2021 Transportation Achievement Awards
The Center for Urban Transportation Research hosted the 2021 Transportation Achievement Awards on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. We were honored to present several student scholarships and awards throughout the evening and listen to remarks from FDOT Secretary Kevin J. Thibault.

The National Institute for Congestion Reduction presented its first Student of the Year Award to Carly Venditti from Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI). Carly is a second-year master of urban planning student at Texas A&M University with a focus on housing and community development. Her previous professional experience includes time with a community development corporation in Waterbury, Connecticut, as well as a full year of community outreach experience with a regional planning agency in southeastern Massachusetts. Carly aims to work specifically with cities struggling with post-industrial development issues or in an urban policy think-tank setting.

CUTR presented three CUTR Transportation Scholarships to outstanding transportation students. This multi-disciplinary scholarship provides funding for students studying transportation-related issues outside of engineering.
CUTR also presented the Georgia Brosch Memorial Transportation Scholarship to three exceptional transportation engineering students.
Student research posters were presented to judges before the awards ceremony. The posters covered various topics in transportation.

The 2021 ELEMENT Engineering Group Transportation Scholarship was presented to Trang Luong.

Partnering with WTS, ITE, and COMTO, we were proud to present the 3rd annual New Voice in Transportation Award to Alejandro Motta. Alejandro Motta is an engineer with FDOT.
CUTR honored recent retirees in a short tribute: Rob Gregg, Steve Polzin, and Dennis Hinebaugh. Together, the three researchers have over 70 years of experience at CUTR. [Watch the video.](#)

Florida’s Transportation Hall of Fame Award was first presented in 2003 to recognize an outstanding transportation professional who has made lifelong contributions to the transportation industry. We were thrilled to present the 2021 Transportation Hall of Fame Award to Sylvan ‘Sonny’ Holtzman. Holtzman has more than 60 years of service as a lawyer and public servant and a long-time friend and mentor to CUTR.

We would like to thank Maddy Richards and Tim Murphy (USF Engineering Development), Ryan Wakefield (USF Engineering), Debbie Schultz, Jodi Godfrey, Pam LaPaugh, Latoyia Fipps, Lizette Charriez, Melissa De Leon, Kiryanna Stanley, Lisa Staes, Fred Mannering, Ph.D., Cong Chen, Ph.D., and Pei-Sung Lin, Ph.D.

We would also like to thank the sponsors for this year’s event. These generous companies and their contributions allow us to provide scholarships to deserving transportation students. These sponsors support the next generation of transportation professionals by supporting academic courses, transportation conferences, technical workshops, and other experiences enriching their professional experiences before entering the workforce or higher education. [November 2021](https://mailchi.mp/cutr.usf.edu/cutr-connections-19186018)
President's Level

Dean's Level

Director's Level
New patent from CUTR researchers

Researchers at the University of South Florida have developed a method and algorithm to detect the location of debris and unexpected objects on roads using basic safety message data and connected vehicle technology.

Roadway debris and other unexpected obstructions, such as surface damage, can lead to significant traffic delays, or worse, crashes.

Currently, unexpected roadway obstructions are handled by relying on drivers’ self-reporting (e.g., through local maintenance departments or third-party smartphone applications), which is inefficient and unsafe as it may lead to distracted driving.

In addition, pinpointing the exact debris location can be challenging and adds to delays between notifications and actual removal from the responsible transportation agency. What is needed is an efficient and safe method to detect and position debris and other unexpected obstructions and timely notify fellow travelers and authorities.

The University of South Florida inventors designed an algorithm that detects and accurately positions unwanted objects and unexpected obstructions such as debris on road segments. The algorithm runs at roadside units/municipal data centers and utilizes the kinematic information and coordinates of Connected Vehicles, which readily transmits Basic Safety Messages. The algorithm has the potential of reducing the time and money spent by highway patrols and agencies to identify and remove debris from the road, spot-fix surface problems, as well as the risk of crashes caused by drivers’ swerving behavior to avoid debris on the road. The developed technique is also applicable to foreign object debris detection and removal from airport runways, which is a topic of significant interest in aviation industry.

Congratulations to Sisinnio Concas, Ph.D., Achilleas Kourtellis, Ph.D, and Mohsen Kamrani, Ph.D.

Fred Mannering named on annual Clarivate's Highly Cited Researcher list

Fred Mannering, Ph.D., CUTR’s executive director, was named on Clarivate’s Highly Cited Researcher list. The list celebrates the world’s leading researchers. This is the third consecutive year Mannering has made the list of researchers. Congratulations!
As part of the Safety by Design Florida initiative effort in FDOT’s District 1, CUTR research faculty member Jason Jackman worked with the Community Traffic Safety Team members in Lee County to produce a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) public service announcement (PSA). This collaborative PSA consisted of law enforcement throughout Lee County, including Chief Derrick Diggs (Fort Myers Police Department), Chief Anthony Sizemore (Cape Coral Police Department), Chief Kelli Smith (Florida Gulf Coast University Police Department), and Lieutenant Gregory S. Bueno (Florida Highway Patrol). Student volunteers from Florida Gulf Coast University also provided their time as extras. The RRFB PSA was created to help educate and promote the newly installed beacons to residents throughout Lee County. RRFBs can help reduce pedestrian crashes by up to 47%. One of Safety by Design Florida’s key mantras is “Safety for All Road Users”, and Chief Diggs drives this point home at the end of the PSA by reminding the public that safety is a community effort and “We’re all in this together”.

Learn more about Safety by Design Florida
ITE District Rising Stars Interviews

ITE’s Women in ITE Committee and Student to Younger Member Transition Task Force recently collaborated on this project to assist students and young professionals navigate the beginning stages of careers in transportation.

Our District Rising Stars and 2021 Young Leaders to Follow were interviewed on a variety of topics noted below ranging from career options to the importance of certifications.

Stay Safe!

For more information, please visit www.cutr.usf.edu

In 1988, the Florida Legislature created the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida (§334.065, Florida Statutes). CUTR is a part of the College of Engineering at the University of South Florida, in Tampa, Florida. Since its inception, CUTR has become internationally recognized in transportation research, education and technology transfer/outreach center, with a focus on producing products and people. Our work supports transportation agencies, the transportation profession and community, policy makers, and the public. CUTR provides high quality, objective expertise in the form of insightful research, comprehensive training and education, effective technical assistance and in-depth policy analysis, that translates directly into benefits for CUTR’s project sponsors. CUTR’s faculty of 37 full-time researchers, and 57 students, combines academic knowledge and extensive “real world” experience in developing innovative, implementable solutions for all modes of transportation. The multidisciplinary research faculty includes experts in engineering, planning, computer science, economics, public policy, public health, and geography. CUTR logs nearly $20 million per year in expenditures through contracts and grants to support its research, education, training and technical assistance missions.

Made by Christina Van Allen