

# METRANS

## Transportation Center

USC | CSULB

### METRANS on the Move: Our Weekly Newsletter for Students



Members of LBSU's ITE student chapter during the annual Student Leadership Summit.  
Photo credit: Eric Shen

Readers, welcome to this week's issue of METRANS on the Move! This newsletter is a team effort to foster knowledge and opportunities related to transportation. If you have suggestions for content – events, scholarships, jobs, and more – that you'd like to see included, just reach out to our Publisher, Danielle Dirksen, at [ddirksen@usc.edu](mailto:ddirksen@usc.edu). Enjoy this week's issue, and click the button below to subscribe!

**Scroll down for the chance to win a prize!**

**Subscribe Now!**

## In the News

The articles in this newsletter are prepared or accomplished by others in their personal capacity. The opinions expressed are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the views of METRANS or its partners.



### Meet Sophia Greenberg - Intern For Culver City Council Member Thomas Small

By Bo-Sen Shao, USC Master of International Public Policy and Management, 2020

Sophia Greenberg is obtaining her Master's degree in Urban Planning with an emphasis in Economic Development and a certificate in Real Estate Development at University of Southern California (USC), and completed her undergraduate degree in Economics with a minor in Spanish, also at USC.

"I grew up in Culver City and I'm excited to pursue my passion in economic development and city planning to create and redesign cities to suit the needs of the people that live there, not just the buildings and cars that seem to dominate our urban landscape," says Greenberg.

Read more [here](#).

### Metro Releases Understanding How Women Travel Report



A new study titled "Understanding How Women Travel" was released by Metro this month. The report is the first of its kind by a transit agency in the United States and is a broad effort that addresses challenges faced by women when using the Metro system – from traveling with kids and strollers to safety to fares.

Read more [here](#).

### Faculty Spotlight: Amelia Regan's Drive To Transform Transportation

"One thing I've observed in the transportation industry is that everything happens more slowly than you think. People will say, 'Oh, we'll all have self-driving cars by 2025.' Heck, no. Before we have full, automated driving, we'll have connected vehicles,



communicating all the time and avoiding accidents and improving efficiencies.'

**Read more [here](#).**



**Blast From The Past Series - Uber Knows When Your Phone Is Running Out Of Battery**

This 2016 article explores Uber's surge pricing and that the company is able to access your phone charge, leading them to gauge and consider urgency of your trip.

**Read more [here](#).**

*Edit: Last week's Tunnel article carried teaser text from a previous news edition, and was incorrect - the Tunnel article was from 2015.*

Years	Pedestrian Fatalities Involving Pedestrian use of Portable Electronic Devices	All Pedestrian Fatalities	Percent of Device-Involved Pedestrian Fatalities
2017	7	5,977	0.1%
2016	6	6,080	0.1%
2015	12	5,376	0.2%
2014	1	4,910	0.0%
2013	5	4,779	0.1%
2012	5	4,818	0.1%
2011	9	4,457	0.2%
2010	6	4,302	0.1%
8-year Period	51	40,699	0.1%

Source: NHTSA Fatality Analysis Report System (FARS), Pedestrians Killed by Related Factors, 2010-2017 data  
Note: Reporting of Portable Electronic Devices as a crash factor began in 2010.

**Tweet Time - Distracted Pedestrians**

This tweet, from Registered Architect Sara Stace, @sara\_stace, discusses a report on how many pedestrian fatalities were actually caused by pedestrian distraction. Be sure to give Sara a follow!

**Read more [here](#).**

**Let's Play a Game**



*Welcome to our new transportation game corner!*

This week, let's play another guessing game... Guess who the transportation professional in the picture is for a chance to win a prize!

Here's a hint: This man is a mentor in the METRANS mentor program, and he goes by Mr. Retro Metro.

**Speaking of our Mentor Program:** Open enrollment for the program kicks off this week. Please email Reagan Murphy at [rkmurphy@usc.edu](mailto:rkmurphy@usc.edu) for more information.

