



**U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration**

***Transit Research and Industry News Update
Contents – October 2009***

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SPECIAL

Highlights of FTA Impact on Public Transportation

The U.S. Federal Transit Administration has released a report that highlights its role over the last 25 years in enhancing the safety, reliability, availability, and accessibility of public rail, bus, trolley, ferry, and other transit services. More Online at:

http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/FtaImpactBook_Web.pdf

Federal Transit Administration Launches Bus Safety and Security Website for Small Urban and Rural Transit Agencies

On October 6, 2009 the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) launched a new website designed to help rural and small urban transit providers develop and carry out effective safety, security, and emergency preparedness programs. The Bus Safety and Security Website was announced by FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff at the American Public Transportation Association's annual conference in Orlando, Florida.

"Getting this important information to small transit agencies supports Secretary LaHood's drive to improve safety across the board in transportation," Rogoff said. "This site provides practical safety and security solutions in the most efficient manner possible and allows transit agencies to share their ideas and successes with each other to promote a higher level of transit safety and security throughout the nation." More online at:

http://www.fta.dot.gov/news/news_events_10661.html

Proterra Shows All-Electric Bus in D.C.

On Monday, October 26, 2009 the Proterra Hydrogen Fuel Cell Hybrid Electric Bus was on display and available for inspection at the U.S. Department of Transportation. This advanced technology bus was developed with partial federal funding under the National Fuel Cell Bus Program.

On October 29, 2009 the Colorado-based manufacturer of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicle systems and transit buses, Proterra LLC and Altair Nanotechnologies Inc., provider of energy storage systems, introduced the only made-in-America electric rapid-charge hybrid bus that meets California's zero emission rules to Washington DC policymakers.

Proterra's initial product, a 35-foot all-electric transit bus, has been designed to enable transit agencies to replace conventional diesel buses on a one-for-one basis with an electric transit bus that runs 24/7, according to the company. The vehicle achieves between 18 and 29 miles per gallon diesel-fuel-equivalent fully loaded with 68 passengers. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/10/Proterra-shows-all-electric-bus-in-D-C-.aspx>

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Dual Variable Output Fuel Cell Hybrid Bus Validation Testing and Demonstration (Proterra Bus) Project

FTA Project: GA-04-7002-03
Record Type: Research in Progress
Funding: \$453,120
Schedule: August 2009 – September 2012
Performer: Center for Transportation and the Environment
730 Peachtree Street, Suite 330
Atlanta, GA 30308
Contact: Jason Hanlin
Phone: 678-244-4155
FTA Project Monitor: Sean Ricketson, TRI
Phone: 202-366-6678
Fax: 202-366-3765
Email: Sean.Ricketson@dot.gov

Description. Under the National Fuel Cell Bus Program, the Center for Transportation and the Environment is conducting the Dual Variable Output Fuel Cell Hybrid Bus Validation Testing and Demonstration (Proterra Bus) project. This project is demonstrating an innovative fuel cell system, using two 16kW fuel cell stacks packaged into a single 32kW operating system. The dual variable output configuration operates the two cell stacks in parallel during times of high load demand, and individually when less power is required, automatically alternating stack usage under normal conditions. The expected result could extend combined fuel cell stack life up to 75 percent. The battery dominant hybrid-electric bus is an innovative composite design developed by Proterra, LLC (formerly Mobile Energy Solutions). This design adopts modular elements allowing bus components to be updated quickly and easily. The bus uses advanced lithium-titanate batteries.

Index terms: National Fuel Cell Program, Fuel Cell Hybrid Bus, Proterra Bus, Hybrid Electric Bus, Plug and Play

National Bus Rapid Transit Institute

FTA Project: FL-26-7111
Record Type: Research in Progress
Funding: \$1,701,875
Schedule: June 2009 – June 2011
Performer: University of South Florida
Center for Urban Transportation Research
3650 Spectrum Boulevard, Suite 160
Tampa, FL 33612-9446

Contact: Dennis Hinebaugh, Director
Phone: 813-974-9833
FTA Project Monitor: Helen Tann, TRI
Phone: 202-366-0207
Fax: 202-366-3765
Email: Helen.Tann@dot.gov

Description. The objective of this cooperative agreement is to support the efforts of the University of South Florida to continue the operation and administration of the National Bus Rapid Transit Institute. The Institute will continue to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and innovation for increasing the speed, efficiency, and reliability of high capacity bus service through the implementation of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems in the United States. Other functions of the Institute include maintenance of BRT website portal, quarterly newsletter, BRT Peer-to-Peer Program, clearinghouse, and U.S. and international scanning tours. The Institute was created in January 2001 at the University of South Florida's Center for Urban Transportation Research with the charge of creating a national program for training, technical assistance, research, innovation, and evaluation of existing and proposed BRT projects.

