New UTCM Projects Awarded

UTCM’s inaugural Request for Preliminary Proposals (RFPP) yielded 45 submissions by the October 1, 2007 deadline. The group was reviewed and ranked by the UTCM Executive Committee and Advisory Board. Based on these rankings and other criteria, Formal Proposals were invited by the UTCM Executive Committee and Director.

Seventeen projects for FY08 were selected for funding by the UTCM Executive Committee in December 2007. Since that time, two additional projects have been funded by the Executive Committee. These 19 projects total nearly $1.6M, span all of UTCM’s focus areas and include projects in research, education and technology transfer. The projects include collaborative efforts of researchers and students in TTI, five departments and centers at Texas A&M University, three other Texas universities, TxDOT and private industry.

The listing of all FY08 projects can be found on the back cover. More information, including all current and completed UTCM projects, project abstracts and biographical information on UTCM PIs can be found on the UTCM web site at http://utcm.tamu.edu.

UTCM Student of the Year

“Overseeing the selection of the Outstanding Student of the Year is one of the very best things about being a UTC Director,” says UTCM Director Melissa Tooley. “And our first candidate, Meghan Wieters, sets a wonderfully high standard for our Center.” Indeed, the Ph.D. Candidate in Urban Regional Science at Texas A&M has held research assistantships from both TTI and the Southwest Region UTC (SWUTC), has a Master’s in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas, has professional experience as Principal Planner for the City of Austin, has developed and taught undergraduate courses at A&M and has numerous awards, including SWUTC’s Transportation Ph.D. Student of the Year in 2005. “What’s more,” said Tooley, “Meghan is a brilliant, organized young woman with an easy manner and determined attitude.” Meghan’s story of attending TRB as UTCM’s first SOY can be found on page 5.

RITA Administrators Tour TTI, UTCM

President Bush appointee Paul Brubaker, Administrator of the USDOT Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), told UTCM and Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) employees, “The world is going to look very, very different in 10 years.”

Paul Brubaker, RITA Administrator

Brubaker was referring to the nation’s growing and shifting population, the price of oil and the challenge of financing infrastructure projects. As RITA Administrator, Brubaker is responsible for coordinating DOT’s $1 billion research budget and is charged with advancing technologies that will improve the US transportation system.

Brubaker’s December 2007 visit to TTI was his first since being sworn in as RITA Administrator last summer. RITA Associate Administrator for Research, Development and Technology Dr. Jan Brecht-Clark accompanied him on the tour. Brecht-Clark oversees the University Transportation Centers program, which includes TTI’s two UTCs, the Southwest Region University Transportation Center (SWUTC) and the University Transportation Center for Mobility (UTCM).

Brubaker and Brecht-Clark were presented overviews of SWUTC and UTCM and toured TTI’s Translink® Laboratory, the Materials and Pavements Lab and TTI’s research and testing facilities at the Riverside campus.

“Dr. Jan Brecht-Clark and I found the briefings and exchanges very useful to understanding the major contributions TTI is making to improve the safety and performance of our national transportation infrastructure. Moreover, TTI is performing a great service to the nation and the state of Texas by training the next generation of national, state and local transportation leaders,” Brubaker said.

“The commitment and passion of the Aggie community to creating a world-class transportation research facility at A&M was evident from all of the people we met with.”
Portion of the document is missing, please provide the complete document.
On September 18, 2007, the 2007 Urban Mobility Report was released to a media audience anxious to report on our nation’s ever-increasing congestion problem, and TTI mobility analysts Tim Lomax and David Schrank were interviewed by approximately 140 newspapers, radio stations and network television programs.

The Urban Mobility Report, funded in part by the UTCM, is an enormous undertaking for its authors. Promoting its findings presents another challenge, and TTI’s Communications Group worked for weeks prior to the release arranging interviews, writing news releases and posting data to the report’s web site, http://mobility.tamu.edu.

“When you see an article about the report or view an interview with us on ABC News, it represents years of data collection and weeks of work to make sure the information gets to the public,” Lomax said. “Meetings arranged prior to the release ensured that key decision-maker groups understood the new methodology.”

Lomax was in Washington, D.C., as part of a news conference sponsored by ARTBA (American Road and Transportation Builders Association) and APTA (American Public Transportation Association) and Schrank was interviewed live on CNN.

