

Research Project Report
for
TRANSPORTATION SEMINAR VISITING SCHOLARS 2004-2005
SPR 304-331

Submitted by

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for

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and

Federal Highway Administration
Washington, DC

November 2005

Problem Statement

The need for continuing education in the transportation profession has been heightened in recent years by the introduction of new technologies and the advancement of new finance and contracting strategies. In addition, numerous retirements within transportation agencies have led to new career path opportunities for current agency employees, which necessitates re-tooling and avenues for obtaining the latest information about solving transportation problems.

As one step toward providing continuing education opportunities for Oregon's transportation professionals, the Portland State University Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) has been sponsoring weekly a Transportation Seminar Series continuously since September 2001. These seminars, free and open to the public, typically have 20-80 people in attendance, including PSU students and faculty, transportation professionals and other interested guests. Students may take the seminar for credit. These seminars follow in the tradition of earlier brown bag sessions presented by the PSU Transportation Research Group under the leadership of Prof. Ken Dueker using internal PSU research funds that led to the development of the CTS.

Since October 2002, using new distance learning technology, the CTS has been streaming the seminars live over the Internet, and also has archived more than 92 of the seminars (approximately 120 hours) via streaming video available free on the CTS web site. The web service has seen an average of approximately 40-50 outside viewings per month.

Until now, the seminar series has relied on local transportation practitioners and researchers as the main presenters. Because the seminar series was produced with essentially zero budget, there was no ability to invite speakers of national stature. Occasionally, the seminar series has been able to take advantage of a nationally known speaker who happened to be in Portland for other reasons. Now with financial support from the Oregon Department of Transportation, a new transportation seminar visiting scholar program has provided a unique opportunity to invite prominent speakers from around the U.S., giving transportation professionals from the Oregon Department of Transportation and other agencies the opportunity to interact with top thinkers in the transportation field. This report summarizes the results of the first year's activities under this new program.

Objective

The objective of this project was to expand the offerings of the Portland State University Center for Transportation Studies weekly seminar series, by inviting nationally-prominent visiting scholars to speak at the seminar series and participate in a post-seminar work session with ODOT staff.

Results

During the implementation of this project, we formed Technical Advisory Committee made up of representatives from ODOT, PSU and FHWA. Working with other PSU faculty, the TAC selected a preliminary short list of visiting scholar candidates. We then invited four prominent

transportation scholars to speak at regular Friday noon seminars at PSU. Visiting scholars spent the day in Portland, with a special post-seminar workshops and other meetings for ODOT employees, students and other relevant agency professionals. PSU made all travel arrangements and reimbursements following applicable state and federal guidelines for reimbursements through the PSU Office of Business Affairs.

The seminars were advertised via ODOT and PSU web sites, and the PSU CTS listserv. The seminar series was also advertised via the internal ODOT newsletter and via the TransNow newsletter. The seminars themselves were streamed live via the Internet and are archived permanently for future viewing.

Attendance for the four invited speakers combined totaled 205. In the additional roundtable discussions that took place for three of the speaker visits, the attendance totaled 65. Short summaries of each speaker's visit are presented on pages 3-10.

We conducted an on-line survey to gauge participants' impressions of the seminar series. Generally, participants were more than satisfied with the seminar series, and most respondents felt that the time, day of week and format were satisfactory. Many participants expressed gratitude for this series, and also provided some suggested speakers for future sessions.

Benefits

The results of this project have contributed toward improved continuing education opportunities for ODOT staff and for students and other agency professionals in Oregon. Through in-person attendance at the seminars, on-line viewing (live and in the future via the streaming video archives), and in-person discussion at the post-seminar work sessions, the Transportation Seminar Visiting Scholar program has provided a unique chance to educate and inspire ODOT staff and other participants. These results will lead, in the long run, to a better informed, more vibrant transportation community in Oregon.

It is hoped that the results of this project are allowing ODOT staff to apply the latest research findings and technology developments to existing ODOT practices and programs. This partnership between PSU and ODOT has opened the door to pursuing other mutually beneficial joint ventures in the future.

Dr. Lawrence D. Frank, J. Armand Bombardier Chair in Sustainable Transportation, School of Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia

Sustainable Urban Transportation

November 19, 2004



TransNow is the Federal Region X university transportation center, comprised of the University of Washington, Washington State University, the University of Idaho, the University of Alaska, Portland State University and Oregon State University. The Second Annual Transnow Student Conference was held on November 19, 2004 at PSU, and involved 67 students from universities around the Northwest, including Portland State University, University of Washington, University of British Columbia, University of Idaho and Boise State

University. See <http://its.pdx.edu/Transnow/> for the student conference website, which includes the list of students who attended the conference, downloadable student presentations, a list of students who won awards at the conference, pictures from throughout the day, and a summary of the results from the evaluations. The conference was “of, by and for students!” No professors or other faculty were involved in the conference in any way. Students presented their research and exchanged ideas with their peers in an environment that does not exist in the classroom or in other conferences. TransNow is committed to fostering student interaction between institutions while supporting a professional environment. The conference included both student presentations and a poster session to showcase the great student-led transportation research being done at universities in the Northwest. TransNow provided funds for food and student travel.