Index terms: Bus Rapid Transit Institute, Research, National Program, High Capacity Bus Service, Peer-to-Peer Program

ITS Pilot Project at the Ohio State University

FTA Project: OH-26-7248-03
Record Type: Research in Progress
Funding: \$452,212
Schedule: August 2006 – October 2011
Performer: Ohio State University Research Foundation
1960 Kenny Road
Columbus, OH 43210
Contact: Patricia Evans
Phone: 614-292-3149
FTA Project Monitor: Raj Wagley, TRI
Phone: 202-366-5386
Fax: 202-366-3765
Email: Raj.Wagley@dot.gov

Description. The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Pilot project at the Ohio State University centers on exploiting automatically sensed data for improving transit planning and operations. This project supports development and demonstration of methods to estimate general traffic patterns from fleets of AVL-equipped buses, i.e., using buses as probes of traffic conditions, and to improve the estimation of traffic conditions by mounting inexpensive traffic sensors on buses, i.e., using buses as mobile platforms for traffic sensing. The project effort includes the development, testing, and validation of strategies to estimate origin-destination passenger flow patterns from automatic vehicle

location (AVL), automatic passenger counter (APC), and automated fare collection (AFC) data.

Index terms: Transit Bus, Traffic Probes, Automatic Passenger Counter, Automatic Vehicle Locator, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Pilot Program, Transit Planning and Operations, Automatically Sensed Data

FROM THE TRI RESEARCH CORNER

Delegation from UK Meeting with USDOT Representatives

On October 20, staff from the FTA, FHWA, and FRA met with a delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to discuss multimodal transportation services, advanced technologies, congestion management and international cooperation. The visiting delegation consisted of Parliament Members Ms. Louise Ellman, Mr. John Leech, Mr. Eric Martlew; Committee Members Messrs. David Davies and Adrian Jenner and British Embassy Transport Policy Advisor Jon Shifrin. The meeting dialogue centered on the USDOT's Livability Initiative and FTA's International Program.

Distracted Driving Summit

TRI staff attended the second day of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Distracted Driving Summit held in Washington, DC. The summit sought answers to questions relating to: 1) the key sources of distracted driving; 2) the key challenges to addressing distracted driving; and 3) the technology and research needs that should be advanced to remedy distracted driving. USDOT Secretary Ray LaHood provided the opening and closing remarks for the Summit, and FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff led a panel on Legislation, Regulation and Enforcement of Distracted Driving.

Meeting with Delegation from the Czech Republic

On October 20, 2009 a delegation from the Czech Republic met with FTA staff. The delegation was sponsored by the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program and focused on "New Approaches in Energy Efficiency/Sustainable Building Technologies." A particular interest of this program was to explore trends in energy efficiency and sustainable energy development in the U.S. with a focus on transportation. Topics of discussion included research activities on alternative fuels and hybrid buses; environmental awareness issues; and alternative modes of transportation such as biking and pedestrian movement. The delegation expressed interest in continuing to explore technical areas of common interest.

National Center for Transit Research

The National Center for Transit Research (NCTR) at the University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida held its annual board meeting on October 29, 2009. The FTA has a

representative on the NCTR board. One major item discussed at the meeting was the proposed FY 2010 NCTR transit research plan.

The NCTR program builds on the goals and philosophies of the National Urban Transit Institute, which was established at the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida in Tampa by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991. The theme of NCTR is to make public transportation and alternative forms of transportation, including managed lanes, safe, effective, efficient, desirable, and secure. The goals of NCTR are to minimize traffic congestion, maximize mobility options, promote safety and security, improve the environment, and enhance community sustainability. NCTR is one of only two University Transportation Centers devoted solely to public transit research.