“Designing for Context: Enhancing Safety and Mobility through Urban Design”

Eric Dumbaugh, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, Texas A&M University

In a high energy, fast-paced presentation, Dr. Dumbaugh offered current research perspectives on urban planning to increase mobility, safety and functionality in urban environments, including strategic planning of roads and retail areas. He noted that conventional approaches – more lanes, bigger retail centers with greater amounts of parking in front of retail spaces – can lead to increased difficulty managing traffic, pedestrians and land use. “We often focus largely on moving high volumes of traffic on urban arterial roads,” reported Dumbaugh. “The problem is that in urban areas, development often clusters along arterials, resulting in lower-speed, access-related traffic mixing with mobility-related traffic. This mix of uses and users results in both higher crash rates and increased traffic congestion, particularly at signalized intersections.” He reviewed several case studies in which solutions contrary to the norm yielded positive results. (cont. p. 6)
In honor of Black History Month, the UTCM will host a series of presentations and discussions to educate and inspire the University community about the contributions of African Americans to transportation and engineering. Dr. Karan Watson, President and Associate Provost of Diversity, will speak at the Mobility Colloquium on diversity efforts at Texas A&M University and how they can be improved. The colloquium will be held on February 25th at 11:00 AM in the UTCM auditorium. The event is open to the public and will feature talks on diversity initiatives in transportation and engineering. Dr. Watson will also discuss the role of the UTCM Diversity Council in promoting diversity and inclusion on campus. For more information, visit the UTCM website or contact Dr. Watson's office.
More information on these projects can be found at http://utcm.tamu.edu under “Projects”.

**RESEARCH**

“Improving Mobility Data and Benefit Estimation Procedures” • T. Lomax, S. Turner, D. Schrank, W. Eisele, D. Ellis • 1/1/08 - 11/30/08 • $150,000

“A new systems approach to risk reduction and hazard mitigation of transportation infrastructure networks subject to multiple hazards” • M. Sanchez-Silva, D. Rosowsky • 1/1/08 - 12/31/08 • $95,888

“Estimating the Benefits of Managed Lanes” • M. Burris, D. Shaw • 1/1/08 - 2/28/09 • $80,000

“Methodology and Guideline for Regulating Traffic Flows under Air Quality Constraints in Metropolitan Areas” • Y. Zhang, Q. Ying • 1/1/08 - 8/31/09 • $80,000

“Mileage-Based User Fee Pilot Project: Rural/Small Urban Area Application in Northeast Texas” • G. Goodin, E. Lindquist • 2/1/08 - 8/30/08 • $80,000

“Expansion of the Border Crossing Information System” • J. Villa, R. Aldrete • 2/1/08 - 12/1/08 • $60,854

“Various Funding Methods Used Across the United States for Mass Transit” • L. Cherrington, K. Turnbull • 3/1/08 - 8/31/08 • $50,000

“Bio-Fuels Energy Policy and Grain Transportation Flows: Implications for Inland Waterways and Short Sea Shipping” • D. Vedenov, S. Vadali, G. Power, S. Fuller, M. Burris • 4/1/08 - 8/31/09 • $70,773

“Improved Demand-Response Productivity and Service Quality through Dispatch Strategies” • S. Edrington • 6/1/08 - 12/31/09 • $45,000

“Valuation of Buyout Options in Comprehensive Development Agreements” • G. Power, M. Burris, S. Vadali, D. Vedenov • 9/1/08 - 10/31/09 • $85,272

“Examining Challenges, Opportunities and Best Practices for Addressing Rural Mobility and Economic Development under SAFETEA-LU’s Coordinated Planning & Human Services Framework” • J. Martin, C. Giusti, E. Dumbaugh, L. Cherrington • 5/1/08 - 8/31/09 • $100,000

**EDUCATION**

“Regional Coordination Workshop” • J. Overman • 1/1/08 - 8/31/08 • $72,820

“Development and Teaching of a Special Topics Course on Intelligent Transportation Systems for the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering of Texas A&M University” • K. Balke, G. Hawkins • 1/1/08 - 12/31/08 • $47,421

“Developing an Interdisciplinary Certificate Program in Transportation Planning” • F. Ndubisi, E. Dumbaugh • 1/1/08 - 8/15/09 • $101,852

“Making Mobility Improvements a Community Asset” • B. Bochner, D. Lord • 1/1/08 - 8/31/09 • $154,629

**TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

“A Guide to Transportation Funding Options” • T. Geiselbrecht • 10/8/07 - 12/31/07 • $20,000

“Freeway Bottleneck Removals: Workshop Enhancement and Technology Transfer” • C. Walters • 2/1/08 - 8/31/08 • $78,000

“Promoting Workforce Development for the Transportation Profession Through a Multi-University/Agency Partnership” • R. Kommalapati, J. Perkins, D. Jasek, W. Stockton, R. Benz • 5/1/08 - 8/31/09 • $118,029

“Developing a Methodological Framework to Value Public Sector’s Risk Exposure in PPPs” • R. Aldrete, I. Damnjanovic • 9/1/08 - 8/31/10 • $99,979