METRANS on the Move: our weekly newsletter by students

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.

Aspiring Civil Engineer, USC Freshman Alejandra Reyes co-leads MTSA

Alejandra Reyes is a freshman at USC majoring in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in Construction Engineering and Management at the Viterbi Sonny Astani Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. She joined the METRANS student team this year, and co-leads the METRANS Transportation Student Association (MTSA).

Read more here.

Under new leadership, METRANS will grow as a trailblazer in transportation research

Since its founding in 1998, METRANS Transportation Consortium has been at the center of transportation scholarship. This year, a new leader is set to take the helm of the prestigious research center. Professor Genevieve Giuliano has directed METRANS since 2001, after founding director Randy Hall. Since then, Giuliano has built METRANS into a collaborative environment where innovation thrives. In July 2022, Marlon Boarnet will begin his term as the center’s director.

Read more here.

8 trends shaping cities in 2022

The pandemic, public safety, the climate crisis and rising inequality are among the top 2022 challenges confronting cities. This story is part of a series on the trends that will shape the smart cities industry in 2022.

Read the SMARTCITIESDIVE feature here.
E-bike package delivery is coming to L.A.

The final leg of a package’s journey to its destination, known as the “last mile,” is often the most inefficient of the entire trip. That’s because packages are usually divided into several different gas-fueled vehicles headed in different directions, often into traffic-filled city centers, decreasing delivery speed and increasing the environmental toll.

Read the FASTCOMPANY feature here.

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Webinars & Online Events

Webinar: Where is My Shipment and When Will I Get It?
Wednesday, February 9th at 4:00 pm PST/7:00 pm EST, hosted by Freight Mobility Research Institute (FMRI)
The most significant negative environmental impacts of urban trucking result largely. Mr. Charles H.W. Edwards, Professor of the Practice, UNC-Chapel Hill

More Info

ITS Davis Webinar: Direct impacts of off-hour deliveries on urban freight emissions
Friday, February 11th at 1:40 pm PST (hybrid), hosted by UC Davis
The most significant negative environmental impacts of urban trucking result largely from travel in congested traffic. To illustrate the potential of innovative solutions to this problem, this talk presents new research on the emission reductions associated with off-hour freight deliveries (OHD).

More Info

WEBINAR: Transportation and Cybersecurity: Next Steps to Secure Our Future
Tuesday, February 15th at 11:00 am PST/2:00 pm EST, hosted by Eno Center For Transportation
Successful cyber attacks on our transportation systems have a debilitating effect on the economy and public safety. Systems including oil pipelines, transit networks, airlines, and supply chains all are susceptible to an attack, but many are under prepared for a large and growing concern. Although cybersecurity does not capture the public attention until a crisis, putting policies in place now to stay ahead of the issue is increasingly vital. In this webinar, we will discuss the nature, threat, and public policies that surround cybersecurity in transportation.

More Info

WEBINAR: Improving the Environmental Sustainability of Concrete through Material Efficiency
Wednesday, February 16th at 10:00 am PST, hosted by National Center for Sustainable Transportation
Concrete is a key component of the built environment. However, the manufacture of cement-based materials, such as concrete, produces over 8% of worldwide anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions. Designing infrastructure in a manner that uses concrete more efficiently, and thus lowers consumption while meeting the same system demands, holds promise for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

More Info

WEBINAR: Pathways to Self-Sustaining EV Carsharing Programs
Wednesday, February 16th at 10:30 am PST, hosted by Mindful Mobility Tech Talks
EV carsharing programs play an important role in achieving climate goals and reduced low income rates can enable an equitable transition to transportation electrification, but these programs often struggle financially in their formative years. This talk will provide insight into how income-based EV carsharing can be modeled to succeed through innovation, using existing utility program infrastructure and vehicle to grid integration.
WEBINAR: TRB Virtual Career Fair
Thursday, February 17th at 9:00 am PST/12:00 pm EST (virtual), hosted by TRB
Attendees will have the opportunity to live chat directly with hiring managers, get instant feedback on their qualifications, and learn about job opportunities first hand. Job candidates will meet and network with dozens of prospective employers from a wide range of multimodal transportation-related disciplines, including engineering, consulting, operations, planning and more!

ITS Davis Webinar: Data analytics for Warehousing Transportation Analysis
Friday, February 18th at 1:40 pm PST (hybrid), hosted by UC Davis
“Demand for warehouse space is hitting record highs, and that doesn’t appear to be abating anytime soon. Demand is up 22% year-over-year in 2021. Logistics and parcel delivery is driving this growth. The 1,800 individual future tenants that participated in a study need over 600 million square feet of space” [9th annual Industrial Tenant Demand Study, published by JLL Industrial].