TRB 89th Annual Meeting January 2010

All FTA panel sessions for the TRB 89th Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at the Hilton Hotel at 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Behind Open Doors, States Track Stimulus

What do an FBI fraud team, a showdown between a governor and the legislature, and a sophisticated online system called geographic information systems have in common? All are part of states' efforts to ensure that billions in federal stimulus money are spent wisely within their borders. States have appointed stimulus czars to monitor the use of stimulus funds and have created Websites to provide financial details of the economic recovery effort. You can click on a state to learn more about its czar and Website. More online at: <http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=431492>

California Stimulus Saved or Created 100,000 Jobs

October 10, 2009. More than 100,000 jobs have been saved or created in California from the \$5.3 billion in federal stimulus money state agencies have spent so far, according to a preliminary report released by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration. The report from the California Recovery Task Force was based on nearly 6,000 reports submitted to the federal government on behalf of state agencies and their grantees detailing their job creation through September 30. More than 62,000 of the jobs saved or created to date have been in education programs, including 34,000 jobs in the University of California and California State University systems, and 28,000 jobs in the Department of Education programs such as public school teachers and special education workers. Together they reported spending more than \$5 billion. More online at: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_13534582

First Wave from States will Test Recovery.gov Stimulus Reporting Mettle

October 09, 2009. The newly redesigned Recovery.gov, the Website that reports on what's happening with the \$787 billion available through the economic stimulus spending law, gets its first real test on October 10. That's when organizations that have gotten stimulus money are to report their first round of measurement data. More online at: <http://www.fcw.com/Articles/2009/10/09/Level-3-Recovery-gov-Web-site.aspx>

ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

How to Measure the Maturity of Your Green IT Goals

October 2, 2009. The Object Management Group is leading a project to develop a Sustainability Assessment Model that organizations can use to assess, monitor and report on their progress in achieving green goals. Although the model is in the early stages of development, it will include a series of maturity levels that organizations can use to organize and track their efforts, similar to the maturity model for software development. More online at: <http://fcw.com/Articles/2009/10/05/FEAT-Green-data-maturity-levels.aspx>

TRB Webinar: A Transportation Research Program for Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change and Conserving Energy

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) will conduct a Webinar on Wednesday, December 2, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST that will explore the findings of "TRB Special Report 299: A Transportation Research Program for Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change and Conserving Energy." Participants must register at least 24 hours in advance of the start of the Webinar, space is limited, and there is a fee for non-TRB Sponsor employees. More online at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/640985073>

World Energy Outlook 2009 - Climate Change Excerpt

The International Energy Agency has released a report "How the Energy Sector Can Deliver a Climate Agreement in Copenhagen" that explores trends in energy use and emissions by business sector, country, and region. The special early excerpt discusses ways that the energy sector can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to inform negotiations leading to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009. More online at: http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/docs/weo2009/climate_change_excerpt.pdf

FEDERAL RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Cooperative Research Programs Security Research Status Report

The Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Cooperative Research Program produces a table summarizing more than 80 security and emergency preparedness projects

representing over \$11 million in the contract research programs for state departments of transportation and the public transportation industry. More online at: <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/Onlinepubs/dva/CRP-SecurityResearch.pdf>

East Tennessee Hydrogen Initiative - Chattanooga

Report FTA TN-26-7032-2009.1 documents the results of a research project completed by the Center for Energy, Transportation and the Environment (CETE) at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) under a Federal Transit Administration Cooperative Agreement. The research has led to the design and implementation of a system for generating, compressing, storing and dispensing hydrogen in sufficient quantities to support testing of hydrogen fueled transit vehicles. This report provides background information on alternative fuels and compares various methods for producing hydrogen including nuclear energy, coal gasification, electrolysis and natural gas reformation. A simulation model was completed during the research project to relate energy consumption to power and energy storage requirements for transit vehicle operations. It includes an economic analysis for comparison of alternatives and a description of a rigorous decision making process that was used to select the various technologies used in the final configuration of a hydrogen fueling system that was optimized to support research on the use of hydrogen for transit vehicle operations. More online at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/assistance/research/research_8850.html

