Consortium Including NGAT at ITRE Wins FAA Center of Excellence

On May 8, 2015 the FAA announced the selection of the ASSURE Alliance for the UAS Center of Excellence for research funding for the next 5 years. ASSURE is the Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence, and is led by the Mississippi State University with 21 total universities as part of the alliance and more than 100 industry partners, including local company Precision Hawk.

NC State University is a core member of ASSURE through NGAT’s leadership in UAS integration in North Carolina. NextGen Air Transportation (NGAT) will lead the Control and Communications (C2) research activities for ASSURE collaborating with industry partners for matching funding to support well-defined research projects that meet FAA and ASSURE objectives. NGAT will reach across the NC State campus and other universities within the UNC System to access leading researchers and facilities to support C2 related research projects. The Center of Excellence is funded with $5M for FY2015 that will be distributed later this summer and is projected at similar funding for the next several years.

http://www.assureuas.org

City Planning Conference Presentations by Travel Behavior Modeling Group

Current and former members of the Travel Behavior Modeling Group traveled to the 15th TRB National Planning Applications conference May 17-21, 2015 and made three presentations on their work on the Triangle Regional Model.

ITRE members, Mei Ingram, Bing Mei, and Chao Wang (a former member), presented their work on issues concerning Travel Behavior based Employment Categories, Interfacing the Regional Model with Statewide Model, and Modeling University Student Trips Separately from the General Population, respectively.

In addition, on May 18 Brian Morton with the Center for Urban and Regional Studies at UNC presented “Linking Rural Development and Transportation Using a Land Use-Transportation Decision Support Tool” on which Joseph Huegy, TRM Program Director, was a co-author. This work analyzed the impacts of alternative land use strategies for a rural area in northeast Mississippi. Also on Wednesday afternoon, Joseph Huegy moderated a session on Data Collection and Management.

This conference provided an opportunity for team members to learn more about work carried out in other regions that might be useful to apply in the Triangle Regional Model. Readers interested in viewing the presentations can visit the following website: www.trbappcon.org.
**GADA and Vision Zero Analytics**

Greg Ferrara, GIS Program Manager with Geovisual Analytics and Decision Management Group (GADA), presented Vision Zero Analytics to the ITRE Advisory Council on April 16th, 2015. Vision Zero Analytics (VZA) is an online data visualization system for tracking and measuring traffic safety goals, as well as identifying effective strategies for reducing traffic fatalities in North Carolina. VZA is an integral part of North Carolina’s emerging crash reduction program called Vision Zero. Vision Zero is part of a national “Toward Zero Deaths” initiative, aimed at reducing traffic fatalities on our nations highways by increasing public awareness to change risky driving behaviors.

ITRE in partnership with the Governor’s Highway Safety Program (GHSP) and the North Carolina State Highway Patrol has developed VZA to help reduce crashes by measuring crash reduction goals and using interactive visualization and map analytics tools to propel data-driven enforcement activities. ITRE is currently developing a map analytic tool for the public, whose purpose is to involve the public in a unified traffic safety vision. The first version of this map tool will be available in October 2015.

---

**ITRE’s CTE Plans International Conference on Ecology and Transportation-ICOET**

Plan now to participate in the eighth biennial ICOET conference through September 20-24, 2015 at the Raleigh Convention Center, co-hosted by the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) and the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and with support from the US DOT Federal Highway Administration.

ICOET is the foremost multi-disciplinary, inter-agency, supported conference addressing a broad range of ecological issues related to transportation systems. Experts in transportation development, related scientific study, policy issues, and administrative processes gather at ICOET to share the most current research information, quality applications, and the best practices that can enhance both the project development process and the ecological sustainability of transportation systems.

The ICOET program includes presentations for all transportation modes and incorporates various topics of interest for attendees – researchers, biologists, engineers, planners, project managers, administrators, and policy makers representing government, Tribal, academic, nongovernmental, and private industry organizations. More than 500 professionals from all 50 United States and over 20 other countries attend ICOET.