Email Publisher Danielle Dirksen with your answer: [ddirksen@usc.edu](mailto:ddirksen@usc.edu).

**For Researchers**

**Ph.D. students involved in Transportation Operations and Traffic Control research and work are encouraged to submit abstracts.**

**Call for Abstracts: TRB Ph.D. Session in Transportation Operations and Traffic Control  
Submission Deadline: Friday, September 27, 2019**

In preparation for the 99th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board in Washington, D.C., the Ph.D. Session in Transportation Operations and Traffic Control is seeking recently completed (or nearly completed) Ph.D. dissertations and research-in-progress.

Students who wish to present their research should submit a (maximum) two-page summary of their research including the title, along with a brief letter (or email) of nomination from their faculty supervisor that clearly states their anticipated graduation date. The schedule of presentations will be based upon the number of submissions and whether they are based on completed or in-progress research. All students will be notified by mid-October, concerning acceptance of their submission and their place on the program.

**More Info**

**For this particular award, graduate students in transportation who have produced a PhD Dissertation, MS Thesis, or Master's Thesis/Report are encouraged to seek nomination.**

**Council of University Transportation Centers Awards  
Nomination Deadline: Monday, September 30, 2019**

The Milton Pikarsky Memorial Award is given annually for the best Doctoral dissertation and Master's thesis in the field of science and technology in transportation studies. The Charley V. Wootan Memorial Award is given annually for the best Doctoral dissertation and Master's thesis in the field of policy and planning in transportation studies. The Neville A. Parker Award is given annually to two non-thesis master's project reports in the field of policy and planning, and science and technology. Winners in each category receive the following honorariums: Doctoral Dissertation: \$2,000 Master's Thesis: \$1,500 Non-Thesis Master's Reports/Papers: \$1,500.

To be considered for the awards nominations must be submitted a member of the faculty, a mentor, or advisor through the CUTC website. Winners will be recognized at the CUTC Awards Banquet held on Saturday, January 11, 2020 immediately preceding the 99th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board. The dissertation/thesis/report must have been completed and accepted during the period October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019.

[More Info](#)

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**Call for Papers: Young Energy Researchers Conference**  
**Submission Deadline: Thursday, October 10, 2019**

Papers should focus on the subjects of biomass or energy efficiency. Submissions are welcome from all scientific fields (e.g. technology & engineering, economic and social sciences, architecture, law, arts, etc.) The conference will be held in Wels, Austria from Tuesday, March 3 to Thursday, March 5, 2020. The 2 best contributions are honoured with the awards "Best Young Energy Efficiency Researcher" and "Best Young Biomass Researcher". The researchers will receive 1,000 Euro each as prize money. The award committee will select the winners among the papers selected for oral presentation (there is no need for a separate submission for the award). Notification of the winners is expected by the end of January 2020.

[More Info](#)

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**Qualified individuals should have a Ph.D. degree in engineering, environmental science, or other related field with coursework and/or research experience in life cycle analysis.**

**Argonne National Laboratory Energy Systems Division PhD Research Position**  
**Apply ASAP**

Argonne National Laboratory is seeking dynamic and technically strong Postdoctoral Researchers in the area of life cycle analysis. The position is in the Systems Assessment Center's Electrification and Infrastructure Group in the Energy Systems Division. Postdoctoral Researchers work with other team members to analyze transportation and energy systems, develop new models and datasets, and provide rigorous and objective results. We are currently seeking applicants with experience in one or more of the following areas: transportation energy systems, materials production with a focus on vehicle materials and lightweighting, lithium-ion battery production and recycling, electrical grid modeling, and vehicle manufacturing. See the flyer below for more information.

[More Info](#)

## Get Involved

**IRWA Young Professionals Ice Cream Social**  
**Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 5:30 pm Pacific**  
**Salt and Straw**  
**829 E. 3rd Street**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90013**

Young professionals are invited to join the International Right of Way Association's Chapter 1 to mingle and say goodbye to summer and hello to fall! Please RSVP and see the flyer at the button below.