Electronic Fare Collection for Commuter Railroads

Report FTA-MA-26-7109-2009.1 discusses technical and institutional issues and lessons learned related to the implementation of automated fare collection (AFC) systems on commuter railroads. The report includes six case studies with commuter railroads' experiences in adoption of AFC technology. The lessons learned from these case studies are intended to be of use to agencies considering a move to AFC. This research was sponsored by FTA as part of its efforts to disseminate knowledge related to new technologies and emerging trends within the transit community. More online at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/assistance/research/research_8850.html

The EMX Franklin Corridor BRT Project Evaluation

Report FTA-FL-26-7109-2009.2 documents an evaluation of the Lane Transit District EmX (Emerald Express) Franklin Corridor Bus Rapid Transit project, funded by FTA, in the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area in Oregon. The report provides comprehensive coverage of the EmX project including project context and components, system costs, system performance, and system benefits. Since it began operation on January 14, 2007, EmX has continually increased its ridership. Ridership numbers have increased from approximately 4,000 riders in February 2007 to almost 5,400 in April 2008. More online at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/assistance/research/research_8850.html

Evaluation of Electronic Data Recorders for Incident Investigation, Driver Performance, and Vehicle Maintenance

The National Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida released a report that explores the ability of Event Data Recorders (EDR) to assist transit agencies with incident investigation, driver performance monitoring, and vehicle maintenance. The report includes recommendations for improvements to the procurement, installation, and use of the technology by public transportation agencies. More online at: <http://www.nctr.usf.edu/projects/Year8/77808.html>

Presentations from Fourth Annual Drug and Alcohol National Conference

FTA's Office of Safety & Security hosted the "Fourth Annual Drug and Alcohol National Conference" in Nashville, TN on April 7 - 9, 2009. Presentations from this Fourth Annual Drug and Alcohol National Conference are now available online. The conference included speakers from the Department of Transportation's Office of the Secretary's Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance, FTA auditors, FTA Drug and Alcohol MIS Program and Newsletter staff, and professionals from the DOT Drug and Alcohol testing industry. More online at: <http://transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov/DrugAndAlcohol/Training/NatConf/2009/>

Remote Infrared Audible Signage Pilot Program Evaluation Report

Report FTA-WA-26-7072-2009.1 documents the evaluation of the Remote Infrared Audible Signage (RIAS) study, sponsored by the FTA and authorized under a provision of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). RIAS is an orientation and mobility technology designed to eliminate barriers to accessibility for people who are visually impaired or are cognitively or developmentally disabled. This report presents evaluation findings of the RIAS Pilot Program in the Puget Sound region of Washington State. It outlines the evaluation methodology and presents focus group and survey findings, lessons learned, conclusions, and recommendations. The evaluation was designed specifically to better understand the impacts of RIA on multimodal accessibility, on transit ridership, on transit operators, and on quality of life issues. The Volpe Center, of the U.S. Department of Transportation, prepared a Report to Congress on its findings. More online at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/assistance/research/research_8850.html

Transit Methodology Using Six Sigma for Heavy Rail Vehicle Maintenance Programs

Report FTA-CT-26-7009-2009.1 purpose was to develop a methodology for determining how substantial public resources could be invested so that rail transit operations can be improved relative to capital and operating efficiencies. The goal was to use a proven methodology tool (Six Sigma) for increasing productivity and apply it in a transit environment to improve and sustain capital and operating efficiencies. This report documents application of the transit methodology using Six Sigma in a "Case Study of

Miami-Dade Transit Process Improvement and the Six Sigma Initiative,” with emphasis on rail car maintenance. More online at:

http://www.fta.dot.gov/assistance/research/research_8850.html

Transportation Conformity Highlights August/September 2009

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has released the latest issue of its “Transportation Conformity Highlights.” The monthly newsletter is designed to keep stakeholders up to date on issues related to transportation conformity. More online at:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/conformity/highligh.htm>

Transportation Planning Update Newsletter

“Transportation Planning Update Fall Edition 2007” is a quarterly newsletter providing information to the transportation planning community. Articles are written and submitted by Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration staff to promote the sharing of ideas, highlighting of good practices and informing of current events. The Fall edition is available at the FHWA Resource Center Website. More online at:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/pln_news.htm

INTERNATIONAL

World's First Commercial ITS Verification Test Carried out in Changchun City, China

The Renesas Technology Corporation and the city of Changchun, China jointly carried out a verification test of the world's first commercial Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) using public buses in Changchun City, China. ITS is a transportation technology aimed at resolving problems such as traffic accidents and congestion by mutual exchange of information between users, roads, and vehicles using information, communications, and control technologies. Renesas provided the WAVE terminal platform that implements WAVE communication and confirmed WAVE communication utilization in public buses.

