

ITS Berkeley Director's Letter

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we are getting closer to the holiday season, I am very excited to see how many developments have taken place at ITS. A few weeks ago, we had the privilege of welcoming Assemblymember Jim Frazier and his staff while he was on campus. Assemblymember Frazier, who represents the 11th district and heads the state transportation committee, visited several units on campus, and engaged with Dean of the College of Engineering, Shankar Sastry, CITRIS Director, Professor Costas Spanos, and ITS leadership. We were very encouraged by Assembly Member Frazier's excitement and positive reactions to various initiatives presented to him during his visit and our ongoing activities. He expressed the desire to come back and hear more, and we look forward to engaging him in future avenues at ITS.

Frazier's visit, in addition to an increased number of delegations, highlights a growing momentum in almost all units and centers at ITS, as we continue to established new contacts at companies in Silicon Valley, San Francisco, and throughout the US and world. Other conversations with local agencies on new ideas in the sharing economy, new demand models, and safety have also transpired. We are also re-igniting projects that had been on hold, blueprints are being drafted for new project proposals, and new consortia are being formed. With all this increased activity, we expect to announce new partnerships and projects in the near future, so stayed tuned! As we await new announcements, I am also very excited about the recent exposure of our activities in the mainstream media, like PATH's electric busses, TSRC's ride sharing, UCTC's research on the Bay Bridge, and PATH and TSRC's self driving vehicle research in prestigious venues such CNN, the Guardian, Atlantic CityLab, and the San Francisco Chronicle.

As most of you know, ITS' ten-year review is upon us. The external review committee will be visiting UC Berkeley on Dec. 14 and 15, and will be talking with most of the center and unit directors, and some of their respective leadership teams, students and ITS community at large. In the process of preparing for this important review, in addition to compiling the statistics and facts which will be reviewed, ITS is also finalizing the assembly of a 10-Year Decadal book, which we will publish around the time of the review. Working on the production of this book with our editorial team has been quite a phenomenal (and ongoing) experience, in which we have collected thousands of pictures of ITS in the last decade, to select a few dozen for the book. Not only has this experience brought back very nice memories, but it has also re-emphasized to the editorial team how amazing our community is and how many great things we have achieved together in the past decade. We look forward to sharing the collected photos and finished book with you after the review.

As we were writing the history section of the book, we also remember our second director of ITS, Professor Bill Garrison who died Feb. 1, 2015. We are pleased to be a part of the Association of American Geographers' (AAG) memorial in his honor on March 31, 2016 at the AAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Professor Betty Deakin will speak at the event on behalf of Berkeley and ITS.

We look forward to seeing the activities at ITS accelerate over the coming months, as we pass the review and all these initiatives crystalize.

Go Bears!

Alex



News



[Converging BRT & Private Transit](#)

UC Berkeley transportation and planning students participated in the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Private Transit: Integration in domestic and international contexts symposium sponsored by the Volvo Research and Educational Foundations.



['Remaking the Bridge'](#)

Replacing the eastern span of the Bay Bridge was originally projected to cost \$250 million, but the project cost \$6.5 billion. How that happened is the topic of a new book by Karen Trapenberg Frick, co-director of the UC Transportation Center.



[PATH Brings Academics and Practitioners Together](#)

Drawing over 60 scholars and transportation practitioners, the Connected Corridors program at PATH presented an Advancing Traffic Control through Big Data and Connectivity workshop at UCLA's IPAM.



[Hollande Meets Learn2Launch Entrepreneurs](#)

Tech Transfer's Learn2Launch alums are getting noticed. Alums @Feet_Me and @prynt met with French President during a recent visit to Ecole Polytechnique with entrepreneurs.



[Global Summit Investigates Sustainable Futures](#)

University of California at Berkeley is co-hosting the 2015 Disruptive Mobility Summit with MIT Media Lab and the London School of Economics Nov. 11-13 in Cambridge, MA.



[NSF award to CEE faculty to enhance infrastructure resilience](#)

Professors Mark Stacey (PI), Samer Madanat, and Alexey Pozdnukhov (co-PIs) investigate one of several projects funded by the NSF to address the nation's critical need for more resilient infrastructure and enhanced services.



[MIT selects Yi Liu as a CEE Rising Star](#)

Yi Liu, a Transportation Engineering PhD candidate, is among 20 outstanding early career women in CEE selected to participate in MIT's first ever CEE Rising Stars Workshop.

Headlines



Transportation Sustainability Research Center Timothy Lipman talks to the [Vancouver Sun](#) about the market for electric busses.



UCTC Co-director Karen Trapenberg Frick and ITS Berkeley Director Emeritus Martin Wachs talk to [Vice News](#) on Billion Bullet Train Project.



Transportation Sustainability Research Center's Co-Director Susan Shaheen talks to [Tech Crunch](#) about ride sharing.



Transportation Sustainability Research Center Co-director Susan Shaheen talks to [San Jose Mercury News](#) about self-driving car policy.



California Partners for Advanced Transportation Technology's (PATH) busses in the [Guardian](#). See what ITS director Alexandre Bayen has to say.



Alexei Pozdnukhov talks to [Fortune](#) about the Berkeley/Caltrans, AT&T study using cell data to build very detailed maps of Californians' driving habits.



The [Atlantic's CityLab](#) reviews Karen Trapenberg Frick's book: Remaking the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.



Transportation Sustainability Research Center Co-Director Susan Shaheen talks to the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) about car pooling.

Events

ITS Berkeley features a weekly Friday Transportation Seminar Series with leading researchers and practitioners in the transportation field. See the [full schedule](#). Miss a lecture? Check out weekly recaps [here](#) or follow live tweets on [#itsberksem](#).

- **Nov. 13: Recent Advances in Traffic Flow**
Georgia Institute of Technology's Jorge A. Laval will present Recent Advances in Traffic Flow as part of the ITS Berkeley Transportation Seminar at 4-5 p.m. on Friday Nov. 13 in 290 Hearst Memorial Building. Cookies and beverages will be served at 3:30 p.m.
- **Nov. 16-20: Workshop IV: Decision Support for Traffic**
Part of the Long Program: [New Directions in Mathematical Approaches for Traffic Flow Management](#), at the Institute for Pure & Applied Mathematics, an NSF Math Institute at UCLA, this session runs Nov. 16-20 at IPAM on the UCLA campus. [Read more](#).

Nov. 20: Congestion Propagation in Urban Networks: Implications for City-wide Traffic Control

University of California's Jean Doig will present Congestion Propagation in Urban Networks: Implications for City-wide Traffic Control as part of the ITS Berkeley Transportation Seminar at 4-5 p.m. on Friday Nov. 20 in 290 Hearst Memorial Building. Cookies and beverages will be served at 3:30 p.m.

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