

ITS Berkeley Director's Letter

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ITS Berkeley and TechTransfer welcomed Ecole Polytechnique Executive Master Program students June 19-21, 2019 for a weeklong module combining Transportation and The Silicon Valley Ecosystem, with one day of business site visits.



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer and had a good Fourth of July holiday. While the University slows down during the summer months, I know that ITS has been quite busy, and your hard work is inspiring.

I am excited to announce our participation in the creation of USDOT's only national center focused on congestion relief, called the ["National Institute for Congestion Reduction" \(NICR\)](#). The consortium also includes lead institution University of South Florida, led by alum Robert L. Bertini (PhD, '99), and two additional partners: Texas A&M University and its affiliated Texas A&M Transportation Institute College Station and the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. This is a very exciting opportunity for us to foster new partnerships, build on our current research, and connect with new opportunities as we work to reduce congestion in a variety of settings. NICR is dedicated to congestion reduction through multimodal solutions for the surface transportation system.

This is the second national University Transportation Centers we are currently involved in. Several UC Berkeley researchers, led by SafeTREC Co-Director Offer Grembek, are working with the [Collaborative Sciences Center for Road Safety](#) (led by the UNC Highway Safety Research Center at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) uniting leading university transportation research, planning, public health, data science and engineering programs to create and exchange knowledge to advance transportation safety through a multidisciplinary, Safe Systems approach. Check out the inaugural [2019 Safe Systems Summit: Redefining Transportation Safety](#).

I would also like to congratulate TSRC for earning the [Transport Policy Prize from the World Conference on Transportation Research](#). Professor Susan Shaheen, Professor Emeritus of City and Regional Planning Robert Cervero, and former graduate students Lisa Rayle (Data Science at Facebook), Danielle Dai (City of Oakland Mobility Programs Manager), and Nelson Chan (Interaction Designer at Internet Brands/WebMD)'s paper "Just a Better Taxi? A Survey-Based Comparison of Taxis, Transit, and Ridesourcing Services in San Francisco" was named most influential paper published in the Transport Policy Journal during the last three years. In addition, TSRC will [lead the Transportation Initiative for California Energy Commission Oakland EcoBlock Project](#). UC Berkeley was awarded \$8.6 million for "The Oakland EcoBlock: Phase II" under the Electricity Program Investment Charge (EPIC) program and will consist of deep energy efficiency retrofits for several houses along a neighborhood block in North Oakland, creation of a community-based solar PV installation with a DC microgrid and flywheel storage, installation of EV chargers and an EV carsharing program, and water end-use efficiency measures.

Another round of congratulations goes to Transportation Library Director Kendra K. Levine on being named a [Special Libraries Association \(SLA\) Fellow](#). This honor is bestowed upon active, mid-career SLA members in recognition of past, present, and future service to the association and the profession. Kendra has been active with both SLA and the Transportation Research Board on behalf of ITS, and it is rewarding to see her being recognized!


I would also like to update you on the ITS Morale Committee. They have been hard at work and are currently planning open houses at the various centers to provide social gatherings and opportunities to get to know center research and staff. They are working with TechTransfer on the first open house for the first open house on Wednesday Aug. 21, 2019 in 240 Bechtel from 2-5 pm, so keep your eye out for an invitation. The committee is also working on staff appreciation throughout the year to recognize contributions of all sizes through our new [kudos section](#) on our website. So if you have a co-worker who went above and beyond and you want to let people know, email communications director [Amanda Cain](#) with the subject line: kudos and let everyone know how great the people you work with are!


I know that it is only July, but I do want to remind you of a few upcoming important dates: Move In is Tuesday Aug. 20, 2019 and campus parking will be extremely limited in most cases, so take this opportunity to try public transportation, biking, micro mobility, ridesharing, or working remotely for the day, with permission from your supervisor. We also welcome a majority of our new students on Monday Aug. 26, 2019 for orientation, and welcome back our current students for the first day of instruction on Wednesday Aug. 28, 2019.


Go Bears,


Alexandre Bayen  
Director of Institute of Transportation Studies  
Liao-Cho Professor of Engineering


## HEADLINES


 For a more realistic vision of the future of transportation, industry insiders, including Transportation Sustainability Research Center Co-Director Susan Shaheen, share insights at [Disruptor Daily](#).


 Researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, including ITS affiliate Kenich Soga, are launching a yearlong study in Bolivia that will employ new traffic simulation models to develop the most efficient method of evacuation, as discussed in the [Point Reyes Light](#).


 Alex Cohen talks to ITS Director Alexandre Bayen about why we have so much trouble navigating through traffic in Los Angeles and surrounding areas in Are HOV Lanes the Answer to LA's Traffic Problem? at [Spectrum News 1 Inside the Issues](#).


 ITS Berkeley Senior Fellow Steve Heminger was recently appointed to the SFMTA Board reports [SFGate](#).


 TSRC's Adam Cohen talks about Oakland to Palo Alto in 10 minutes? Yeah, you can do that: Here's how at [The Mercury News](#).

 Doctoral Student Marcel Moran writes about Op-Ed: Cities Can and Should Regulate Scooters, and A.B. 1112 Doesn't Help (link is external) at [Streetsblog Cal](#).

 TSRC's Susan Shaheen and Adam Cohen unveil their Shared Micromobility Toolkit in a blog at [Move Forward](#).

 TSRC's Susan Shaheen talks about Can smart mobility solutions answer transit's first/last mile challenge? the [Globe and Mail](#).

 ITS Director Alexandre Bayen talks about AI driver monitoring is pushing forward semi-autonomous vehicle adoption at [Technode](#).

 ITS Director Alexandre Bayen talks about Could Rewards Systems Get More People Using Public Transit? at [KQED](#).

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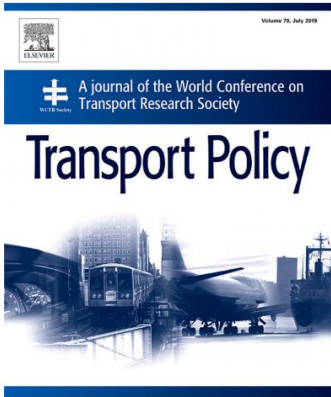
## NEWS



[ITS Berkeley Joins Transportation Congestion Relief UTC](#)



[Levine Becomes SLA Fellow](#)



[TSRC Study Earns Transport Policy Prize](#)



[Reflections on the 2019 Safe Systems Summit](#)



[Shuttle Express into the Future](#)



[Rodriguez Co-authors NSF Report](#)



[ITS Leads Transportation Initiative for EcoBlock Project](#)



[How Can Companies Like Airbnb, Lyft or Uber Help in Disasters?](#)



[TagMaster acquires Seneva Networks in the US](#)



[ITS Hosts International Exec Ed Program](#)



[UC Berkeley Names New Dean to College of Environmental Design](#)

## EVENTS

Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2019  
Move-in Day/Golden Bear Orientation (parking limited on campus)

Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2019  
TechTransfer/ITS Morale Committee open house

Monday, Aug. 26, 2019  
Transportation Engineering and TEMCP dual degree Orientation

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2019  
First day of instruction

## KUDOS

**Boosting morale**  
Sean McMahon

Kudos to ITS's Sean McMahon for creating the ITS morale committee, what a great idea!

**Offering a helping hand**  
Bernie Tan Edwards

Thanks to TechTransfer's Bernie Tan Edwards for helping me keep working safely by letting me borrow a surge protector until I could get one ordered and shipped to me after I blew mine up.