WAVE (Wireless Access in Vehicular Environments) is a wireless LAN technology that can implement in real time the high-speed/high-capacity communication required for image transmission. WAVE is regarded as the next-generation wireless technology capable of supporting car-to-car and road-to-car connections. Currently, there are many efforts underway globally to implement ITS technologies that connect vehicles and the roads they drive on with a network to resolve road and transportation problems such as traffic jams and road accidents. More online at:

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/the-worlds-first-commercial-its,976883.shtml>

UNIVERSITY TRANSPORTATION NEWS

Arkansas City and UCA May Partner on Future Transit

October 12, 2009. The city of Conway and the University of Central Arkansas are discussing a partnership that would enable the city to take over the University's intercampus bus system and form a two-route city bus network. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/10/Ark-city-UCA-may-partner-on-future-transit.aspx>

Clemson Researchers Study Energy Savings with Electric Cars and IntelliDrive Technology

September 28, 2009. Clemson University researchers have been awarded a \$470,000 National Science Foundation grant to improve the efficiency of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles to reduce fossil fuel use. The research will explore integrating vehicles with infrastructure to act as probes that generate continuous traffic data, such as speed profiles and travel time in cooperation with roadside devices to optimize the total energy used. The hybrid electric vehicles will be part of the USDOT's IntelliDrive Initiative. This initiative improves traffic operations and safety in the future by linking vehicles to their physical surroundings. More online at: http://www.clemson.edu/media-relations/article.php?article_id=2291#

Florida University Debuts 'Green' Parking Garage

October 12, 2009. The University of Florida's new \$20 million Southwest Parking Garage Complex has earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certification, the highest possible status. The garage opened in September 2009. The new complex offers several environmentally-friendly features, including a denser parking garage that takes up less space and offers more parking spots, more bicycle and moped spots and storage spaces, and easy access to public transportation. More online at: http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/10/UF-debuts-LEED-Platinum-parking-garage.aspx#full_story

How to Ease Women's Fear of Transportation Environments: Case Studies and Best Practices

The Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University has released a report that explores the safety needs of women who use transit, the extent to which transit agencies are meeting these needs, and programs and practices in the U.S. and abroad that address women's concerns about safe travel. More online at: [http://trb.org/Main/Blurbs/How to Ease Womens Fear of Transportation Environm_162469.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+10-27-2009&utm_content=Customer&utm_term=](http://trb.org/Main/Blurbs/How_to_Ease_Womens_Fear_of_Transportation_Environm_162469.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+10-27-2009&utm_content=Customer&utm_term=)

Integrated Vehicle-Based Safety Systems Third Annual Report

The Integrated Vehicle-Based Safety Systems (IVBSS) program is a five-year, two-phase cooperative research program being conducted by an industry consortium led by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute or UMTRI. The goal of the program is to assess the safety benefits and driver acceptance associated with a prototype integrated crash warning system designed to address rear end, roadway departure, and lane change/merge crashes for light vehicles and heavy commercial trucks.

This report describes accomplishments and progress made during the third year of the program (June 2008 to May 2009) and activities planned for the following year. Accomplishments detailed in this report include making refinements to the integrated crash warning system, conduct of additional verification testing and extended pilot tests, the analysis of data, and the construction of the fleet of 26 research vehicles. More online at: <http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/2027.42/64263/1/102369.pdf>

Transportation@MIT Fall 2009 Seminar Series

Throughout the fall of 2009, Transportation@MIT will hold a weekly seminar series every Tuesday to highlight current Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) research to faculty, staff, and students. The aim is to strengthen the community of transportation researchers at MIT, and to build networks among MIT's transportation researchers to facilitate and initiate future collaborations. The seminar series includes lectures on Network-Driven Transportation, Reducing U.S. Transportation's Petroleum Usage and GHG Emissions, Role of Information Technology in Improving Transit, Mobility Networks, and The Senseable City/Real-Time City, and others. More online at: <http://transportation.mit.edu/events.php>

RESEARCH NEWS & RESOURCES

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Announces Driver Pre-Employment Screening Program

WASHINGTON, DC. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced that it will launch a new Driver Pre-Employment Screening Program which will allow commercial motor carrier companies to electronically access driver inspection and crash records as part of the hiring process. The program is expected to begin in December 2009. More online at: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2009/fmcsa0309.htm>

APTA, UIC to Host Regional High Speed Rail Seminars

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and the International Union of Railways (Union Internationale des Chemins de Fer, or UIC) will host three regional seminars in early 2010 in hopes of providing U.S. decision makers with the information necessary to implement high-speed rail (HSR).

