

The NTC Today

Summer 2007

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Morgan State University National Transportation Center

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Message from the Director

The National Center for Transportation Management, Research and Development or National Transportation Center (NTC) for short is pleased to produce the first newsletter for our readers under a new University Transportation Centers Program grant. NTC was reauthorized by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users last summer. NTC staff, University administrators, and faculty worked extensively on a strategic plan that received U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) approval in January 2007. USDOT staff also conducted a site visit to the center recently, which all centers undergo, and it reinforced in our minds that NTC has embarked in the right direction. NTC has worked on several education and outreach initiatives and we are pleased to report them

in this Summer issue of the **NTC Today**. To learn more about the center and our various programs, please view our website at www.eng.morgan.edu/~ntc.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Andrew Farkas

NTC Director



Special Topics:

BRAC- What is It?

Internships Keep MSU Students Busy this Summer!

Summer Transportation Institute 2007

The academic school year has come to a close and campus should be very quiet around this time, except for the National Transportation Center at Morgan State University. The Summer Transportation Institute is anxiously awaiting the arrival of our 2007 STI par-

ticipants. This year should be better than ever. We mobilized across Baltimore City and County to find the most diverse group of student applicants from a wide range of high schools throughout the area. The NTC would like to thank Carver Vocational High School,

St. Francis Academy, Patterson High School and Carver High School for Arts and Technology for their hospitality and dedication to the students and the transportation industry.

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NTC Welcomes New Advisory Committee Members

The National Transportation Center's (NTC) Advisory Committee has provided much useful advice and industry knowledge during the strategic planning period and for the research and education initiatives of the center. The committee meets quarterly and remains very active throughout the academic year.

The Chairman of the NTC Advisory Committee, Ronald L. Freeland, was recently appointed as Executive Secretary of the Maryland Transportation Authority. We wish him much success in his new position and we look forward to

his continued leadership of the committee. We are also pleased to announce the addition of four new members to the Advisory Committee.

We Proudly Welcome:

Edward H. Power, Senior Vice President
HDR Engineering

Nathan Beil, President
KCI Technologies

Jay B. Watkins, CEO
Construction Management

Paul J. Wiedefeld, Administrator
Maryland Transit Administration

As the Advisory Committee continues to expand and evolve, the mission of the NTC remains the same— helping to shape the minds of students to become successful transportation professionals.

2007 Eisenhower Fellowship Recipients

The NTC at Morgan State University is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2007 Federal Highway Administration Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation HBCU fellowship. Each Eisenhower recipient will conduct research and will attend the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Each Fellowship awardee is expected to develop a fifteen minute presentation on his/her research project at the meeting.

2007

[Eisenhower Fellowship Recipients](#)

Mesgana Ayele

Christian Pantin

Avijit Maji

Sutapa Samanta

"Presumption should never make us neglect that which appears easy to us, nor despair make us lose courage at the sight of difficulties."

- Benjamin Banneker

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NTC Educates Graduating Seniors

Graduating seniors at Morgan State University had the opportunity to gain first hand information regarding new and current developments in transportation. Students were also briefed on scholarships, internship possibilities, fellowship and research assistantships. MSU faculty and staff were on hand to assist those students interested in pursuing graduate studies in transportation.



Pictured Above- Nathan Beil, President of KCI Technologies, speaks to students and faculty members on the professional evolution of transportation and engineering.

Invited guest speakers included Dr. Moges Ayele, Senior Liaison for Higher Ed, FHWA; Ron L. Freeland, Executive Secretary MD Transportation Authority; Nathan Beil, President of KCI Technologies; Ken Chapman, MTA and Dr. Eugene DeLoatch, Dean of the Morgan State University School of Engineering.



MD State Highway Extends Internships to MSU Students

Over fifteen years ago, Morgan State University and the State Highway Administration (SHA) established a partnership agreement to facilitate research, training, and student internship opportunities. That partnership agreement continues to assist students in paving successful careers in the industry by offering internships for the Summer .

2007 SHA Interns

Office of Real Estate

Jessica Bracey

Delvan Dorsey

Traffic Engineering

Kimon E. Johnson

Office of Highway Design

Natasha Lyons

Hon Kei Chung

Office of Traffic Safety

Brian Kamamia

Highway Safety Office

Pravesh Bonomally

Employment and Program Equity

Monica Wooden

Office of Communication

Thais Meadows

Mariska Jordan

Office of Policy and Research

Kashun Davis

"My team teaches me so many things from the best places to eat to how to create a business plan and even business process theories. No college course could give me such valuable variety. Thank you so much. I have considered pursuing the Master of Transportation upon graduation".

