

ITS Berkeley Director's Letter

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Fall has arrived on campus, and we are very excited to welcome new students from across the country and world to the Institute of Transportation Studies! With the first weeks of instruction under our belts, the semester is in full swing. At ITS, we are flourishing with new projects and proposals, and our transportation classes are full of students infused with enthusiasm. In addition to our students enrolled in degree programs, we are particularly happy to see 40 new entrepreneur students participate to the [Learn2Launch](#) program, our largest enrollment of this three-year-old program that keeps growing rapidly. Finally, we are very excited about the upcoming [ITS seminar series](#) this semester, and the variety of speakers, covering academia, industry and government. Join us in 290 HMMB, 3:30 p.m. on Fridays!

Apart from our academic endeavors, as many of you know, ITS will undergo its 10-year review. A committee consisting of external reviewers from peer institutions and internal reviewers will visit us in December to interview many of us. While reviews of this nature necessitate a lot of preparation work, we are also very happy about the discussions and self reflections it will trigger within ITS, as we are in the process of redefining our future and our strategic plan. In the coming weeks, we will be reaching out to you for information, and we look forward to working together on our 10-year report together. If you have pictures of ITS from the past 10 years that you think would be nice to have in our book, please send them our way. In addition to the "history" section, we will also feature projects, and if these features can be graphical, it will give the book a nice flavor.

Along with the theme of growth and strategic planning, I am particularly excited about the work performed jointly with LBNL this summer in preparation of the launch of a new center at ITS on the theme of SmartCities and energy, urban infrastructure and urban data analytics. While the official launch of the center will probably happen in the early spring, we will begin building the center this Fall. The two initial co-Directors will be Professor Alexei Pozdnukhov (ITS) and Dr. Anand Gopal (LBNL). Our first step is the hiring of an [Executive Director](#), who will be responsible for much of the programmatic development and communication strategy and be a resource for the people in the center to write proposals. The [position](#) is now posted, and I hope that all of you can suggest quality candidates for this search. If you are interested in being involved in this new initiative, we will start meeting this Fall, and we can add you to the mailing list.

I wish each of you a happy Fall Semester and look forward to working together on the many projects happening at ITS in the coming months.

Go Bears!

Alex



News



[Shaheen on SB350](#)

Transportation Sustainability Research Center Co-Director Susan Shaheen writes an Op Ed on SB 350 with former student Amanda Eaken, transportation director for the urban solutions program at the Natural Resources Defense Council.



[Moura Earns 2 SEI Grants](#)

Institute of Transportation Studies affiliate and civil and environmental engineering assistant professor Scott Moura recently earned two Sibel Energy Institute grants for his projects that aim to improve the availability and efficiency of modern energy systems.



[STAR Awards: Dion Meade, Lazar](#)

PATH's Francois Dion and Robert Meade and PRC's Maggie Lazar are being recognized for their hard work, earning University of California, Berkeley Staff Appreciation and Recognition (STAR) Awards.



[TSRC, PATH at Leadership Session on Autonomous Vehicles](#)

TSRC's Susan Shaheen and PATH's Steven Shladover served as moderator and panelist for the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) Thought Leaders Speaker Series on autonomous vehicles.



[Lipman Testifies for State Committee](#)

Transportation Sustainability Research Center Co-Director Tim Lipman was asked to testify for Chairman Bill Quirk's select committee of the Assembly in Sacramento June 18, 2015 regarding The Future of Transportation Fuel in California.



[Shaheen Keynotes at Two Sharing Economy Events](#)

Shaheen was recently a keynote speaker at two gatherings in Utrecht: the First 2015 Car-Sharing Symposium in the Netherlands on June 3, 2015 and the First International Workshop on the Sharing Economy June 4-5, 2015.



[ITS Berkeley Signs MoU with Catalonia](#)

ITS is taking another step forward to forge new relationships around the world after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Catalan Ministry of Territory and Sustainability May 18, 2015.



[Students Advise Legislators on Graduate Research Advocacy Day](#)

ITS Berkeley doctoral student Andre Carrel and ERG doctoral student Rachel Golden shared transportation legislation and policy insights and expertise with Assembly and Senate staff members on the 6th annual Graduate Research Advocacy Day.



[Coopersmith, Danner Book Explore How Failure Can Help](#)

Tech Transfer's Learn2Launch's Mark Coopersmith is putting failure to good use in new book with John Danner: "The Other 'F' Word: How Smart Leaders, Teams, and Entrepreneurs Put Failure to Work."



[Gornipaty, Leshner Earn WTS Awards](#)

ITS Berkeley master's student Eleanor Leshner and doctoral student Sreeta Gornipaty received awards from the San Francisco chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) Foundation.



[Waddell's Urban Planning Software Goes into Wide Release](#)

Planning and analyzing urban development simulator Urban Canvas — created by Synthicity, a startup founded by Paul Waddell, ITS affiliate — goes into wide release after being acquired by Autodesk.

Headlines



TSRC co-director Susan Shaheen comments on BlueIndy car-sharing service faces challenges in quest for wide adoption at [Indianapolis Business Journal](#).



California PATH's Mobility Program Manager Steve Shladover talks about "One way to combat traffic congestion" at [CNN](#).

TSRC's Susan Shaheen looks at corporate car sharing: Impact on employees and

-   Tech Transfer's Learn2Launch's Mark Cooper Smith talks to [Business Insider](#) about learning from failure.
-  TSRC research on ride-sharing forces automakers to rethink how they sell cars at [LA Times](#).
-  California PATH's Francios Dion talks speeding, road rage and the law at [Wallet Hub](#).
-  TSRC's Susan Shaheen weighs in at [LA Times](#) on equal access at issue in PUC battle with Uber over data disclosure.
-  TSRC's Susan Shaheen and Matthew Christensen: No Silver Bullet for Creating More Accessible Transportation Networks at [Living Cities](#).

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.

- Sept. 11: Transportation Energy: What is best?**
 Transportation Sustainability Research Center's Mark Delucchi will present Transportation Energy: What is Best? as part of the ITS Berkeley Transportation Seminar at 4-5 p.m. on Friday Sept. 11 in 290 Hearst Memorial Building. Cookies and beverages will be served at 3:30 p.m.
- Sept. 18: Prediction Challenges in a Hypergrowth Company: Scalable Modeling at Uber**
 Uber's David Purdy will present Prediction Challenges in a Hypergrowth Company: Scalable Modeling at Uber as part of the ITS Berkeley Transportation Seminar at 4-5 p.m. on Friday Sept. 18 in 290 Hearst Memorial Building. Cookies and beverages will be served at 3:30 p.m.
- Sept. 25: Improving Air Transportation System Performance through Coordinated Speed Control**
 University of Maryland's Mike Ball will present Improving Air Transportation System Performance through Coordinated Speed Control as part of the ITS Berkeley Transportation Seminar at 4-5 p.m. on Friday Sept. 25 in 290 Hearst Memorial Building. Cookies and beverages will be served at 3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 2: Integrated Mobility Management in San Francisco**
 San Francisco County Transportation Authority's Tilly Chang will present Integrated Mobility Management in San Francisco as part of the ITS Berkeley Transportation Seminar at 4-5 p.m. on Friday Oct. 2 in 290 Hearst Memorial Building. Cookies and beverages will be served at 3:30 p.m.






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