The seminars, entitled "International Practicum on Implementing High-Speed Rail in the United States," will be held February 8 to 9 in Washington, D.C.; February 9 to 11 in Chicago; and February 11 to 13 in Los Angeles. The programs will feature practitioners from High-Speed-Rail systems around the world and focus on best practices and lessons learned from European and Asian systems. The curriculum will be tailored to the different issues in each city. More online at: <http://www.apta.com/Pages/default.aspx>

2009 AASHTO Annual Meeting Includes Sessions on Communication Strategies

The American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Annual Meeting and Trade Fair were held October 22 - 26, 2009 in Palm Desert, California. Understanding successful communications tools used to gain public support for transportation projects and additional revenue were among the professional seminars featured at the 2009 AASHTO Annual Meeting. The workshop included the release of new research on revenue campaigns, critical elements needed in seeking new revenue, and efforts at the federal level. More online at: <http://www.transportation1.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting2009.html>

DOT Drug Testing - Medical Marijuana Notice

Recently, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued guidelines for Federal prosecutors in states that have enacted laws authorizing the use of "medical marijuana."

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Drug and Alcohol Testing Regulation - 49 CFR Part 40, at 40.151(e) - does not authorize "medical marijuana" under a state law to be a valid medical explanation for a transportation employees positive drug test result. More online at: <http://transit-safety.fta.dot.gov/DrugAndAlcohol/Regulations/Interpretations>

Distracted Driving Reports and Research in Progress

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) recently compiled three documents that list reports related to the topic of distracted driving; reports produced by others on the topic since 2005 that are referenced in the Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS); and research in progress related to distracted driving that is included in TRB's Research in Progress database. The lists were developed for distribution at the USDOT's Distracted Driving Summit, which took place in Washington, D.C., on September 30 - October 1, 2009. More online at: http://trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Distracted_Driving_Reports_and_Research_in_Progress_162428.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+10-20-2009&utm_content=Customer&utm_term=#

IBM Makes Deal with 3 Transit Agencies to Use Software to Manage Repairs

SAN FRANCISCO — IBM Corporation's effort to make the nation's critical infrastructure "smarter" is getting a boost from three railroad operators that are buying IBM software to manage their repair scheduling: Long Island Rail Road in New York,

Bay Area Rapid Transit agency in San Francisco, and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in D.C. They are part of IBM's "smarter planet" push to sell technologies that relay real-time information about the health of key pieces of infrastructure back to the companies or government agencies that run them.

More online at:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hkIjnV0iOKFx68pBPFNIKv4-G1PwD9B67BD80>

Ignition Magazine: News from TRB's IDEA Programs - Fall/Winter 2009

The latest issue of *Ignition*, a periodic news magazine from TRB's Studies and Special Programs Division, examines new tools that monitor structural integrity and detect damage concealed by fiber-reinforced polymer wrapping; a quick, precise, and nondestructive technique for detecting chlorides; an improved diagnostic system for S-cam foundation air brakes used on trucks and buses; a mobile phone navigation software for special needs public transportation riders; and more. More online at:

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/ignition/ignition_15.pdf

Invasion of The POD Car

The dream of Personal Rapid Transit is picking up speed. Personal Rapid Transit consists of small, light, electric vehicles, known as "POD cars," which hold just a few passengers and run along a network of elevated tracks. POD cars are driverless and automated. Advocates say these systems could help ease a multitude of problems: global warming, dependence on foreign oil, congestion, and diminishing available land. More online at:

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2009/10/04/invasion_of_the_pod_car/

Innovative Transportation Technologies

The University of Washington has one of the most comprehensive websites advocating innovative transportation technologies. The purpose of the website is to provide information about unconventional (therefore innovative) transportation technologies. Some of these technologies are operational, some are under development, and some are still conceptual. The website is intended to be an information resource for graduate students in the Transportation Engineering and Urban Planning programs at the University of Washington in Seattle, and for other interested persons around the world.

