Special Issue: 2012 Transportation Research Board Meeting

This year’s 91st Annual TRB meeting was held on January 22-26 with a record 11,000 participants from around the world and over 4,000 presentations in approximately 650 sessions and workshops.

The high point of the 2012 annual meeting for us was holding the NC State reception for alumni, friends and supporters jointly hosted by ITRE and the Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering (CCEE). The reception was held, as usual, in the Marriott Wardman Tower Lobby on the evening of Monday January 23.

The TRB reception provided an opportunity for the faculty, staff and our students to say thank you to our loyal alumni and supporters, to strengthen ongoing collaborations and make new ones, and more importantly to express our gratitude to our loyal reception sponsors who have made it possible for this event to happen over the last several years. This year we offered thank you gifts to each and every sponsor, irrespective of their level of sponsorship.

The reception was the culmination of a very successful technical TRB program for ITRE. All in all we had over thirty podium and poster presentations of our research papers that were submitted for consideration for presentation back in August 2011. This issue of Directions also celebrates the success of the graduate students we have at ITRE, with two of our own receiving the Outstanding Student of the Year award from two different University Transportation Centers (UTC’s).

Finally, the publication status of many of the presented papers is beginning to firm up. Of the 24 eligible papers we submitted (asked to be considered for publication), a full two-thirds will actually be published in upcoming issues of the Transportation Research Record. This is an outstanding record that far exceeds the TRB average. I want to congratulate our students, staff and affiliated faculty in CCEE for this record showing at the conference.

I do hope you enjoy browsing this latest issue of Directions, and hope to see you at our next reception in 2013! Should you have any questions, comments or ideas on how to improve on our reception, please drop me an email at rouphail@ncsu.edu.

Nagui M. Rouphail, Director
Two ITRE Students Selected for University Transportation Center Outstanding Student of the Year Awards

Two ITRE graduate students were recently named the Outstanding Students of the Year for their respective University Transportation Centers (UTCs).

Katy Salamati was honored as the outstanding student for the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE), and Zachary Bugg was named the outstanding student for the Southeastern Transportation Center, a regional UTC that includes NC State University, the University of Florida, Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Kentucky, UNC-Chapel Hill, NCA&T State University, the University of South Florida, the University of Tennessee, and Vanderbilt University.

Both students are Ph.D candidates who work with Dr. Nagui Rouphail. Salamati’s research concerns the development of proxy methods to assess pedestrian safety and accessibility at complex intersections such as multilane roundabouts. Zachary Bugg is currently developing a set of empirical models to predict auxiliary through lane (ATL) use at signalized intersections.

James Martin and Dr. Rouphail accompanied the two students to the UTC banquet at the TRB 91st Annual Meeting this January.

L to R, Zachary Bugg, Nagui Rouphail, Katy Salamati, James Martin.

Student Receives Eisenhower Fellowship, Presents Research at TRB

Zachary Bugg, a Ph.D candidate at ITRE, recently presented his research at the Eisenhower poster session at the TRB 91st Annual Meeting this January. Bugg was named a recipient of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship last spring and has since worked under Dr. Nagui Rouphail to develop a set of empirical models to predict auxiliary through lane (ATL) use at signalized intersections. His poster presents a method to implement the models into the Highway Capacity Manual.

CTE presents at TRB

Staff members at The Center for Transportation and the Environment were actively involved at the 91st Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board held in January in Washington, DC. Senior Research Associate Leigh Lane presided over a workshop held on Sunday titled Intersection of Health and Transportation: What We Know, What We Don’t Know, and How We Can Better Integrate Health Considerations into Transportation Decisions. Research Associate Ann Hartell moderated a presentation session titled Social Economic Factors of Transportation in International Contexts.

Several staff members presented at the conference. Ann Hartell and Research Assistant Ted Mansfield presented a session on Institutionalizing Sustainability at the State Department of Transportation Level: A Quantitative Assessment of Transportation Sustainability Plan Quality. Lane, Hartell, and CTE Director Downey Brill presented poster sessions.

CTE Associate Director James Martin attended the Committee Meetings ADC10 and ADC30, and presided over the NLTAPA Winter Meeting at the FHWA’s Arlington office. CTE Research Associate Matt Watterson was a first-time attendee at TRB this year.