

CONNECTOR

Summer
2014

Issue
2
Volume 15

Inside this issue

Three Spring Presentations Recapped	1
A Message from the Executive Director	2
Webcam Monitors Circle Interchange	2
Save the Date UTC 35th Anniversary Celebration	2
Value Capture Research Presented at Transport Chicago	3
UTC to Launch New Website Design	3
What We're Researching	4
French Scholars	4
Faculty & Staff	4

Spring Presentations Showcase Career Advancement, Graduate Student Projects, Berlin Transit System

As the Spring 2014 semester came to a close at UIC, the UTC hosted some great transportation events designed to inform and inspire.

Here are three.

SUCCEEDING IN TRANSPORTATION

Patricia A. Berry, a Principal Planner with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, led an insightful and enlightening discussion April 17 as part of the Spring 2014 Diversity Lunch program. Ms. Berry, who's been in the transportation industry for 36 years, shared thoughts on her impressive career and offered perspectives on how to advance in the field. One key point driven home during her presentation: All transportation professionals should keep learning to stay current and marketable.



Patricia A. Berry
Principal Planner, CMAP

GRADUATES FAREWELL

On April 25, five UTC Graduate Research Assistants presented insight gained from their respective master's degree research projects during an afternoon reception hosted in the Great Cities Institute conference room. Faculty and UTC colleagues posed questions to student researchers Jennifer Kane, Brendan Dodge-Hayakawa, Alexandra McNally, Martin Menninger and Jane Wilberding. Spirited discussion followed each presentation, which addressed: The benefits of development to an historic train station, mobility management, Illinois intermodal transportation corridors, the impact of trucks in Chicago neighborhoods, and campus parking challenges.

BERLIN TRANSIT TODAY

An historical perspective on the public transit network in Berlin -- from the early 20th Century through the partition of the city during the Cold War to today -- was the subject of a fascinating presentation as part of the Seminar Series April 30. Speaker Eric Holeman, MUPP, and scheduling analyst for the CTA, said each mode was affected as the system was split from both a geographic and operational level. He employed maps and photographs from the various transportation systems that operated in Germany's capital during the years of division to demonstrate how the network was reassembled after unification of East and West Germany in 1990. Each mode was affected as the system was split geographically and from an operational standpoint.



Mission Statement

The Urban Transportation Center focuses on researching evolving transportation issues to assist the Chicago region and Illinois stakeholders and to achieve national and international prominence to advance solutions for emerging transportation challenges.

From Executive Director Steve Schlickman



Stephen E. Schlickman
UTC Executive Director

Visitors to CUPPA Hall, home to the Urban Transportation Center, can't help but notice that a lot is going on in and around our building just north of the Eisenhower Expressway in the rapidly developing West Loop neighborhood of Chicago.

Outside our entrance on South Peoria Street and nearby, crews from private contractors, Commonwealth Edison and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) are busy working on major construction projects that will:

- Result in dramatic improvements to our century-old building, including new windows, repaired masonry, updated elevators, new classrooms and a new water chilling tower.
- Provide upgraded electric power to the building and surrounding properties.
- Create a new, much-welcomed landscaped pedestrian foot bridge spanning the expressway at Peoria Street, along with a modernized CTA Blue Line entrance.

And, that's not all; crews from major utility companies have been working on various infrastructure improvements along West Van Buren Street for several months. The good news is that most of the work just mentioned will be completed in 2015, improving accessibility and creating a more welcoming and productive environment at CUPPA Hall for faculty, staff, students and visitors. Inside CUPPA Hall, the UTC faculty, staff and student researchers have been busy, too. We're working hard to advance some current programs and initiatives on our "to-do" list, and nurture some new ones.

This summer we'll begin staffing for the workforce development initiative between IDOT and the College of Urban Planning & Public Affairs, a project announced in the spring. Researchers will continue on the more than 30 projects underway, we're finalizing content and design for a new web site, and we'll begin plans for an event in October to recognize the UTC's 35th anniversary.

While all this is taking place, our team is working aggressively to get approval for managing a major federal program and secure other funding sources. As you have learned, there's a lot happening outside – and inside – CUPPA Hall and the UTC this summer. — Steve Schlickman

Web Cam Monitors Circle Interchange

High atop University Hall on the UIC campus, a live streaming video feed is capturing progress on a four-year transportation project designed to relieve congestion and improve safety at one of the most heavily-traveled expressway intersections in the nation — the Circle Interchange. The video stream comes courtesy of the UTC and its **live Web Cam**, which began transmitting footage in mid-March. Currently, the camera is focused on the Peoria Street pedestrian overpass, which will be modernized to include landscaping, a bike path and updated CTA Blue Line station. The Web Cam is being hosted in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation. Get access to the Web Cam from the UTC website home page at www.utc.uic.edu. Currently, the web cam is focused on the Peoria Street pedestrian overpass.

Save the Date.....

UTC's 35th Anniversary Celebration



Watch for news regarding an evening event **October 20, 2014** to recognize the UTC's 35th anniversary. Initial plans are close to being finalized and include a reception open to all UTC graduate student alumni. Please share this news with any fellow alumni. We'll share details soon.

New Value Capture Research Presented at 2014 Transport Chicago



More than 200 transportation professionals attended Transport Chicago 2014 at the UIC Student Center East.

A funding concept that originated in the 19th century received 21st century analysis as part of a research study completed in mid-June by the UTC. Called “value capture,” the initiative is a tax mechanism, agreement or concession used by governments to secure funding for transportation projects.

Executive Director Steve Schlickman shared insight on the practice and cited case studies of successful value capture programs during a presentation delivered at the [29th Annual Transport Chicago](#) symposium June 6 at the UIC Student Center East.