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG): The 2022 Student Showcase
In all, a total of $6,000 across four prizes will be awarded (two separate $2,000 "Best in Show" prizes and two separate $1,000 "Audience Award" prizes).
Abstracts Due: Feb. 22, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. (PST)
Final Projects Due: March 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. (PST)

SAVE THE DATE! METRAN Field Trip to Foothill Transit
Friday, February 25th at 10:00 am to 2:00 pm PST, pick up and drop off on USC main campus

ITS Davis Webinar: What Does Sustainable Freight Look Like for Caltrans?
Friday, February 25th at 1:40 pm PST (hybrid), hosted by UC Davis
There have been numerous regulations, laws, and policies passed in the last few years that are moving California to a more sustainable freight system. Among these is a carbon-neutral state with 100% zero-emission trucks by 2045. Learn how a large state department of transportation has navigated and embraced these new challenges, what Caltrans can do to help California achieve a more sustainable freight ecosystem, and what questions Caltrans still needs help answering in determining its most efficient path to this sustainable future.

Webinar: Electric Vehicle Charging Networks: Strategies, Data, and Models for States
Tuesday, March 1st at 11:00 am PST/2:00 pm EST, hosted by Eno Center for Transportation
In this webinar, researchers from Texas A&M Texas Transportation Institute and its spin-off EV charging analytics company, ElectroTempo, will discuss the policy implications of the IIJA for how states can and should be planning for an electric future. They will give examples of stakeholder coordination efforts, funding mechanisms, and the critical need to harness predictive analytics to optimize charging infrastructure investments.

SAVE THE DATE! PSR Emerging Scholars Transportation Research Symposium
Friday, March 4th, hosted by the Pacific Southwest Region University Transportation Center (PSR)
PSR Webinar: Bike Share in the Sacramento Region: Lessons Learned and What’s Next  
Friday, March 4th at 1:40 pm PST (hybrid), hosted by UC Davis  
Join us for this ITS-Davis Seminar where you’ll hear from Sabrina Bradbury, SACOG Senior Program Manager, about the latest on the region's bike share program and efforts to attract and manage both bike share and scooter share in communities around the region.

SAVE THE DATE! METRANS/PSR Research Seminar Series: Performative or Authentic? Assessing the Status of Transportation Equity Work in California  
Wednesday, March 9th at 12:00 pm PST (hybrid), hosted by METRANS  
This report assesses equity work within transportation in California by analyzing the expert perspectives of transportation professionals who also identify as Black or people of color. Key findings centered around a key distinction between “performative” equity work and “authentic” equity work. Key recommendations include supporting action-oriented equity work, especially around resource allocation and redistribution of decision-making power to communities. The report includes case studies of how to apply findings to new mobilities and policing, as well as visions for more equitable transportation futures.

SAVE THE DATE! METRANS/NCST Research Seminar Series: Incentive Systems for New Mobility Services  
Wednesday, March 23rd at 12:00 pm PST (hybrid), hosted by METRANS  
With rapid population growth and urban development, traffic congestion has become an inescapable issue, especially in large cities. Many congestion reduction strategies have been proposed in the past, ranging from roadway extension, transportation systems management and operations, to demand management. In this research, we study and develop mechanisms for offering incentives to organizations and companies to change the behavior of individual drivers in their organization. We then evaluate the performance of our method using data from the Los Angeles area as well as the models we develop during this research.

Proposals for "Green Transportation Summit & Expo 2022"  
Due on March 31st  
The Green Transportation Summit & Expo (GTSE) is the West Coast’s premier fleet modernization and sustainable transportation event. GTSE offers attendees an inside look at the latest in fleet technologies and innovation and provides informative sessions featuring a who’s who of national and regional transportation leaders.

2022 CCAT Student Poster Competition Submissions Open  
Due on March 31st  
The Center for Connected and Automated Transportation (CCAT) is pleased to announce that submissions are open for the 5th annual Student Poster Competition at the 2022 Global Symposium. This event is co-sponsored by the Intelligent Transportation Society of Michigan and invites all undergraduate/graduate students from U.S.-based institutions to participate.

SAVE THE DATE! METRANS Prof Dev/Industry panel event: State of Planning Roundtable  
Tuesday, April 5th (hybrid)

SAVE THE DATE! METRANS/PSR Research Seminar Series: Mobility, Accessibility and Disadvantaged Neighborhoods  
Wednesday, April 6th at 12:00 pm PST (hybrid), hosted by METRANS  
This project examines commonalities and differences among disadvantaged neighborhoods in mobility and access to opportunities, based on the concept of spatial-transportation mismatch (STM), which asserts that spatial distance and poor transportation are potential barriers to opportunities beyond one’s immediate location. The project analyzes variations in transportation resources and accessibility to employment, quality elementary schools, and health care. The study compares two regions in California,
one highly urbanized (Los Angeles County) and one more agriculture based (San Joaquin County). This allows us to compare disadvantaged neighborhoods with non-disadvantaged neighborhoods within each region, and to compare disadvantaged neighborhoods in one county versus another.