

ITS Berkeley Director's Letter

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,  
 May has been such a full month! First, I would like to say congratulations to all the transportation students who graduated this week and to their families!


As some of you may know, I will be on sabbatical this coming academic year. I am pleased to announce that Joan Walker has agreed to step in as Acting ITS Director while I am off campus this year, starting in July, and that this appointment has been approved by Vice Chancellor Alivisatos. I will be working to tie up loose ends in the next month in preparation of Joan taking the helm. I am excited to place the institute in such capable hands for the next year, and I look forward to seeing you all again next July.


Earlier this month, ITS Berkeley leadership met with other UC ITS's at the Spring Meeting of the University of California Institute of Transportation Studies Board of Advisors in Sacramento on May 2, 2017. Assemblymember Jim Frazier updated the board on SB 1, which will provide \$5 million for UC transportation research and its implications for UC ITS. We are still working on what this specifically means for ITS Berkeley, but we are working with UC ITS to define research positioning in terms of statewide transportation research priorities. UC ITS faculty research interests and research interests projects funded through the PFA and SB 1. The group also collected feedback on state themes of interest for research: traffic congestion, safety, climate change; shared, connected, and autonomous mobility; and transportation and economic development. ITS leaders also identified research priorities for the coming year and developed a project selection process to support state interests, seed major initiatives (chosen strategically) and fund coordinated set of small projects (that could be multi-year).


Many of us also remembered Karl Hedrick on May 6, 2017 at his memorial service. Mechanical Engineering Department Chair and Professor Roberto Horowitz talked about Karl's achievements: he was a devoted teacher, who taught extremely popular courses in nonlinear control and vehicle dynamics, and was a beloved advisor and mentor to many students and colleagues; he had a profound impact in the field of Intelligent Vehicles and Highway Systems; he was one of the architects of the world-renowned Automated Highway Systems (AHS) research program that PATH spearheaded; his research contributions in developing longitudinal controllers for vehicle platoons of automated vehicles are still highly relevant to today's autonomous vehicles and were critical to the automated vehicle demonstrations that took place under the AHS program; and he also served as PATH director when AHS funding was being severely curtailed and he maintained the program's strength by steering it into exciting new directions. Quoting Roberto Horowitz, "Karl was a truly beloved and respected member of our Department, and he will be sorely missed. He was among the selected group of people that had a 'magical touch' and could affect people in a very positive manner, even unintentionally." Karl's presence, leadership and research touched many of us at ITS. We will miss him.

Alexandre Bayen  
 ITS Director

HEADLINES

 Transportation Sustainability Research Center Research Scientist Adam Cohen talks about [Shared Autonomous Vehicles Could Still Spoil Traffic Disaster](#) at City Lab.

 Get to know Susan Shaheen, Co-Director, Transportation Sustainability Research Center in this [profile](#) by Metro Magazine.

 Transportation Sustainability Research Center Co-Director Susan Shaheen comments on [how ride-sharing service Liberty Mobility Now that offers service in rural areas](#) at Christian Science Monitor.

EVENTS

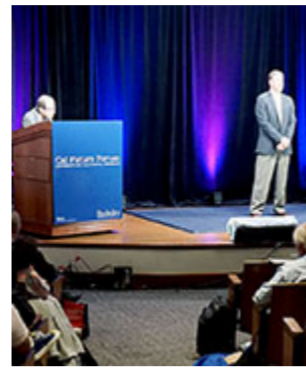
[HST California: High Speed Rail Symposium](#)

Conference/Symposium | May 22 | 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. | [Sutardja Dai Hall](#), Banatao Auditorium

This one-day symposium explores the current status and challenges ahead for High Speed Rail in California. Leaders from the California High Speed Rail Authority, academic institutions, and industry provide updates and ample opportunity for discussion and networking.

The Symposium is free to student and faculty. If interested please email [pegajar@uctransfer.berkeley.edu](mailto:pegajar@uctransfer.berkeley.edu)

NEWS



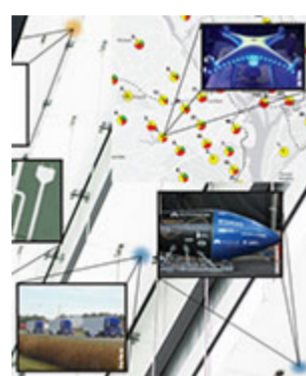
[Cal Future Forum: Our Changing World](#)



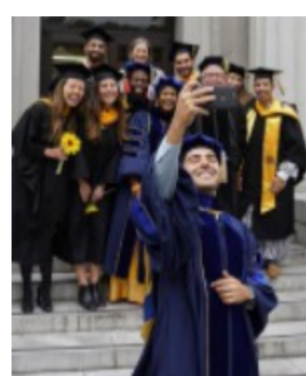
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