[More Info](#)

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**Webinar: Transitioning Cars and Trucks to Low Greenhouse Gas-Emitting Technologies and Fuels**  
**Friday, September 27, 2019 from 10 am to 11 am Pacific**

California has adopted ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In this study, we examine the costs and challenges of reducing road transportation GHG emissions 80% by 2050, through rapid uptake of advanced vehicle and fuel technologies. We consider several scenarios and the costs of achieving these, along with policy implications. Speakers are UC Davis' Lew Fulton and Marshall Miller.

[More Info](#)

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**2020 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize Competition**  
**Apply by: Friday, September 27, 2019 8:59 pm Pacific**

The Lemelson-MIT Student Prize is a nationwide invention competition that honors undergraduate teams and individual graduate students who have developed technology-based inventions with tested prototypes. Graduate students win \$15,000 in recognition of their portfolio of inventions, and undergraduate teams win \$10,000 for their invention. In addition, winners will be included in a national media campaign, and receive exposure to investment and business communities, and a trip to MIT for an award celebration (EurekaFest) in June 2020.



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### More Info

#### **Notice of Intent: Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) University Design Competition for Addressing Airport Needs**

**NOIs Due: Saturday, September 28, 2019**

The ACRP, a program of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, is sponsoring a national competition for universities that engages students in addressing issues relating to airports and the National Airspace System.

This Competition focuses on design solutions in the following broad areas: Airport Operation and Maintenance, Runway Safety/Runway Incursions/ Runway Excursions, Airport Environmental Interactions, and Airport Management and Planning. Some specific challenge areas are defined in the Technical Design Challenges section of the guidelines. Students are not limited to the suggested topical areas listed.

This Competition challenges individuals and teams of undergraduate and/or graduate students working with faculty advisors at U.S. colleges and universities to consider innovative approaches related to airport issues. Full details are provided in the competition guidelines, accessible through the button below.

### More Info

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**If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please email [victoriv@usc.edu](mailto:victoriv@usc.edu).**

#### **Make Way for Gen Z: Hands-on STEM Workshop for Middle Schoolers**

**Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 10 am Pacific**

**University of Southern California**

**DML 240**

Join METRANS and PSR for an interactive workshop that will engage nearly 100 local middle schoolers. We plan to immerse students in transportation industry basics with a focus on soft leadership skills, inspiring students to possibly pursue future endeavors in the industry. Volunteers are appreciated. Please click below to view the flyer.

### More Info

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#### **Eno Webinar - Mobility Data Sharing: How Cities Are Using New Data for Policy and Planning**

**Tuesday, October 8, 2019 from 1 to 1:30 pm Pacific**

With the explosion of shared mobility services across the globe, cities have begun to request and require access to data from private shared fleet operators deploying vehicles within their boundaries. These private companies are amassing large amounts of data on when, where, and how people are traveling. Now, cities are asking for that information to help staff make more informed transportation infrastructure and policy decisions.

How does mobility data-sharing work, and what are the challenges and opportunities for public agencies who want to benefit from the transportation data created by scooter-share, bike-share, car-share, and ride-hail? Join Populus CEO, Regina Clewlow for a webinar providing an overview of the key opportunities and pain points around data-sharing, and examples of how cities are using data for policy and planning. Click below to register.

### More Info

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#### **Fall 2019 Speaker Series: Micro Sensor Development for Vehicle Detection and Identification for Next Generation Smart Roads**

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 12 pm Pacific**

**University of Southern California**

**RGL 100**

Join METRANS and PSR for a luncheon with Mohammed Mozumdar, Associate Professor in Electrical Engineering at Cal State Long Beach. Participants will gain professional and technical insights on the development of a distributed wireless sensing network that utilizes low power processors in conjunction to "in sensor node" machine learning algorithms for computation, among other smart road topics. RSVP is required. Please click below to view the flyer.

