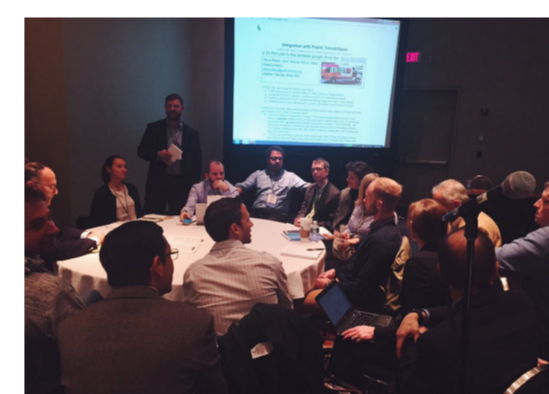
This email is also an opportunity for me to announce the retirement of Rita Evans, ITS Library Director. A familiar fixture in the library for the last 15 years, Rita has been the backbone of our Transportation Library. We will miss her deeply as she heads into retirement. Her service and hard work enabled many transformations in the library, setting it on the path for becoming a flagship institution for transportation information in the digital age. I also want to thank Kendra Levine for accepting the role of Acting Director of the library in the interim.

With the new year and semester, we look forward to embracing many new projects and avenues. The 10-Year External Review concluded with the submission of the report by the review committee, and its various recommendations to the Vice Chancellor for Research. We anticipate holding an institute-wide meeting in the near future to provide feedback on the outcome of the review, which is very positive. With this major step behind us, we look forward to a very busy 2016, with many projects ahead. In particular, following the publication of "Inventing the Future of Mobility," a book about the Institute produced on the occasion of our 10-year review, we will now start working on our website – which has not been updated for many years. If you have input and suggestions, let us know so we can take them into account in our planning. 2016 will also be the official launch of the Smart Cities center, a joint venue of the Transportation Initiative at LBNL and ITS. I know many colleagues at ITS and LBNL have contributed to the numerous discussions with the Department of Energy and other National Labs who are involved in projects which will be hosted by the Smart Cities center, and I would like to thank everybody for their time and willingness to travel to Washington to help with the intense planning work required for this effort. Having just returned from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where "smart cities" is happening in real-time through massive projects, such as the construction of a 150km long metro with a 3,000 bus feeder system from scratch, I am very excited to continue the construction of the Smart Cities center so we can help pioneer new concepts of tomorrow's urban life. As we become involved in all these initiatives, we will also finalize our strategic plan. I look forward to sharing the plan with all of you in the coming months. Along with this, we will also start work on creating an external advisory board, which we expect to have in place by the end of this year, to help us with strategy.

While the year 2015 held a significant milestone for ITS with the review, 2016 promises to be equally busy as we continue to further develop our ideas and move in new directions. I look forward to working with all of you on these initiatives.

Go Bears!
Alexandre Bayen
Professor and Director of ITS Berkeley

News



ITS Berkeley at #TRAM

Check out highlights from Twitter about ITS Berkeley activity at the Transportation Board Annual Meeting on Storify.



Horvath Comments on Smart Cities

Arpad Horvath commented on smart cities on the occasion of the historic COP21 agreement in Paris. He says stopping rising global temperatures through curbing carbon emissions will necessitate a fundamental rethink of our urban infrastructures.



ITS: Inventing the Future of Mobility

See what the Institute for Transportation Studies has been up to in the last 10 years and see what we have planned for the future in our new book.

Headlines



Transportation Sustainability Research Center Co-Director Susan Shaheen talks to [WBUR](#) on The Closing Of America's Open Road.



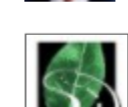
California PATH to [conduct review](#) of "behavioral competencies necessary to safely operate autonomous vehicles."



Transportation Sustainability Research Center's Susan Shaheen talks to the [Tampa Bay Times](#) about carsharing taking shape in Tampa Bay, FL.



Steven Shladover comments to [Mercury News](#) on Google clashes w CA officials on proposed self-driving car regulations.

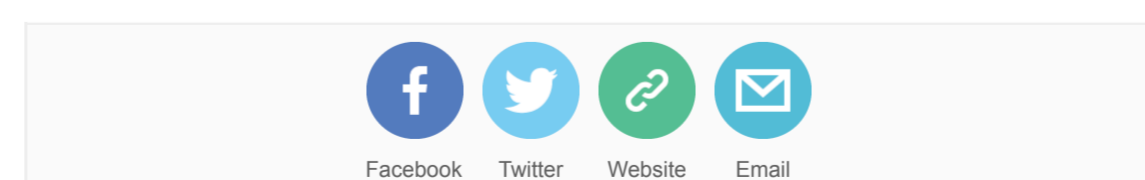


TSRC Co-director Susan Shaheen talks about GM deal with Lyft signals changes in car ownership in [Market Watch](#).

Events

ITS Berkeley features a weekly [Friday Transportation Seminar Series](#) with leading researchers and practitioners in the transportation field.

- EECS Department Colloquium Series "[Getting More Women into Tech Careers and Why It Matters](#)" will occur Wednesday, Jan. 20 in 306 Soda Hall (HP Auditorium) at 3:30 p.m., featuring Maria Klawe President, Harvey Mudd College.
- Aneesh Kulkarni, from Lyft, will present Building an Architecture for Machine Learning at Lyft, Friday Jan. 29, 2016 4-5 p.m. in 290 Hearst Memorial Building as part of the Friday Transportation Seminar. Join us for cookies and beverages at 3:30 p.m. This lecture is supported by Connected Corridors, Smart Cities Research Center and Berkeley Lab.
- Toyota and [Net Impact](#) will be coming to UC Berkeley to host the [Next Generation Mobility Challenge](#) on Friday, Feb. 5, 2016 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The event will focus around how we can transform the transportation and mobility industry to become more sustainable.
- Raja Sengupta, of UC Berkeley will present Drones: A Journey from Computing Machines to Transportation Friday Feb. 5, 2016 4-5 p.m. in 290 Hearst Memorial Building as part of the Friday Transportation Seminar. Join us for cookies and beverages at 3:30 p.m.
- There will be no Friday Transportation Seminar Feb. 12 due to the UCCONNECT Student Conference.
- Marco Pavone, of Stanford, will present Models, Algorithms, and Evaluation for Autonomous Mobility-On-Demand Systems Friday Feb. 19, 2016 4-5 p.m. in 290 Hearst Memorial Building as part of the Friday Transportation Seminar. Join us for cookies and beverages at 3:30 p.m. This seminar is part of the Resilience Seminar Series held in conjunction with CITRIS and TRUST.



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