Thanks to support from the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Portland State University Center for Transportation Studies, several other conference events were possible. Tom Markgraf, aide to Congressman Earl Blumenauer appeared as a special guest to discuss Transportation and Livability in the 21st Century. The PSU Center for Transportation Studies sponsored a panel discussion of transportation professionals in the Portland region. The panel included Tom Kloster, Transportation Planning Manager at Metro, Alan Lehto, Manager of Transit Corridor Planning at Tri-Met, and Bill Kloos, Signal and Street Lighting Manager, Portland Department of Transportation.

Dr. Larry Frank was the Keynote Speaker, sponsored by the Oregon Department of Transportation. Dr. Frank is the Bombardier Chair holder in Sustainable Urban Transportation Systems in the School of Community and Regional Planning at the University of British Columbia. He specializes in the interaction between land use, travel behavior, air quality, and health. He has co-authored two books: *Health and Community Design*, *The Impacts of The Built Environment on Physical Activity* and *Urban Sprawl and Public Health* (www.islandpress.org). The American Journal of Preventive Medicine also published his study, *Obesity Relationships with Community Design, Physical Activity, and Time Spent in Cars* documenting for the first time relationships between travel habits, neighborhood design characteristics, and the odds of being obese. This study was featured in Time magazine, on CNN, ABC news, and over 200 media outlets worldwide. Dr. Frank recently completed a 5 year research program funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention, Georgia DOT, and the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority known as SMARTRAQ. This study tested the effects of land use and transportation decisions on travel choices, physical activity, and air quality. He is a co-principal investigator of two NIH funded projects based on Seattle and Baltimore to assess the effects of urban form on objectively measured physical activity.



STUDENT CASEY NOLAN INTRODUCES DR. FRANK



STUDENTS LISTEN TO DR. FRANK



STUDENTS LISTEN TO DR. FRANK

Dr. Nigel Wilson, Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Extending the Value of Automatic Data Collection Systems in Transit

Archive: http://www.media.pdx.edu/Transportation/Transportation_040105.asx

April 1, 2005



Professor Nigel Wilson of MIT visited Oregon on April 1, 2005, and his visit included a meeting with key TriMet management staff to discuss the value of coordination and interaction between universities and public transit providers. He presented evidence of a strong working relationship between MIT and the transit agencies in Boston, Chicago and San Juan, Puerto Rico as mutually beneficial arrangements. Dr. Wilson then presented his seminar at the Center for Transportation Studies at Portland State University, *Extending the Value of Automatic Data Collection Systems in Transit*, followed by questions and discussion. The seminar has been archived in streaming video format as indicated above. Finally the

seminar was followed by a roundtable discussion involving students, ODOT staff, and relevant transit agency staff from around the state. There were 30 people present in the audience at the seminar, and approximately 20 participants at the roundtable discussion.

Dr. Nigel Wilson is a Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He received his B.Sc.(Eng) at Imperial College, London University in 1965 and both his S.M. (1967) and Ph.D. (1970) at MIT. His areas of specialization are in public transportation, transport system design and new transportation systems. Professor Wilson also directs the MIT/Transit Professional Development Program which is a collaborative undertaking of applied research involving individual partnerships between MIT and major transit agencies engaged in large infrastructure projects. This program has proved to be a highly effective two-way educational process. Each partnership is a multi-year program focused on a jointly-developed research agenda addressing the agency's critical needs, and results in a series of recommendations and/or planning techniques that provide transit managers with the tools to address ongoing challenges. As a rule, the techniques and results obtained for one transit agency are applied to the other agencies participating in the program. In this way, the program facilitates propagation of best practices and technology transfer, first among all the participants and then to the industry as a whole. Overall, the program reinforces an agency's ability to act as a 'smart client' — to guide the work of consulting firms and contractors working on its projects, and to interact effectively with federal funding and regulatory agencies. The program also provides an opportunity for current agency staff to upgrade their skills through various technology-transfer and training activities.

Dr. Martin Wachs, Director, Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California at Berkeley

A Quiet Revolution in Transportation Finance

Archive: http://www.media.pdx.edu/Transportation/Transportation_041505.asx

April 15, 2005



Martin Wachs is Professor of City and Regional Planning and of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Until July, 1996, he was Professor of Urban Planning and Director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at UCLA, where he had been a member of the faculty since 1971, and where he served three terms as Head of the Urban Planning Program.

Dr. Wachs spoke to a full audience on A Quiet Revolution in Transportation Finance, and this was followed by a roundtable discussion on transportation finance with ODOT staff, students and relevant staff from state transportation agencies. There were 53 attendees at the seminar and 25 participants in the roundtable discussion

after the seminar.