### More Info

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#### **American Road and Transportation Builders Association Student Video Contest**

**Submissions Due: Sunday, October 20, 2019**

The ARTBA Foundation supports an annual student video contest to promote the U.S. transportation design and construction industry. ARTBA's Research & Education Division (RED) sponsors the contest and has two submission categories: general transportation impacts, trends and/or funding; and transportation safety.

The contest is divided into two age groups: elementary, middle or high school students; and post-secondary, college and graduate students. Winners are selected in each age group, for a total of four first-place videos. Each winner receives a cash prize and winning entries may be shown during ARTBA's annual National Convention.

### More Info

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**Fall 2019 Speaker Series: Leadership as Improvisation 3.0**  
**Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 12 pm Pacific**  
**University of Southern California**  
**DML 240**

Join METRANS and PSR for a luncheon with Carol Geffner of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy. Participants will gain professional insights in this workshop on how to improvise in the workforce and create change for yourself and others. RSVP is required. Please click below to view the flyer.

[More Info](#)

**Fall 2019 Speaker Series - Microtransit and Micromobility: Benefit or Boondoggle?**  
**Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 12 pm Pacific**  
**University of Southern California**  
**RGL 100**

Join METRANS and PSR for a luncheon with Amelia Regan, Professor of Computer Science and Transportation Systems Engineering at UCI. Participants will gain professional insights on whether micromobility's benefits outweigh the many costs and externalities that have resulted from a push for tech in transportation. RSVP is required. Please click below to view the flyer.

*Please note that this date is postponed from the original of September 25. We apologize for the inconvenience and hope that you can join us on October 23!*

[More Info](#)

**Lunch and Learn "Advocacy, Leadership & Our Personal Responsibility"**  
**Friday, October 25, 2019 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm Pacific**  
**Kellogg West Conference Center and Hotel**  
**3801 West Temple Avenue**  
**Pomona, CA 91768**

Reelected to represent the 20th State Senate District in 2018, Senator Connie M. Leyva is serving her second term in the California State Senate. Senator Leyva has focused on improving California's schools, environment and communities, as well as creating quality jobs. Senator Leyva serves as chair of the Senate Education Committee, California Legislative Women's Caucus and the Senate Democratic Caucus, and on the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

Join us for an interactive session with Senator Leyva and learn more about her leadership journey and the role advocacy has played in her life. Network with colleagues over lunch and enjoy the hilltop views from the Kellogg West Conference Center at the Cal Poly Pomona campus! Spaces limited - register early!

[More Info](#)

**A limited number of sponsored student tickets are available. Please email [victoriv@price.usc.edu](mailto:victoriv@price.usc.edu) to request one.**

**Port of Los Angeles Harbor Boat Tour**  
**Friday, November 8, 2019, 12:30 pm Pacific**  
**Port of LA, San Pedro, Los Angeles**

Port staff will be available on the boat to provide narration and to answer questions about Port projects. On the tour, you will have a chance to learn about Port operations and infrastructure projects, and there may be sea lion sightings. Click below for the event flyer.

[More Info](#)

**Fall 2019 Speaker Series: Is Neighborhood Change Leading to Falling Transit Ridership?**  
**Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 12 pm Pacific**  
**University of Southern California**

Join METRANS and PSR for a luncheon with Michael Manville, Associate Professor of Urban Planning at UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. Participants will gain professional insights on falling transit ridership in Southern California as Professor Manville presents preliminary study results on ridership fluctuation. RSVP is required. Please click below to view the flyer.

