**ITRE Director visits the UAE**

Dr. Nagui M. Roupail, ITRE director was recently invited to teach a short course on Traffic Engineering Fundamentals in the city of Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The course instruction focused on the areas of interrupted and uninterrupted flow characteristics, traffic safety, elements of highway design and transportation planning. More than thirty trainees from the Abu Dhabi Municipality attended the five day course which took place in their newly minted training facility. “This has been a very interesting experience that has enabled me to witness the incredible development growth in that part of the world,” said Roupail. The UAE is near the top of countries with GDP per capita, comparable to that in the US, with tremendous expenditures on their transportation infrastructure. The objective of this course, which is part of a new certificate program in traffic engineering, is to develop the local workforce capacity by the “emirati” citizens who constitute less than 20% of the current UAE population. Other courses in this certificate program will cover traffic signal design, highway capacity analysis, arterial traffic management and traffic simulation. Dr. Roupail and assistant director Dr. Bastian Schroeder of the Highway Systems Group at ITRE are slated to teach two of the four remaining courses later this year. For additional information please contact Dr. Roupail at roupail@ncsu.edu.

**ITRE Develops Tools to Improve Accessibility**

ITRE recently conducted a research effort to develop a tool to aid visually impaired pedestrians crossing at uncontrolled crossings – specifically roundabouts and channelized right turn lanes. The research effort was funded by the National Institute of Health and focused on a video detection scheme that determined when a sufficient crossable gap was available to cross or when a vehicle was yielding at the approach of a crosswalk. The gap and yield information was provided via an audible pedestrian device at the crosswalk. The initial findings from this effort seem to indicate that blind subjects were very successful using the system.

Findings from this effort will be documented and published at a later date. It is the hope of the research team that private vendors will pursue a more marketable tool using other detection schemes based on the findings of this research. More recently, ITRE provided information about the system and its users through an interview with WRAL which aired on June 16. A link will be available in July on ITRE’s website with a replay of the interview.

Please contact Chris Cunningham at cmcunnin@ncsu.edu if you would like more information about this research effort.
**GADA/COVERLAB Welcomes Andy Belcher - GISPG, Cyclist**

The Geovisual Analytics and Decision Management group (GADA) is pleased to welcome Andy Belcher as a Research Associate in the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Resource Lab (COVERLAB). Andy is a Raleigh native and has lived here his entire life except for a few years in Greenville as an ECU Pirate while pursuing degrees in History and Geography. After receiving his Geographic Information Science Certificate from East Carolina University (ECU), Andy returned to NCSU to receive his Master of Geospatial Information Science and Technology degree along with a Graduate Certificate in GIS.

Andy brings a wealth of GIS experience to ITRE and is now focused on extending existing service lines between COVERLAB and NCSHP to build support for traditional enforcement efforts. Currently living in Fuquay-Varina with his wife and two children, Andy enjoys biking and looks forward to re-locating a little closer to Centennial Campus so he can bike to work. ITRE cyclists can stop by, say hello to Andy and talk shop!

For additional information please contact Andy at cabelch2@ncsu.edu.

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**Introducing Let’s Go NC!**  
**A Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Skills Program for Healthy Active Children**

The bicycle and pedestrian program at ITRE helped the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) launch a new curriculum in May to teach and encourage elementary aged children how to walk and bicycle safely. *Let’s Go NC!* is a complete curriculum of lesson plans, materials, lesson videos, and detailed guidance for instructors available to the public through an online interface.

Sarah O’Brien served as curriculum director and Kristy Jackson was lead project staff on this project that began just over two years ago. With funding assistance from the state’s Safe Routes to School program, ITRE’s team developed the interface and all of its components including lessons and support materials tied to the NC Standard Course of Study, enrichment opportunities to integrate the lessons into other areas of learning, and the videos that show children correct behaviors, which they then practice through carefully designed skill-building activities.

For additional information please contact Sarah at sobrien@ncsu.edu.