Professor Wachs holds a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering from the City University of New York, and MS and Ph.D. degrees in Transportation Planning from the Civil Engineering Department at Northwestern University. Before joining UCLA he was an Assistant Professor at Northwestern University and the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has been a visiting professor at Oxford University, Rutgers University, The University of Iowa, and The Technion. In 1986 he received an award for being a "Distinguished Planning Educator" from the California Planning Foundation, and a Distinguished Teaching Award from the UCLA Alumni Association.

Dr. Wachs is the author or editor of four books and has written over one hundred published articles on transportation planning and policy, including the transportation needs of elderly and handicapped people; fare and subsidy policies in urban transportation, the problem of crime in public transit systems, and methods for the evaluation of alternative transportation projects. He has also done historical studies of the relationship between transportation investments and urban form in the early part of the twentieth century, and on ethics in planning and forecasting. Recently, his writings have dealt with the relationship between transportation, air quality and land use, and transportation finance.

Dr. Wachs currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Transportation Research Board and recently completed a term as a member of the California Commission on transportation Investment. He is currently a member of the Advisory Committee on Research and Development for the California Department of Transportation, and recently completed his term as the first Chair of the Advisory Panel for the Travel Model Improvement Program of the U.S. Department of Transportation.



JENNIFER DILL INTRODUCES DR. WACHS



DR. WACHS SPEAKS TO FULL SEMINAR ROOM



DR. WACHS LISTENS TO QUESTION AT ROUNDTABLE



FULL CONFERENCE ROOM FOR ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION



STUDENTS AND AGENCY PERSONNEL PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY

Dr. Sandra Rosenbloom, Professor of Planning and Director, Roy P. Drachman Institute for Land and Regional Development Studies, University of Arizona

If You're Not Part of the Solution, You're Part of the Problem: The Planner's Role in Meeting the Transportation Needs of An Aging Society.

Archive: http://www.media.pdx.edu/Transportation/Transportation_060305.asx

June 3, 2005



Dr. Rosenbloom is Professor of Planning and Director of the Roy P. Drachman Institute for Land and Regional Development Studies at the University of Arizona. Her current research interests are the safety, transportation, and land use implications of an aging population, public transit planning, and the role of private transport options in urban and rural transportation systems. She teaches courses in public finance, transportation planning, and public service delivery. The Drachman Institute, which Dr. Rosenbloom heads, is an interdisciplinary research and public service unit of the University of Arizona dedicated to the environmentally sensitive and resource conscious development of land and communities.

Dr. Rosenbloom spoke about the significant challenges that lie ahead in providing transportation systems and services for an aging population. The audience was highly interested in this topic, and it was recognized during the presentation that this is an area ripe for research. A number of key transportation agency representatives from Oregon were in attendance and in the end, the audience departed feeling motivated about making improvements in the way we plan and engineer the transportation system. There were 55 people in attendance at the seminar and 20 participants in the roundtable discussion.

Dr. Rosenbloom has an international reputation for her research work on transportation planning, highway safety, and the comparative impact of socio-demographic trends on transportation and land use patterns. She is a recognized expert on the travel patterns of groups with special needs and on the role of the private sector in the provision of transportation and other services. In 1999 she was given the inaugural Roger Tate Award by the Transportation Research Board in recognition of her outstanding body of research on the transportation needs of special groups. She has served as a Senior Fulbright Scholar in New Zealand, as Swedish-American Bicentennial Fellow in Lund, Sweden, and as a Senior German Marshall Fund Fellow in France and The Netherlands. In February 2003 she gave the invited prestigious Mel Webber Lecture to the University of California's system-wide transportation Institute. In 1998 she was honored with the Kitahua Lectureship by the Royal Australasian Association of Engineers. She was named Person of the Year in 1997 by the Tucson WTS and received the inaugural Margarita McCoy Award for Service to Women in Academia from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

Dr. Rosenbloom is the sole or senior author of over 50 peer-reviewed articles and dozens of monographs, book chapters, and major professional reports based on work funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Research Council, the US Departments of Labor,

Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, the General Motors Corporation, the Fannie Mae Foundation, and the American Association of Retired People (AARP). She is currently a consultant to the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and has recently consulted to the governments of Australia, Sweden, the Netherlands, and New Zealand on major transport issues. Dr. Rosenbloom is active in the Transportation Research Board, the American Planning Association, the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, and the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS)

Dr. Rosenbloom has a BA in Political Science, a Masters of Public Administration and Policy, and a PhD in Political Science from the University of California at Los Angeles. Before being recruited to the University of Arizona in 1990 she held an Endowed Chair as David Bruton Centennial Professor of Planning at the University of Texas at Austin.



JENNIFER DILL INTRODUCES DR. ROSENBLOOM SEMINAR AUDIENCE PREPARES FOR PRESENTATION



INTRODUCTION OF DR. ROSENBLOOM



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AFTER SEMINAR



PARTICIPANTS LISTEN TO DR. ROSENBLOOM