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CUTR Connections [June 2019]

CUTR

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The *Journal of Public Transportation* is an international peer-reviewed open access journal containing original research and case studies associated with various forms of public transportation and related transportation and policy issues. Topics are approached from a variety of academic disciplines, including engineering, planning, economics, geography, public policy, political science, and others, and include policy, methodological, technological, and financial aspects. Emphasis is placed on the identification of innovative solutions to complex public transportation problems.

Please share our announcement and encourage your network, colleagues, and friends to submit their best papers!
Learn more

July 25, 2019

This course will provide education, tools, best practices, and strategies to plan for and execute an emergency evacuation.

Learn More

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**Boardroom Renamed in Honor of Rosa Parks**

*Rosa Louise McCauley Parks* (February 4, 1913 – October 24, 2005) was an American activist in the civil rights movement. Best known for her pivotal role in the Montgomery bus boycott, the United States Congress has called her “the first lady of civil rights” and “the mother of the freedom movement.”

Rosa Parks was an inspiration throughout the world, winning the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996 - the highest honor awarded to a U.S. citizen. On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Parks rejected bus driver James F. Blake's order to relinquish her seat in the "colored section" to a white passenger, after the whites-only section was filled. Parks was not the first person to resist bus segregation, but the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) believed that her arrest for civil disobedience in violating Alabama segregation laws had the best chance in court.

The Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) honors the legacy of Rosa Parks and her vast achievements by naming CUT 143, the main board room in the facility, in her honor. Pamela Lapaugh, an employee at CUTR for over 24 years, is touched by the renaming.

“Sometimes you must be true to yourself and stand up for what you believe in. As a person of color and a woman, CUTR has given me similar opportunities to help those in the
movement. Parks’ writings reveal that she was well aware that her refusal to give up her bus seat to a white passenger meant she may be "manhandled." Parks later said that she was "willing to take the chance."

“I suppose when you live this experience ... getting arrested doesn't seem so bad," Parks commented. After her arrest on December 1, 1955, sparked a community bus boycott, Parks labored hard to maintain the momentum of the movement.

Many attribute the longevity of the boycott to the elaborate, labor-intensive car-pool system. For one month, Parks served as a dispatcher, working to sustain the protest and encouraging riders and drivers to participate and continue with the boycott. In her detailed instructions to carpool riders and drivers, she wrote, "Remember how long some of us had to wait when the buses passed us without stopping in the morning and evening."

CUTR employee, Dean Kirkland-McMillan, a transportation employee for over 20 years writes, “One of my favorite quotes from Rosa Parks reads, ‘You must never be fearful of what you are doing when it is right.’ CUTR is doing what’s right, and it fills my heart with joy to hear CUTR has named this room in Parks’ honor.”

Rosa Parks was instrumental in shaping a new transportation system – one that has endured many iterations throughout the years. The new system of equality continues to improve daily, and CUTR is proud to honor a civil rights and transportation pioneer.

Advisory Board

CUTR is proud to welcome three new individuals to the Advisory Board. CUTR is excited to work alongside these talented individuals. Welcome!

Ysela Llort - Advisory Board Chair

Llort brings over 30 years of experience with transit agencies and DOTs.

"I get energized from collaborating with people to find practical solutions to the complex problems that enable such places to be."
Secretary Kevin Thibault, P.E. - CUTR Advisory Board member

Named Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation by Governor Ron DeSantis on January 18, 2019, Secretary Thibault oversees the lead agency in state government with the planning and development of a safe, viable, and balanced transportation system serving all regions of the state, and to assure the compatibility of all components, including multimodal facilities.

Executive Director Ken Lawson - CUTR Advisory Board member

Lawson currently acts as the Executive Director for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Earth Day - EV Expo 2019

In April, Citi kick-started its Earth Week events with the EV Expo, hosted by the Tampa Citi Green Team. The EV Kick Off Event included a keynote lecture on electric vehicle basics, benefits, and barriers from Tampa Bay Clean Cities co-coordinator Austin Sipiora, who is also a researcher with the CUTR Transit Research team.

The goal of the Citi EV Expo was to bring awareness of the environmental benefits of electric vehicles and the variety of plug-in vehicle options available.

Published Papers
Vehicle Driver Population" was recently accepted for publication at Transportation Research Record (DOI 10.1177/0361198119843479).

Dr. Islam is now a member with ANB70 as a Truck and Bus Safety Committee Member. Congratulations, Dr. Islam!

COMTO 2019 National Meeting

Each year, Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) hosts its annual National Meeting & Training Conference; the nation's premier gathering of professionals in the transportation industry. COMTO's annual conference brings together industry leaders across all modes of transportation for 4 days of learning, training, and networking. COMTO's National Meeting & Training Conference is open to transportation professionals at all career levels, government employees, manufacturers and suppliers, and all interested participants.

Register Now!

Announcements
On May 7, 2019, CUTR/USF students Christopher Moorman, Nicole Tremblay, Dayna Lazarus, and Sean Martin participated in the FDOT Florida Transportation Plan Visioning Session with support from Planning and Corridor Management Program Director, Kristine Williams, AICP, and Research Associate, Tia Boyd. Students participated in a poster session on trends and disruptors impacting long-range transportation planning in Florida. Christopher and Nicole also served as panelists for a riveting student panel discussion moderated by Kristine.

Congratulations to CUTR's Dean Kirkland-McMillan who completed both the bus safety training for Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program through The Federal Transit Administration, Office of Transit Safety and Oversight.

CUTR Program Director Lisa Staes was recently invited to become a member of the Editorial Board of Elsevier’s Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives Journal.
May 2019 | New Projects

**Project**  
Florida Transit Safety Operations Network (FTSON) 2019

**Sponsor**  
Florida Department of Transportation - Research Office

**PI(s)**  
Berry/Gregg

**Project**  
Toward a Florida Automated, Connected, Electric, and Shared Transportation System Roadmap: Phase 1

**Sponsor**  
Florida Department of Transportation - Research Office

**PI(s)**  
Bertini

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