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CUTR Connections [January 2018]

CUTR

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Message from the CUTR Executive Director

Happy New Year!

The Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida is looking forward to a fantastic 2018 filled with exciting and challenging opportunities in transportation. Our faculty, staff, students, and advisory board are all engaged in significant, transformative work that makes our transportation system, and thus our society, more safe, mobile, and sustainable.

For CUTR, 2017 was a phenomenal year, with our researchers producing results for our sponsors and actively participating in conferences, giving presentations, and submitting publications! We have added a new program focused on the Autonomous-Connected Mobility Evaluation under the leadership of Dr. Sisinnio Concas. We celebrated the career of Joel Volinski with a fantastic “Future of Public Transportation” symposium, and inducted former Miami mayor Maurice Ferré into the Florida Transportation Hall of Fame. We are proud of and grateful for the accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students and have high expectations for the future!

For 2018, we look forward to taking concrete actions toward implementing our
new multimodal transportation data collaborative. I am excited to be teaching “Sustainable Transportation” in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in spring semester 2018.

Please follow us on CUTR's website, Facebook, and Twitter to keep up-to-date on our activities from all the different programs that make up CUTR.

Wishing you and yours an outstanding 2018!

Robert L. Bertini, Ph.D., P.E.
CUTR Executive Director and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering

CUTR's Stories
Sara Hendricks, CUTR Senior Research Associate, presented "The Collaborative Role of Transit Agencies in the Provision of Bicycle & Pedestrian Street Improvements," as part of a session on public transit, at the 5th Annual University Transportation Centers Conference for the Southeastern Region, held at the University of Florida in Gainesville, November 16-17, 2017.

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Sara Hendricks, CUTR Senior Research Associate, shared findings of the research project, Methodology for Linking Greenways and Trails with Public Transportation in Florida, at the November 28th meeting of the Pasco County Metropolitan

Steps in Method to Link Trails with Public Transportation

Seek community input

Select travel market and trip purpose

Map trail network

Map trip origins and destinations

Identify demographic data sources

Map transit routes and stops

Define subarea(s)

Develop a typology of crossings having similar characteristics

Conduct site observations and inventories

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The Florida Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP), administered by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), recently hosted the *Advanced Mobility Device Securement Skills Development Workshop*. Numerous Florida transit agencies were represented at the two-day training.

This National Transit Institute course is sponsored by the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, and housed at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, in cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration.

Transit agencies have the responsibility to provide safe transportation and respect the civil rights of all passengers, including those who use mobility devices. In order to fulfill this responsibility, bus operators secure mobility devices and place seat belts on the passengers who use mobility devices as transit seating.

This important task is becoming increasingly challenging as operators are confronted with a variety of powered mobility devices that often lack traditional securement points and may not have been addressed in basic securement training.

The Advanced Mobility Skills Development train-the-trainer workshop provided classroom and on-vehicle instruction to agency representatives responsible for teaching securement techniques. Instruction included hands-on exercises utilizing a variety of mobility devices, an opportunity to address securement challenges, explore related issues with peers, and enhance their knowledge and skills.

The goal of the workshop was to present, demonstrate, and practice problem-solving skills for securing powered mobility devices. Participants discussed federal requirements regarding securement and seat belt use, and pre-trip preparation tasks. They were able to identify mobility device securement equipment, and determine effective strap securement locations on diverse types of mobility devices.