More online at: <http://faculty.washington.edu/jbs/itrans>

Making Places: News and Ideas from Projects for Public Spaces

Project for Public Spaces released this first installment of a two-part newsletter on transportation innovations in the United States and abroad. The Feature Story, "From Place to Place: Reinventing Transportation Planning through Placemaking," highlights initiatives that are helping communities rethink how to connect people with the goods, services, and destinations they need and desire. In this newsletter the focus is on several

new endeavors in the United States, followed by an upcoming issue that looks at innovative transportation planning practices abroad. "The real point of transportation planning is to get people to places they want to go, and therefore all transportation planning should start with Placemaking." More online at: http://www.pps.org/info/newsletter/from_place_to_place/

MTA Rolls Out Fix to "Jerky" Hybrid Buses

NEW YORK – Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) buses have been doing the jerk. Acceleration on the new hybrid buses have made for a rocky ride and caused some passengers to fall in the last year, NYC Transit officials said Monday.

"You get scared of getting flung to the front," said a 63 year-old frequent hybrid bus rider in Manhattan. "You felt stable on the old buses. Now you have to hold on with both hands." More online at: [http://www.masstransitmag.com/web/online/Top-Transit-News/MTA-Rolls-Out-Fix-to-Jerky-Hybrid-Buses/3\\$9901](http://www.masstransitmag.com/web/online/Top-Transit-News/MTA-Rolls-Out-Fix-to-Jerky-Hybrid-Buses/3$9901)

Rail Safety Improvements Years Away

October 09, 2009. Head-on train collisions can be avoided by simply keeping one train per track. There is a plan to make that happen, but it is years from implementation. Positive Train Control — technology that adheres to the simple premise that there should only be one train to one track — is still years away from full implementation in the U.S. More online at: <http://www.planetizen.com/node/41056#>

BusCon Attendance up More Than 12 Percent Compared to 2008!

BusCon 2009 conference was a great success with total attendance up 12 percent over 2008. The 14th BusCon featured 59 vehicles on display along with an array of various suppliers of components and services for bus operators. A total of 140 companies exhibited at the event held September 15-16, 2009. The conference also announced the best exhibitor award winners: Thermal Structures for Most Creative Display; Radio Engineering Industries for Best On-Site Promotion and Marketing; Q'Straint for *Most Innovative New Product*; and Startrans, A Supreme Corporation Company for Best Overall Booth. More online at: <http://www.busconexpo.com/>

Metra Rider Dies, Lack of Defibrillators Debated

October 9, 2009. When Metra Train 610 left the Barrington station early Thursday, passengers were jolted by an announcement: Immediate assistance was needed for a passenger. At least two nurses rushed to assist crew members trying to help a 63-year-old Barrington Hills man with heart attack symptoms. They attempted CPR. Emergency responders who met the train at the Palatine station also tried to revive the man, who died. The tragedy quickly raised concerns among some passengers and medical authorities, who questioned why Metra trains, unlike passenger airplanes, don't have

defibrillators. Neither does CTA buses and trains. More online at:
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/chi-metra-defibs-09-oct09,0,5601601.story>

Seattle's Sound Transit Taking \$3.1 Billion Hit Due to Recession

October 8, 2009, *Seattle Times* Transportation Reporter reported that Sound Transit will collect \$3.1 billion less in taxes over the next 15 years because of the recession, according to agency staff. That estimate of declining sales and car-tab taxes is worse than the \$2.1 billion shortage announced in February. Agency managers say they can still deliver three suburban rail lines and improved express bus service as promised when voters approved Proposition 1, a sales-tax increase to pay for the additional services.

More online at:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2010027210_websoundtransit08m.html

Should MARTA be administered by State?

