ITRE Remembers Gorman Gilbert

ITRE received the sad news that Dr. Gorman Gilbert passed away in December, 2014. Gorman was the ITRE Director from 1991-2000 and provided great leadership during a critical time in our organization’s history. He guided our transition from our leased office space off-campus in north Raleigh to our current location in Research IV on Centennial Campus. Not only did we physically move to NC State’s campus, but we also transitioned to being wholly administered by NCSU. Whereas, we were previously administered by UNC General Administration.

ITRE enjoyed great relationships with the NCSU Civil Construction and Environmental Engineering Department (CCEE) and NCDOT during Gorman’s tenure. Gorman had a joint appointment in CCEE and also served a term on the NC Board of Transportation while Director of ITRE.

The Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) at ITRE was funded by ISTEA legislation in 1991 as a University Transportation Center. ITRE secured matching funds from NCDOT by a simple handshake between Gorman and the former Secretary of Transportation Norris Tolson.

Prior to joining ITRE, Gorman taught for approximately 15 years at UNC in City and Regional Planning. He left when Mayor Ed Koch asked him to be the Taxi Cab Commissioner of New York City. This decision was a challenge that Gorman relished, as apparently previous commissioners had served prison time for corruption. His plan was to only stay a year, but ultimately worked for two years. While working in this position, he oversaw the issuance of new taxi medallions in NYC for the first time in decades, and although the taxi business in New York could be quite lucrative, there was never a hint of impropriety during his tenure. Gorman once shared that the greatest perk of his job was his parking permit that allowed him to park anywhere at any time in the City!

After a successful tenure at ITRE, Gorman left in 2000 to become the Director of the Transportation Center at Oklahoma State University. His health began to decline and he retired from OSU in 2008.

He will be missed by all his family, friends and colleagues.

Secretary Foxx Visits North Carolina Upon Invitation from ITRE

Secretary Anthony Foxx of the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) visited NC State on February 19 while on his Grow America Tour of the southeast region. With the help of ITRE Director Dr. Nagui Rouphail and ITRE, around 150 people were able to hear Secretary Foxx speak on the long-term surface transportation bill that he is trying to push through Congress.

Secretary Foxx first spoke of problems with the present system and stressed the need for creativity among the civil engineers who were present in the room, stating that future innovations were necessary to better the system. He explained the characteristics of the Grow America Act, while the remaining portion of the event revolved around a Q&A session.

Secretary Tony Tata of NCDOT exclaimed that it was quite fitting for Secretary Foxx to be speaking on this issue now, when funding for infrastructure is a current issue in our Governor’s twenty-five year plan.

Dr. Rouphail thanked the speakers for coming and gave them tokens of appreciation, representing their involvement with NC State and ITRE.
Three TRB Best Paper and Poster Awards for ITRE

In January ITRE staff and students travelled to Washington D.C. again for the annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) meeting. This year three awards were presented to ITRE, based on research by Katy Salamati, Shannon Warchol, and Chunho Yeom.

Katy Salamati was awarded the TRB Best Paper Award for the Roundabout Committee concerning her research and development of a methodology for minimizing traffic output and estimating emissions for roundabouts and signalized intersections. Bastian Schroeder also significantly helped with this research.

The Best Graduate Student Poster Award in the Geometric Design division was presented to Shannon Warchol, who had tremendous help from Bastian Schroeder and Chris Cunningham. Their research involved geometric and signal timing strategies to improve corridor operations in the vicinity of diverging diamond interchanges (DDIs).

The Best Paper Award for Highway Capacity and Quality of Service Committee was again awarded to an ITRE member for the third year in a row. Chunho Yeom was awarded this honor this year for his research on lane utilization at two-lane arterials. “This is not my award. It’s ours,” Chunho said, as he spoke of the help he received from other members of ITRE.

ITRE continues to research topics relevant to the projects awarded and greatly appreciated the support of TRB.

2015 NC State TRB Reception

NC State University Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering, partnering with the ITRE, hosted their annual TRB reception in its new location, the Marriott Marquis, in Washington D.C. on January 12.

More than 200 people attended this year, including NC State faculty, ITRE staff and council members, partners, sponsors, and various others, who have been involved with NCSU. NC State also had the chance to collaborate with various other universities and speak with them about their research on various transportation issues.