The scope of the project centered on learning more about how value capture was used in selected markets and developing best practices. Local governments, transit system planners and private developers

would stand to benefit from new or expanded transit-related developments. New York, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Chicago were selected for case studies. Four preliminary conclusions were reached.

1. All cases utilized human capital and organizational strength.
2. Results from San Francisco and Washington demonstrated that transit systems need staff knowledgeable to engage city leaders and developers.
3. The value of stand-alone entities, especially for large projects supported primarily by value capture, was evident in New York.
4. Early coordination presents the opportunity for better developer engagement.

UTC researchers are working to finalize the report later this year and plan to further refine models of intergovernmental and private developer value capture coordination.

Transport Chicago 2014 drew more than 200 transportation professionals and featured 21 workshops, six breakout sessions, a poster session, breakfast speaker Chris Ward, and a luncheon panel discussion on O’Hare Airport modernization and the aviation industry. UTC researchers, staff and graduate students participated in the planning, marketing and execution.

UTC to Enhance Online Presence With New Website

Later this summer, your visit to www.utc.uic.edu, the UTC’s website, will offer a much different experience. That’s because staff is in the final stages of launching a totally redesigned website. Several factors prompted the decision to step back, assess the existing site and make the decision to step forward with a new site.

The current site had the same template for several years and was not up to modern design standards, making navigation cumbersome. Plus, key content – such as UTC research, lists of upcoming events and access to faculty/staff profiles – were hard to find. And, UIC has encouraged colleges and units to re-launch sites to conform to established design themes and general guidelines.

When designing the new website, goals included:

- Adhere to UIC design and graphic standards guidelines, but develop a singular UTC design and functionality.
- Enhance the Research content and promote the work of, faculty, PhD and Master’s researchers.
- Debut and establish a Technology Transfer component.
- Re-energize the UTC’s online presence.

One key strategy was to focus on the caliber of UTC Research and UTC faculty, staff and students. The result is a site that’s authoritative, but open and welcoming to visitors, and a reflection of UIC and its Great Cities initiative.

UTC Faculty & Staff

STEPHEN E. SCHLICKMAN
Executive Director

KYLE BARDO
Research Associate

SILVIA BECERRA
Program Coordinator

THOMAS BOTHEN
Research Associate

EDWARD M. BURY
Coordinator of Public Information

LISE DIRKS
Senior Associate

JOSEPH HARRIS
Research Associate

PAUL METAXATOS
Associate Director for Research Programs
and Research Assistant Professor

NADEREH MOINI
Research Assistant Professor

JODY PLAHM
Administrator

VANESSA SMITH
Associate Director for Business & Finance

JORDAN SNOW
Research Transportation Planner/Analyst

SIIM SÖÖT
Associate Professor Emeritus

P.S. SRIRAJ
Director, Metropolitan Transportation
Support Initiative (METSI)
and Research Associate Professor

BRADLEY WINICK
Senior Research Specialist

GEORGE YANOS
Principal Research Programmer

What We're Researching at the UTC

UTC Faculty, staff and affiliated researchers remain busy through the first half of 2014, with some 30 research projects underway. Here are snapshot perspectives on three projects that are nearing completion.

FREIGHT AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Video data and Chicago parking ticket information formed the basis for this study. The goal of this research, funded through the METSI program, was to analyze the relationship within the built environment of the city, parking violations given to delivery trucks and probable causes. Some findings include: Truck parking problems are more frequent in vibrant and evolving transit-oriented neighborhoods; existing industries do not create truck parking problems; using alleys might have a modest impact on alleviating issuance of tickets.

THE NATURE EXPRESS

Disadvantaged families, people who don't have use of private transportation and citizens lacking reliable public transit services face challenges reaching many Nature Centers managed by the Cook County Forest Preserve District. The key issue: The Centers are not well-served by existing public transportation. Working with the Forest Preserve District, researchers are developing strategies to connect low-income families with Nature Centers and other recreational facilities. Research will study feasible transit connections.

GREEN HOSPITALS

The City of Chicago issued an ordinance requiring businesses with many employees to reduce the number of workers who drive alone. In the study, researchers will study the commuting patterns of workers, patients and visitors at three Chicago hospitals to gain insight into what led to their commuting.

UTC Hosts French Scholars

The growth and development of Chicago's water, rail, highway and air transportation network was instrumental in the evolution of the city into a world-class metropolis. That was the key message delivered to 20 urban planning students and faculty advisers from the University of Rennes in Brittany, France, who visited the UTC April 10.

Executive Director Steve Schlickman and Professor P.S. Sriraj shared insight into the vital role played by transportation in Chicago's early days, as well as its impact on the current urban environment. The students were visiting Chicago as part of a week-long study program that included visits to government planning agencies and other academic institutions.

A Publication of the Urban Transportation Center

The *Connector* is produced and published quarterly by the Urban Transportation Center, a research unit within the University of Illinois at Chicago's (UIC) College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA).

EDITORIAL TEAM

P.S. Sriraj
Edward M. Bury

CONNECTOR DESIGNED BY
Jody Plahm

Websites

URBAN TRANSPORTATION CENTER
<http://www.utc.uic.edu/>

**COLLEGE OF URBAN PLANNING
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**
<http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/>

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
<http://www.uic.edu/uic/>



<https://www.facebook.com/UrbanTransportationCenteratUIC>



@steveschlickman

UIC Urban
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO **Transportation Center**
COLLEGE OF URBAN PLANNING & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

412 South Peoria Street
Room 340 (M/C 357)
Chicago, Illinois 60607
312-996-4820