Participants learned about the use and placement of seat belts and shoulder belts, how to recognize proper body mechanics, and exercises which can reduce the risk of on-the-job injuries. To accomplish these objectives, the workshop integrated lecture, visual aids, participant discussion and learning activities.
Congratulations to the December 2017 graduating class of the Social Marketing in Transportation certificate program! This course blends theories of change, research, and case studies to help transportation professionals develop social marketing programs to address some of society's most challenging transportation behavior-related problems such as supporting efforts to increase use of carpooling, increase transit ridership and promote bicycle and pedestrian safety. This training program is sponsored by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Instructors were Phil Winters, Amy Lester, and Julie Bond with Craig Lefebvre. They were assisted by CUTR's
More information on the course can be found here: http://www.commuterservices.com/training/social-marketing-in-transportation-certificate/
Two Traffic Skills 101 (TS 101) courses were held during December and hosted by CUTR League Cycling Instructors: Julie Bond, Brentin Mosher and Lucy Gonzalez. On December 2, the course was held at the University of South Florida's St. Petersburg campus, and on December 9, held at the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). Traffic Skills 101 teaches bicyclists how to navigate the roads confidently and safely; students learn how to maneuver around obstacles, make emergency stops, signal to other vehicles, and ensure that their bicycles are working safely before taking off.

Fourteen students successfully passed TS 101 and received certificates. CUTR student Alex Cruz participated in the class held on December 2. According to Alex, “TS 101 is an essential course for all types of bicyclists and personnel that work for and with bicyclists. This course immersed me in real world scenarios that were both intimidating and rewarding, and provided me with the knowledge it takes to be a smart safe bicyclist for all road users.”
TBCCC coordinator Alex Kolpakov and intern Leah Mejias

Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition (TBCCC) attended and exhibited at the 12th Annual Sustainable Communities Workshop in Sarasota. This year's theme—Building a Better Future, Together—brought together Sarasota residents, business leaders, government agencies, and organizations to discuss a variety of topics, including solar, sustainable living, climate change, social equity, and green building. This year's conference featured a series of breakout sessions, including one on sustainable transportation with a focus on electric vehicles and bikes.

Sisinnio Concas is now a member of the SAE (www.sae.org) Shared and Digital Mobility Committee.

The Shared and Digital Mobility Committee will:

- Focus on developing and maintaining SAE Standards, Recommended Practices, and Information Reports that relate to shared and digital mobility technologies and models.
- Cover topics that include mobile applications for trip aggregation, payment processing, booking (or reserving) rides, vehicles, parking spots and other mobility services as well as commuter demand management and various other mobility use cases.
- Develop, review, and maintain terms and definitions that are commonly used in the shared and digital mobility space in partnership with government, private agencies, academia, and technical societies.
- Cover data specifications to harmonize transit feeds, payment mechanisms, APIs and data that are shared among various parties including academia, private and public sectors, as well as transit and planning agencies.
- Provide a forum for the open exchange and development of standards on cross-cutting disciplines where software, hardware, and dataset design, among others, intersect.
- Ensure a global framework for governments and planners across the world to understand, and thus enable better management of, emerging new models and
Phil Winters, Program Manager of the CUTR Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program, is assisting the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) with the development of a national TDM certification program.

Michael Audino, CUTR Researcher, enjoying his first fundraising event as President of the Board for Daystar Life Center.

Daystar (www.daystarlife.com) is a St. Petersburg-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide the necessities of life to those most in need to help alleviate hunger, homelessness and hopelessness.

Congratulations to Katie French on receiving her Master's degree in Public Health (M.P.H.), with a Concentration in Public Health Education! She is also now certified in Public Health (C.P.H)! She is working with the Motorcycle Injury Prevention Institute for several motorcycle safety campaigns, including a project to develop a mentor program and a social marketing-based campaign to promote voluntary, consistent DOT-compliant motorcycle helmet use. She has worked at CUTR since April 2016, starting as a Public Health Field Experience student, then a Graduate Assistant, and then as a Research Support Specialist in January 2017. She looks forward to developing as a public health professional in the area of traffic safety, using behavior-based interventions to reduce traffic-related injuries and fatalities. She is passionate about theory-based programs to promote behavior change, public health intervention design, and implementation science, so she is grateful for the opportunity to continue working at CUTR! We are happy to have such a dedicated and motivated young CUTRite continue to work with us and we wish her all the best as she works towards
Congratulations to our students that graduated last month with their Master’s degree: Manvitha Rajalingola -- Civil Engineering with a Transportation major; Ritaban Sengupta -- Business Analytics Information Systems, Joshua Barber -- Public Administration; Surya Vamshi Kandukoori – Computer Science; Teerapat (Ted) Charukitpaisarn – Civil Engineering with a Transportation major; Naga Priyanka Atluri – Computer Science; Henna Patani – Public Health with concentration in Epidemiology and Biostatistics; and Zhao Zhang – Industrial Engineering. We wish all of you the best as you pursue your dream job!

