

METRANS

Transportation Center

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METRANS on the Move: Our Weekly Newsletter for Students



METRANS' and WTS-OC's Gen Z STEM event engaged students in a model bridge-building activity.

Check out the article below!

Happy Halloween!

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. Enjoy this week's issue, and click the button below to subscribe!

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.



Great Careers At LA Metro: Our First Event Of Fall 2019

by **Adylbek Abdykalikov, USC, IPPAM 2020**

Two outstanding professionals, Shalonda Baldwin, the Interim Executive Officer of Diversity and Economic Opportunity, and Patrice McElroy, the Executive Officer, Talent Manager, both at LA Metro (Metro), came to USC to share insights on how to better select, prepare for, pursue, and advance a successful career – and not just in transportation.

Read more [here](#).

Gen Z STEM Event



On Oct. 3, 2019, WTS-OC partnered with USC-METRANS to host a bridge building activity as part of its Gen Z STEM event. It was a very engaging activity as each group had to build a bridge from straws to eventually withstand the weight of at least eight juice boxes. As time progressed, volunteers noticed how the students started to collaborate with each other and how the noise level in the room increased. Participants assigned tasks to one another, from cutting tape to lining up the straws to plans.

Read more [here](#).

Drivers Killed The Most Pedestrians And Bicyclists In Almost 30 Years

“It is good news that drivers and occupants have seen a decline [in deaths], but the increases for cyclists and pedestrians show that a new trend has taken hold where more vulnerable road users are increasingly being killed,” said Angie Schmitt, former national reporter for StreetsBlog who is writing a book about the pedestrian



safety crisis. “And it’s not going away.”

Read more [here](#).



Blast From The Past Series - The Transport Politic, 2017: The Case Of The Missing Platform Doors

Platform screen doors could save lives, reduce trash on the tracks, and improve the customer experience. Yet they’ve been repeatedly pushed back as a solution in cities like New York. At fault: A bureaucracy that isn’t able to plan for technological change and is unresponsive even to its own board members.

Read more [here](#).



Tweet Time: Thread On LAX Ban Of Ride-share Curbside Pickup

LA Times Reporter Laura J. Nelson covers a detailed thread on the happenings of the new LAX ride-share and taxi curbside pickup ban. The thread includes several updates, photos, and replies from satisfied and dissatisfied patrons alike. Be sure to follow Laura for more transportation coverage and to support journalism!

Read more [here](#).

LAX is banning Uber and Lyft pickups at the curb. Here's how the ne...
Starting Tuesday at 3 a.m., travelers leaving LAX will be required to board a shuttle or walk to a waiting area east of Terminal 1 to call a car.
[latimes.com](#)

For Researchers

EPA Research Opportunity: Biofuel Climate Change Model Validation Research **Apply Immediately**

Two research opportunities are currently available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ). This appointment may be served at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC or at the EPA’s National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory (NVFEL) in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The project entails research on validation of transportation climate modeling with a focus on biofuels. The project will involve research on model evaluation techniques and on developing tools to automate comparison of model outputs with data and projections from other sources to improve evaluation and communication of EPA’s modeling.

Under the guidance of a mentor, the participant will review an integrated assessment model that EPA is using for transportation/biofuel climate change analysis and review techniques to validate the model through comparison of the model’s output with other data sources and projections. The participant will also research methods for automating future model validation. The participant will use an open source programming language (e.g., R, Python) to compare model outputs with other well-established sources of data on transportation fuels and agricultural commodities (e.g., prices, production, land use).

Click below for additional information and to apply.

[More Info](#)

Get Involved

Seminar - Heterogeneous Traffic Flow: How Agent Interaction Shape Collective Properties **Friday, November 1, 2019 from 1:40 to 3 pm Pacific** **1605 Tilia, Room 1103, West Village, UC Davis or Online via Zoom**

Collective properties of traffic flow, such as its equilibrium, aggregate dynamics and stability, are determined by attributes of agents (i.e. drivers/vehicles) as well as how the agents interact. Understanding connections between the two is crucial to control and operations, e.g. towards designing mechanisms to make mixed traffic flow of autonomous and human-driven vehicles self-organize and self-stabilize. In this talk, speaker Jia Li will present his recent research in this direction. In the first part, he will provide an explicit characterization of equilibriums attainable by heterogeneous traffic flow in multilane settings, where one class of agents are “type-sensitive”, a property that autonomous vehicles may likely be endowed with. In the second part, he will present simulation evidence along with a heuristic analysis towards explaining spontaneous platoon formation in heterogeneous traffic flow and the role of opportunistic agent behaviors. Finally, he will discuss implications of these results from a control perspective.

More Info

Transportation Workforce Center Webinar: Impactful Transit Agency and University Collaborations **Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 11 am Pacific**

How can we develop the skillsets of our future transit workforce while improving day-to-day operations? This webinar highlights successful collaborations between transit agencies and university students and faculty that accomplish both goals. Speakers will showcase collaborations that engage students in diverse transit-focused projects, providing students the opportunity to develop and apply knowledge to authentic problems in a real context, while providing agencies with fresh new ideas and focused energy on a task or issue. Speakers include Maria Dahmus, Kelly Morrell, Julia Castillo, and Andrew Martin. Please click below to register.

More Info

University of Texas at El Paso Seminar: Traffic Pollution, Health, and the Theory of Everything **Wednesday, November 6, 2019 from 9 to 10 am Pacific** **El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center** **The University of Texas at El Paso** **2051 Wiggins Road, El Paso, Texas 79901** **Livestream Available**

Dr. Jeremy Sarnat is an Associate Professor of Environmental Health at the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University and the Director of the Southeastern Center for Air Pollution and Epidemiology (SCAPE), based jointly at Emory University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. His research focuses primarily on measuring exposures and acute health response of urban air pollution in various populations, in particular panels of sensitive cohorts such as children, older adults, and individuals with cardiorespiratory disease.

