CUTR Connections [July 2019]

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The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) recently announced that the University of South Florida will receive a $7.5 million grant to establish a national university transportation center (UTC) aimed at advancing research and education programs that address the nation’s critical transportation challenges. The USDOT selected USF from more than 50 applicants nationwide for the highly competitive award. Focused on traffic congestion relief, the USF program will be known as the National Institute for Congestion Reduction (NICR). Read more
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CUTR Director Dr. Robert Bertini's interview with WFLA.

Announcements
CUTR was honored to have U.S. Representative Kathy Castor visit their facility in early July. Congresswoman Castor advocated for the center’s recent $7.5 million grant to establish a national university transportation center, a proposal the U.S. Department of Transportation selected from over more than 50 others nationally. Castor addressed CUTR researchers and students on the importance of their work in solving America’s most pressing transportation issues and in reducing carbon emissions. She listened to comments and answered questions on topics like fuel economy, safer bikeways and sidewalks, and high-speed rail. Castor met with CUTR personnel and discussed their individual research projects, toured the center’s traffic control lab and viewed the center’s autonomous vehicle prototype. - USF College of Engineering

After 30 years of service, Dr. Steven Polzin has taken his talents to Washington, D.C. We appreciate his dedication and insights into transportation and planning, and congratulate him on his appointment as Senior Advisor for Research and Technology, in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).
CUTR Director Dr. Robert Bertini was honored to meet U.S. DOT Deputy Assistant Secretary Diana Furchtgott-Roth.

The 2019 Spring Envision Magazine is now available! Read about CUTR's autonomous, self-driving car research and how CUTR is improving bike safety in Tampa Bay and Beyond!

Research Spotlight: Dr. Mouyid Islam

“I presented a poster and project results at the ASCE T&DI conference (ICTD 2019) in Alexandria, Virginia from June 9 to 12, 2019. The title of my presentation is ‘Creative Utilization of Urban Roadway Facilities with Predictive Safety Assessment Tool – Phase 1.’ I presented this on Crash Prediction and Assessment session on June 11, 2019. The session was moderated by Dr. Mecit Cetin with 5 presenters. Also, I presented a poster entitled ‘Motorcycle Fatality Rates in the United States: A Bivariate Tobit Analysis with The Fatality Analysis Reporting System’ in the poster session on June 10.”
Moreover, I served as a judge in Young Member's 3-minute pitch session. Participating in the technologically recent plenary, technical, breaking sessions at ICTD 2019, made me motivated to participate in future ASCE T&DI conference and get involved with committee activities such as Transportation Safety and Infrastructure Systems. I appreciate the support I received from CTEDD and CUTR Director Dr. Robert Bertini to travel to this conference and present.

Research Spotlight: Dr. Sean Barbeau

"Most of the technologies we need already exist,' said Dr. Sean Barbeau, Principal Mobile Software Architect for Research and Development at CUTR. 'Each provides a valuable piece. However, there are some unique challenges to applying them efficiently to the transit system.' The research project addressed three of those challenges:

1) Valuable information must be gathered. Citizens need a single, reliable platform to send transit agencies enough relevant information to make informed decisions, like location information and images.

2) Information must be triaged. Once that information starts to flow, it must be organized so transit agencies can best use it to address problems.

3) Work tasks must be assigned properly. Customer service tickets must be assigned to the agency with jurisdiction over the problem."

Read more from Dr. Barbeau’s research here.
The 2019 Florida Commuter Transportation Summit, sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation, and hosted by the Center for Urban Transportation Research, was held on May 29 – May 31, 2019 in Sarasota, Florida. The Summit is an annual event that includes innovative presentations on Transportation Demand Management topics and updates from the FDOT districts. Recipients of the Florida Travel Choices Awards and Commuters Choice Certificate Graduates were recognized, as well as a recognition of the Florida Best Workplaces for Commuters Partner for 2019.

The following students graduated with a Commuter Choice Certificate and were recognized at the 2019 Florida Commuter Transportation Summit: Christopher Arabia, Edgard Baez, Anne Galamb, Edward Perzanowski, Anne Vivino. Congratulations!

Click here to read more about the Summit.
Design, remix, and share your street. Add bike paths, widen sidewalks or traffic lanes, learn how all of this can impact your community. Visit StreetMix!

I3 Transportation Summit

Dr. Pei-Sung Lin and Dr. Nikhil Menon presented their research work, "An Empirical Assessment of a Week-long Automated Shuttle Demonstration in a Low-Speed Environment" at the 2019 I3 Transportation Summit.

Crystal Wang, Rakesh Rangaswamy, and Saied Soleimaniamiri presented their research work at the FLORIDA I3 poster competition. Crystal won first place in this competition.
Congratulations to the USF ITE Student Chapter who placed 2nd in the Traffic Bowl competition against the University of Florida team. Congratulations Gator ITE - UF Student Chapter!