GEORGIA - A Republican lawmaker from Dunwoody added a new dimension to metro Atlanta's debate over transportation – a proposal that the state of Georgia assume control of MARTA. Fran Millar, a GOP legislator, said his proposal is spurred by recognition that Fulton and DeKalb counties can no longer finance the Southeast's largest mass transit system by themselves, and that the entire state's economic future depends on cobbling together a larger metro Atlanta network. More online at:

[http://www.masstransitmag.com/web/online/Top-Transit-News/Should-MARTA-be-Run-by-State/3\\$9874](http://www.masstransitmag.com/web/online/Top-Transit-News/Should-MARTA-be-Run-by-State/3$9874)

Ten Social Networking Websites to Keep You in the Loop

September 14, 2009. Ten government information technology social networking websites will keep you “In the Know.” For example, FedScoop - Not strictly a social-networking site, it is the most comprehensive one-stop introduction to government-related blogs and other Web 2.0 sources. More online at:

http://fcw.com/articles/2009/09/14/social-networking-sites-keep-you-in-the-loop.aspx?s=gov2_201009

TRB Publications Index

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) Publications Index has been updated to include historical and contemporary publications. TRB publications by mode are displayed upfront on the website. This upfront display of “publications by modes” makes it easier for a user to locate desired information. The index contains over 41,000 papers, articles, and reports published by the Transportation Research Board, Highway Research Board, Strategic Highway Research Program, or the Marine Board from 1923 to date.

More online at: <http://pubsindex.trb.org>

TRB Research in Progress Online Database Update

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) has enhanced the *Research in Progress Database (RiP)*. User can now get RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed of updates to RiP searches, including recent projects added, or new projects entered on a specific topic. RSS feed is often referred to as a Web feed—a data format used for providing users with frequently updated content. RSS is an XML-based syndication format for distributing Web content. Many kinds of content can be distributed using the RSS format including Research in Progress search results, topic alerts, and new projects that have been added to the RiP Database.

The RiP website includes descriptive summaries of ongoing research projects for all transportation modes, including transit, highway, rail, as well as state DOT research, university transportation centers research and more. Subscription information to RSS is available online at: http://rip.trb.org/feeds/rss_help.asp

Two Distinct Routes to Solving King County Metro's Crisis

WASHINGTON - Three years ago, King County Metro Transit boasted as the nation's fastest-growing ridership, along with a voter-supported tax increase to expand routes and buy hundreds of hybrid buses. There was little talk of cutting back. Then came the recession, and a steep drop in sales taxes blew a \$213 million hole in the 2010-11 budget. It's a crisis that the winner in the November 3 elections will inherit after being sworn in as King County executive. The winner in the November 3 election will help decide whether to raise fares, raise taxes, cut service or cut spending for employees in the nation's seventh-largest public bus-transit agency. More online at: <http://www.masstransitmag.com/publication/article.jsp?siteSection=3&id=9915#>

U.S. DOE Unveils Web Tool for Fleet Owners Using Alternative Fuels

October 16, 2009. The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory launched an online resource for fleet owners using alternative fuels. Visitors to the Alternative Fuels and Advanced Vehicles Data Center Website can research individual fuel types, generate a map of alternative fueling stations, research vehicle specifications, estimate cost savings, and look up incentives and laws. The AFDC is managed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and is sponsored by the Clean Cities Initiative, a government-industry partnership sponsored by the Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Program. More online at: www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/applications.html.

The Web-based tools benefit everyone from legislators to fleet owners to consumers. Users can generate a map of the nearest alternative fueling stations, research vehicle specifications for hybrid and alternative fuel light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles, compare mileage estimates, calculate cost savings for natural gas or flexible fuel vehicles, search for incentives and rebates. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/10/U-S-DOE-unveils-Web-tool-for-fleet-owners.aspx#>

Washington Metro Shares Assent Management Ideas

Rail leaders are embracing global collaboration. WMATA recently hosted Guangzhou Metro, a leading rail network from China, for a workshop to share best practices when building and maintaining smarter rail systems. Both organizations are using IBM Maximo software to improve the efficiency and safety of their transportation systems and took the opportunity to share ideas on how to capitalize on this investment. More online at: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/washington-metro-uses-ibm-software-to-keep-mass-transit-system-safe-and-on-time-63683227.html>

Workshop Teaches Transit's Accessibility Obstacles

October 20, 2009. A workshop held recently gave Minnesota transportation officials insight into the obstacles facing deaf-blind passengers in accessing transit options. Advocates have also been working with state agencies to make improvements. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/10/Workshop-helps-transportation-officials-understand-accessibility-obstacles.aspx>

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