

ITS Berkeley Director's Letter

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Another academic year wrapped up on campus this May as we watched our students walk across the stage at commencement. This time of year is always bittersweet, to see students we have taught, nurtured, laughed with, and encouraged move on to the next step. They come from so many different places with rich and diverse histories, and with a singular burning desire to gain a deeper understanding of transportation. Their thoughts and personalities bring life and new ideas to our ITS ecosystem. Congratulations to the entire class of 2018; we are so proud of you! I look forward to following your trajectories as you contribute to the transportation community worldwide. Stay in touch.

As we say goodbye to the graduating students and think back on all their accolades, I'd also like to recognize the tremendous people who support ITS, its functions, research and centers. Our center directors are leading operations that are at the forefront of transport research, and I am grateful to Directors Cassidy Cooper, Darrell Grembek, Hansen, Horvath, Lipman, Mateos, Bagland, Rakas, Shaheen, Trautenberg, Frick, and West. I also applaud PATH employees and researchers who recently stacked up awards: congratulations to Joe Butler, Erin Adrian, Steve Shladover, Shiyun Yang, Xiao-Yun Lu, Hani Ramezani, Aravind Kallas, and Osman Altanoni! This recent batch of awards is yet another small sample of all the contributions, awards and research being performed at ITS and all our centers. I am so awed and proud of all our contributions.

And a special congratulations goes to Carlos Daganzo, as his students and colleagues came together this week to celebrate him with a surprise (!) Transportation Symposium in recognition of his transformative contributions to both the ideas and people of transportation science. We are so honored to have had Carlos as part of our team for so long, and that he continues to inspire and lead research as a Chancellor's Professor.

As my term of acting director comes to a close, I think back on all we did this year together. I want to specifically acknowledge the hard work of the Strategic Planning Committee, led by Daniel Rodriguez and joined by Karen Trautenberg Frick, Adb Kanafani, Jane Macfarlane, Laura Melendy, Scott Moura, Tom West, and me. Many of you contributed as well. The plan is being finalized, and we'll convene all of ITS in the fall for the rollout and more opportunity for input.

Other highlights of the year include celebrating our 70th year anniversary, launching the ITS Senior Fellows program, delivering the first year of SB1 research program projects, completing the MTRU 5-Year Review by UCOOP, and continuing to build the UC ITS collaboration with our sister ITS' at UCLA, Irvine, and Davis. Brand new to the statewide ITS team is Laura Podolsky, who assumed the newly-created position of Assistant Director of the UC ITS alliance. She will work to build synergies across the UCs through collaboration and coordination on SB1 projects, workshops, webinars, and publications, and making sure our research outcomes are accessible and beneficial to a public policy audience. If you don't know Laura yet, you soon will.


Seeing all of our achievements this year, from faculty, students, researchers and staff, has made leading ITS as acting director a rich and wonderful experience. While I am looking forward to Alexandre Bayen's return to the helm in July 2018, I want to thank all of you for making the 2017-18 academic year a success and a pleasure. I truly appreciate the hard work everyone is doing across ITS. I especially want to recognize the core ITS staff who are the unsung heroes that enable the ITS engine to thrive, including Helen Bassham, Amanda Cairo, Sean McMahon, Jeanne Marie Acceturo, and ITS Librarian Kendra Levine, who have each assisted me greatly (and many of you as well) during my time as Acting Director. Finally, it was a true pleasure to be leading the ITS helm with my co-conspirators Associate Director Daniel Rodriguez and Assistant Director Laura Melendy.


Again, my sincerest thanks to each of you and congratulations to us all! I look forward to seeing the seeds we planted this year grow as we continue on into the next 70 years!


Happy summer!


Joan Walker  
Acting Director of Institute of Transportation Studies  
Professor Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering


## HEADLINES

 Susan Shaheen, co-director of the Transportation Sustainability Research Center talks about [Make Way for Little Vehicles](#) at City Lab

 ITS Associate Director Daniel Rodriguez comments on [Pedestrian safety, SF's plan to increase crossing times between signals](#) with the San Francisco Chronicle.

 ITS associate Ethan Elkind writes about [Rising Gas Prices Could Affect Politics of Clean Transportation](#) at Colorado Boulevard.

 ITS Director Alexandre Bayen talks [Apps blamed for turning a tiny street in Glen Park into a traffic nightmare](#) at SF Gate.

 Berkeley Deep Drive and Nexar release [Videos of You Driving Will Teach Cars To Drive Themselves](#), reported by Forbes.

 TSRC's Shaheen comments on [Car-Sharing Companies Get Coveted Parking in New York City](#) at the New York Times.

## NEWS



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