- Monica Wooden, 2007 SHA Internship Participant

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Research, Research and . . . More Research

Research is the backbone of the NTC. Solving real world transportation issues that affect the community and educating students on the research process are the NTC's high priorities. NTC research projects are categorized throughout the grant year in three categories—New, Ongoing and Completed. The NTC also houses a complete listing of archived research projects and their descriptions for additional research purposes. Several research proposals are in the pipeline; the following are two of the newest research projects underway at the NTC:

Estimation of Traffic Recovery Time for Different Flow Regimes on Freeways

The objective of the project is threefold: (1) To develop, calibrate and validate a microscopic simulation model capable of reasonably depicting the prevailing traffic-flow conditions on selected segments of freeways with known design parameters; (2) To develop incident scenarios involving different duration's and traffic intensities, and capturing the resulting traffic recovery times; (3) To develop and document mathematical and/or graphical relationships between incident duration and traffic recovery time for different values of traffic intensity (i.e., volume-capacity ratio). The results of this study will help SHA develop measures to deal with recovery time after incidents. This will enhance SHA's ability to mitigate the impact of congestion and delay on Maryland's highway network.

-Dr. Anthony Saka, Morgan State University

The Influence of Custodial Care of Children Among Elderly African Americans on Their Travel Behavior and Transportation Needs

The objective of this project is to analyze the increasing trend and the elevated numbers of elderly-headed households who have partial or sole care for children under the age of eighteen. The analysis of this group will allow for a better understanding of this much often neglected group who most often rely on public transportation or the transportation assistance of others. To provide a better understanding of their travel behavior and travel needs, data from the 2002 Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey (NPTS) will be analyzed exploring such variables as age, gender race, income, region of the country, and household structure. trips, and both work and non-work trips. In addition, the proposed research project will conduct research on elderly focus groups who are engaged in "second parenthood's" in Baltimore City in order to complement and obtain a better and more detailed understanding of how "second parenthood's" affect their travel behavior and needs and ultimately new transportation technologies that may be necessary in order to meet their transportation needs.

- Dr. Robert J. Smith, Morgan State University

"Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose".

-Zora Neale Hurston

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MDOT Selects Morgan State Graduate Student Interns



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the NTC and Institute for Transportation at Morgan State University awarded five transportation graduate students the opportunity to work as interns within various departments of MDOT. Donnie DeBerry, Akinola Hassan, Lloyd Matthews, Mohamed Semmah and Jason C. Whaley were selected for the 2007 Internship program. Students were placed in different agencies under the MDOT umbrella.

Donnie DeBerry-

SHA, Office of Materials, Technology, Organizational Development and Computer Services Division.

Akinola Hassan and Lloyd Matthews-

MVA, Employee Development and Training Division

Jason C. Whaley-

MVA, Project Development Division

Mohamed Semah-

SHA, Office of Traffic Safety-TDSD

Hot Topics In Maryland Transportation

The Federal Base Realignment and Closure, known as "BRAC" is one of the most talked about topics in Maryland. The Federal Government has devised a plan to close the Fort Monmouth Army Base and relocate many positions to Aberdeen Proving Ground and Ft. Meade Maryland. Over 25,000 jobs will be relocated to the Maryland region. With this significant change in population, the Maryland Department of Transportation is moving quickly to devise multiple plans of action associated with the transportation increases due to BRAC. The Maryland Department of Planning has created a BRAC report highlighting pertinent information regarding the BRAC project.

The Maryland Department of Planning has pointed out many key transportation issues as they relate to BRAC.

- BRAC does not bring new and different sources of funding with it, and it will be necessary to work within Maryland's existing financial capabilities to address the most important transportation needs
- Maryland Department of Transportation does not have the financial resources to construct most of the investments needed to resolve many transportation concerns
- Many of the recommended transportation studies and investments will be needed with or without the BRAC project
- As the impacts of BRAC –related growth continue to be realized, the Maryland Department of Transportation intends to partner with local governments, transit providers and regional agencies to identify changing priorities

If you have an idea or research proposal that relates to BRAC, please contact the National Transportation Center at Morgan State University.

The National Transportation Center

at MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



A Key to Human and Economic Development



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The NTC Today is published biannually with a Summer edition and a Fall Edition. Editorial comments and/or questions can be directed to the NTC Staff at 443/885-3666. The NTC looks forward to hearing from you!