For the 18th year, CUTR has been working with Healthy Families Pasco to play Santa to a group of deserving children and hardworking families. This voluntary program helps parents in need, learn and improve upon skills in parenting, homemaking, health, etc. The families are from East Pasco County, and many of them are migrant workers. The gifts CUTR provides are the only gifts these children receive, and their requests are so small. Thank you Melissa DeLeon for coordinating this worthy cause, and thank you to everyone who participated by taking time to purchase gifts to put a smile on these children's faces.
CUTR collected 300 plus non perishable items to donate to Feeding America Tampa Bay! Thank you Jodi Godfrey for organizing this worthwhile cause and thank you all for your generous contributions!

December 2017 New Projects

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>PI(s)</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FDOT District One-Vehicle Inventory</td>
<td>Florida Department of Transportation- Research Office</td>
<td>Mistretta</td>
<td>$32,779</td>
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<td>Transit Research Inspection Procurement Services Program</td>
<td>Florida Department of Transportation- Research Office</td>
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<td>Transit Maintenance Analysis &amp; Resource Center</td>
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<td>Enhancing Cybersecurity in Public Transportation</td>
<td>Florida Department of Transportation- Research Office</td>
<td>Barbeau</td>
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December 2017 New Proposals

**Project:** Florida Transit Safety and Operations Network (FTSON) 2018  
**Sponsor:** Florida Department of Transportation -- Research Office  
**PI(s):** Berry/Gregg  
**Value:** $282,522

**Project:** Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) Bus Operator Training Curriculum Design and Production  
**Sponsor:** HART  
**PI(s):** Berry  
**Value:** $34,608

**Project:** Assessment of 5310 Program Utilization and Development of Strategies to Optimize Mobility Services for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities  
**Sponsor:** Florida Department of Transportation  
**PI(s):** Catala/Mistretta  
**Value:** $183,274

Welcome to CUTR
Hi everyone!
My name is Stephanie Lee. I am from Port St. Lucie, Florida. I'm an undergraduate student majoring in health sciences. I am working on transit safety and workforce development at CUTR. I hope to build lasting work relationships, and learn a lot during my time here at CUTR. I look forward to working with all of you!

Best Regards,
Stephanie

Hello everyone!
My name is Manvitha Rajalingola. I recently graduated with my Master's degree in Civil Engineering-Transportation at USF. My Master's thesis was on "Analysis of Distresses in Asphalt Pavement Transitions on Bridge Approach and Departures", in collaboration with the FDOT.

Hello everyone!
My name is Shahzada Azam and I am a graduate student at the Computer Science and Engineering department at USF. I have worked in the IT industry for nearly four years in various capacities and I recently joined CUTR as a Software Developer at the Motorcycle Injury Prevention Institute (MIPI). Here, I am working under the supervision
Hello!

I am Tanja Niels, a PhD student at the Institute for Intelligent Transportation Systems led by Professor Klaus Bogenberger at the Bundeswehr University in Munich. I have been working with Klaus’ group for two years now, after finishing a Master’s degree in Mathematics at the TU Munich. My research interests are use cases for autonomous driving in urban transportation and the effects of automated and connected vehicles on traffic capacity and the environment. I like traveling and playing volleyball. I arrive in Tampa on January 11th and am joining CUTR for six weeks. I am looking forward to meeting you all soon!

Best,
Tanja