High-resolution metabolomics (HRM) has emerged as a promising analytical platform for measuring environmental exposures and corresponding biological response. In this presentation, Dr. Sarnat will share findings from a series of recent panel-based studies of traffic-related pollution conducted using untargeted HRM and traditional targeted methods, and the potential of both approaches to contribute towards a more complete understanding of disease etiology associated with this pollution source.

More Info

Eno Webinar: Analyzing Bus Ridership Decline **Thursday, November 7, 2019 from 1 to 1:30 pm Pacific**

Following six years of consecutive decline, bus ridership in the United States attained its lowest level ever recorded in history last year. In this webinar, Dr. Berrebi will explain reasons and potential solutions to this decline through analysis of passenger count data between 2012 and 2018 at 50,000 bus stops in four cities: Portland, Miami, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and Atlanta. Data show that in all four cities, neighborhoods with high proportions of white residents lost ridership at the fastest rate. In Miami and Atlanta, places with high concentrations of college-graduates also correlate with ridership decline. These results suggest that changes in the travel behavior of choice riders may explain the bulk of the decline. Dr. Berrebi will discuss the inelasticity between frequency and ridership and recommend service, policy, and infrastructure solutions for transit agencies. Please click below to register.

More Info

Please email Eric Shen at ericshen@usc.edu to RSVP.

Guest Speaker: California Secretary of Transportation, David S. Kim **Thursday, November 7, 2019 from 6 to 8 pm Pacific** **University of Southern California**

David S. Kim was recently appointed secretary of the California State Transportation Agency by Governor Gavin Newsom. Most recently, he has been vice president of governmental affairs at Hyundai Motor Company. Prior to that, he served as deputy administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration from 2016 to 2017, where he was associate administrator of policy and governmental affairs from 2011 to 2016. He also previously served as deputy assistant secretary for governmental affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation. He earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Southern California. Please click below for more information on Mr. Kim.

More Info

Please email Zhanibek Baktygali at baktygal@usc.edu to RSVP.

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

Please email Zhanibek Baktygali at baktygal@usc.edu to RSVP.

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

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](#)

LA Metro Aging and Disability Transportation Forum
Thursday, November 14, 2019 from 9 am to 2 pm Pacific
Union Station Ticket Concourse
800 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

LA Metro, Access Services and the Aging and Disability Transportation Network invite you to join Metro Board Chair James T. Butts, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and Chief Executive Officer Phillip A. Washington for Metro's First Aging and Disability Transportation Forum.

Metro is taking a leading role in expanding accessibility in our public transit system, and delivering more mobility options with safe and equitable service to the residents of Los Angeles County. Speakers at the Forum will highlight Metro's recent accomplishments and lay out the vision and priorities for accessible transportation in the coming years.

The 2019 Aging and Disability Transportation Report summarizes demographic trends, and provides an overview of Metro's and Access Services' current programs, services, pilot projects and studies that are underway to enhance Los Angeles County transportation options for older adults and people with disabilities. Forum participants will have an opportunity to comment and share ideas on the report during interactive feedback sessions.

[More Info](#)

Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting: Reduced Student Costs
Prices Increase: after Saturday, November 30, 2019
Conference: January 12-16, 2020
Washington, D.C.

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) 99th Annual Meeting will be held January 12–16, 2020, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, D.C. The information-packed program is expected to attract more than 13,000 transportation professionals from around the world.

The meeting program will cover all transportation modes, with more than 5,000 presentations in nearly 800 sessions and workshops, addressing topics of interest to policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions. A number of sessions and workshops will focus on the spotlight theme for the 2020 meeting: A Century of Progress: Foundation for the Future.

[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 raqinde@usc.edu

Institute of Transportation Engineers Membership
University of Southern California

Please see the following on behalf of USC professor and mentor, Eric Shen: "You can join ITE as a student member for free(the first year) as an undergraduate and for \$30/year as a graduate student.

The ITE-USC Student Chapter will subsidize undergraduates' paying membership fee after the first year AND graduate students' membership fee - all you have to do is to pay or renew your student membership then forward the receipt to me for reimbursement (while you are still a full-time USC student). For an added bonus, you may join WTS International as a student member. If you've signed up for ITE student member, the ITE-USC Student Chapter will also pay for your annual WTS student membership fee (\$30) as long as you are a full-time USC student and exhibiting strong interest in transportation. WTS also welcome men joining the organization."

Email Professor Shen for more information at shen.eric@gmail.com.

For Researchers

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

Transit Vehicles Planning Intern - Summer 2020

WSP USA

Apply Immediately



[More Info](#)

Job Title	Agency/Firm	Deadline
Business Intelligence Consultant (# COA080964)	Austin Transportation Department	1-Nov-19
	Austin, TX	
Sidewalk Enforcement Specialist (# 2019-01738)	City of Seattle	5-Nov-19
	Seattle, WA	
Southern California Environmental Manager (# 41907)	WSP	05-Nov-19
	Los Angeles, CA	
Transportation Surveyor (# JC-178161)	Caltrans	05-Nov-19
	Sacramento County, CA	
Student Assistant - Engineering (# CT50118E)	Caltrans	6-Nov-19
	Sacramento, CA	
Associate Transportation Planner (# JC-178041)	Caltrans	11-Nov-19
	San Joaquin County, CA	

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