[More Info](#)

**Student Transportation Consulting Volunteer Opportunity**  
**University of Southern California**

Please see the following on behalf of USC undergraduate Reanne Aquinde: Reanne is looking to organize student members of the USC Chapter of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE) to undertake transportation related problems in the field. Interested students need not already be a part of IISE but should attend or live near USC. This opportunity is intended to organize a small, voluntary student team which will then tackle a real world project that students can work on to gain practical experience. Email Reanne for more information at [raquinde@usc.edu](mailto:raquinde@usc.edu)

## Scholarships & Academic Opportunities

**2019 Mobility 21 Southern California Transportation Summit: Beyond the Limits**  
**Friday, September 27, 2019 7:30 am - 4:30 pm Pacific**  
**Disneyland Hotel**  
**1150 Magic Way, Anaheim, CA 92802**

Save the date for Mobility 21's 2019 Summit! Mobility 21, Southern California's premier transportation coalition, is currently seeking sponsorships for their upcoming annual conference. Registration information is coming soon. Discounted student tickets are available for students who register to attend. Early bird registration is now open as well.

[More Info](#)

**Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Sustainable Urban Freight**  
**Open through September 2019**

We are happy to announce the re-run of the successful Sustainable Urban Freight Transport MOOC on edX as of 4th December 2018. This time the MOOC is presented as a self-paced course, students and professionals can access the free course till September 2019.

The MOOC is the result of a collaboration between 8 partners of the global COE-SUFS network. It provides a unique cross-cultural introduction to city logistics, as experienced around the world (Netherlands, Japan, India, UK, Australia, South-Africa and Sweden).

**For more information, contact Tharsis Teoh at [t.g.h.teoh@tudelft.nl](mailto:t.g.h.teoh@tudelft.nl) or click the link below.**

[More Info](#)

**Become a Presidential Management Fellow**  
**Applications Due: Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 9 am Pacific**

The Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program is administered by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Each year, candidates apply to the program in efforts to be selected as Finalists. Finalists are then eligible for appointment as Presidential Management Fellows (Fellows; PMFs).

To become a PMF, you must participate in an rigorous, multi-hurdle process. It takes patience and endurance, but also gives you a chance to demonstrate your leadership ability and potential. As a PMF, you will have earned your place in the program, and the opportunity to grow professionally, serve your country, and make a difference!

[More Info](#)

**Call for Papers: World Symposium on Transport and Land Use Research 2020**  
**Submissions Due: Friday, November 15, 2019**

We are pleased to announce that the 2020 World Symposium on Transport and Land Use Research (WSTLUR) will be held in Portland, Oregon, USA, July 13-16, 2020. We seek original, full-length submissions on themes including, but not limited to, affordable housing and transport, freight issues, and accessibility in transit. Theme leaders will be in charge of the paper review and selection process. Questions about specific themes should be directed towards theme leaders, whose contact info can be found by clicking the button below.

[More Info](#)

## Internships & Jobs

**Sustainability Intern**  
**San Diego Association of Governments**  
**Apply Immediately**



[More Info](#)

Job Title	Agency/Firm	Deadline
<a href="#">Project Surveyor (# JC-173072)</a>	Caltrans	27-Sep-19
	Yuba County, CA	

<a href="#">Assistant Civil Engineer (Transportation) (# 011011-19-TS-4)</a>	City of Sacramento	29-Sep-19
	Sacramento, CA	
<a href="#">Associate Civil Engineer (Transportation) (# 011012-19-TS-4)</a>	City of Sacramento	29-Sep-19
	Sacramento, CA	
<a href="#">Associate Civil Engineer (Engineering Services) (# 011012-19-ES-4)</a>	City of Sacramento	29-Sep-19
	Sacramento, CA	
<a href="#">Assistant Civil Engineer (Engineering Services) (# 011011-19-ES-4)</a>	City of Sacramento	29-Sep-19
	Sacramento, CA	
<a href="#">Transportation Modeler</a>	San Francisco County Transportation Authority	30-Sep-19
	San Francisco, CA	
<a href="#">Research Data Specialist I (# JC-173251)</a>	Caltrans	30-Sep-19
	Sacramento County, CA	

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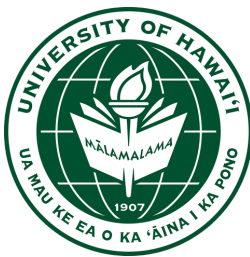
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