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CUTR Connections [October 2020]

CUTR

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The Center of Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida looks forward to the Transportation Achievement Awards each year. With the current pandemic, CUTR will not host a 2020 Transportation Achievement Awards. With safety as our top priority, we will monitor the pandemic during the upcoming year and hope to meet in-person for the 2021 Transportation Achievement Awards.

However, CUTR hopes to celebrate the academic achievements of students pursuing the transportation field during our 2020 Transportation Student Achievement Awards on Thursday, November 12, 2020. This virtual event will present awards to both the Georgia Brosch Memorial Transportation Scholarship winners and the CUTR Transportation Scholarship Award winners. Students are the heart of the CUTR, and it is imperative for students to receive funding for their future careers in transportation and planning.

With your help, we awarded 8 scholarships in 2019—doubling the amount awarded in 2018! The 2019 Transportation Achievement Awards event was the second highest-grossing in the event's history due to your generous support, and we hope to help six gifted students by providing them with scholarships in 2020— and we need your help.

Upcoming Events

Please join us for our Friday Transportation Seminar Series! This series is hosted every Friday during the fall and spring semesters.

We have a full schedule of diverse talent presenting from 12 PM to 1 PM on Microsoft Teams. Links to join are posted on Facebook ahead of the presentations. *Click here to see a full list of presenters.*

You can also view previous seminar topics on our Youtube page.

Impacts of Autonomous Vehicles (AV) on Future Traffic Flow

Xiawei Tony Shi

Connected and Autonomous Transportation System (CATS) Lab
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Center for Urban Transportation Research
University of South Florida

AV Future Traffic Flow seminar

A Transit-Oriented Highway

A Transit-Oriented Highway
Phase 4 Research with THEA CVRTS

Congratulations to Program Director Sisinnio Concas, Ph.D. and his team as they move into Phase 4 of their research with the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority. To date, the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA), in collaboration with the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), has piloted Connected Vehicle (CV) technology in Tampa, Florida. Three phases of the Pilot have been performed. Phase 1 largely focused on concept development, system requirements and initial deployment planning. In phase 2, detailed design was performed, and the initial system was implemented and tested. Phase 3 is ongoing and involves operation, maintenance and reporting on data-driven performance impacts of the deployment. Phase 4 will extend the Pilot to create a CV Real-World Test Site, hereafter referred to as the "THEA CVRTS".

The approach to the THEA CVRTS will build on the Pilot’s existing deployment of Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC), but by deploying additional Roadside Units (RSUs) with both DSRC and Cellular Vehicle to Everything (C-V2X) capabilities, the site will have the capability to measure the impacts of a joint technology environment that is anticipated with the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCCs) proposed changes to the spectrum allocation.

The THEA CVRTS effort recognizes that the next USDOT Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Joint Program Office (JPO) research area will involve spectrum interference testing and thus is uniquely positioned to perform interference and channel capacity testing involving DSRC, C-V2X, and Wi-Fi. Another important approach element involves direct participation of automobile Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). The THEA CVRTS will collaborate with three automobile OEMs (Hyundai, Honda and Toyota) to deploy their respective OEM CV Onboard Units (OBUs) in their customer’s privately-owned vehicles. CUTR’s Autonomous and Connected Mobility Evaluation Group (ACME) will continue leading the Performance Measurement and Evaluation of the Pilot, establishing new performance measures, and assisting THEA and USDOT in the spectrum interference testing.

Photographs provided by: [https://theacypilot.com/media-resources/photos/](https://theacypilot.com/media-resources/photos/)
Success for Florida LTAP Center

The Florida Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Center has been housed at the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida (USF) for two years under Pei-Sung Lin, Ph.D., P.E., PTOE, FITE. The mission of the Florida LTAP Center is to improve the skills and increase knowledge of the local and tribal transportation workforce through training, technical assistance, and technology transfer to foster a safe, efficient, and environmentally-sound surface transportation system in Florida.

To ensure the safety of attendees, instructors, and staff during the pandemic, the Florida LTAP Center quickly worked to transition all in-person trainings to online GoToWebinar trainings starting March 23.

Because of the outstanding planning, coordination, promotion and facilitation of online trainings from all Florida LTAP team members, the Florida LTAP conducted 36 webinar sessions from mid-March to August. In less than 6 months, the Florida LTAP Center has more than 15,000 participants around the world attending the Florida LTAP webinars, with an average of 419 attendees per webinar. The total contact hours in the past 6 months exceeded 23,500.

This is a huge accomplishment, and the Florida LTAP Center has received numerous praises and very positive feedback from attendees. It has also become the modal of many LTAPs in the U.S. to provide online training in this challenging and uncertain COVID-19 period.

Click here to learn more about the Florida LTAP Program

National Walk to School Day
Wednesday, October 7, 2020 is National Walk to School Day.

CUTR Research Associate Jason Jackman has worked with Walk to School programs and similar initiatives since 2003 while he was still a student at the University of South Florida.

“I became more interested in school travel and community planning when I noticed the local elementary school had students bused one mile away to the after-school program,” says Jackman. “I started working at CUTR for the Florida Department of Transportation District 7 (Tampa Bay) Safe Routes to School Tampa Bay program. I continued building the program locally by working with over 30 schools throughout Tampa Bay, starting walking school buses and bicycle train programs, training statewide walking school bus coordinators, and building relationships for more safety education in schools and communities.”

Jackman is passionate about Walk to School Day and teaching his three small children the importance of pedestrian safety. “Walk to School Day is a reminder to students, families, community leaders, and schools that walking to school is (and should be!) a reliable transportation option for nearby students and families living near the school. Walking to school promotes health, safety, transportation, and community.”

If you plan to participate in Walk to School Day, Jackman offers the following tips:

- Walk in groups (safety in numbers)
- Follow the rules of the road
- Listen to the crossing guards
- Use sidewalks
- Cross at crosswalks
- Scan the road when crossing
- Walk with a parent(s)
- Wear bright clothing
- Meet other families at a well-lit location (parking lot, neighborhood corner, etc.)
- Plan your route
We hope you pass this information to members of your communities and celebrate your Walk to School Day by taking a photo of your walk and tagging us on Instagram @CUTRUSF

Stay safe!
For more information, please visit www.cutr.usf.edu

CUTR was established in 1988 in the College of Engineering at the University of South Florida, in Tampa, Florida. CUTR’s mission is to proactively support implementation of innovative multimodal transportation solutions and develop leaders through research, education and action. Our work supports transportation agencies, the transportation profession and community, policymakers, 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 45 research faculty, 60 students and post-docs combine 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.