



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

***Transit Research and Industry News Update***  
***Contents - December 2009***

*To view any item listed, use the mouse and control/click on title.*

*SPECIAL*..... 3

- Transportation Secretary LaHood Proposes New Rail Safety Bill..... 3
- Federal Highway & Transit Programs Extended Through February..... 3

*RESEARCH IN PROGRESS* ..... 3

- American Cities Foundation Project TRANSIT ..... 3
- Biodiesel Hybrid/Electric Bus Research Program..... 4
- Transit Safety and Security Training Facility ..... 5
- Transportation Logistics and Security Pilot Project ..... 6
- Vashon Island Passenger-Only Ferry Study ..... 6

*FEDERAL RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS*..... 7

- Assessment of Hybrid-Electric Transit Bus Technology..... 7
- Finance, Pricing, Economics, and Economic Dev ..... 7
- Regional Rail Onboard Electronic Payment Project..... 8
- FHWA Research and Technology Now - November 2009 ..... 8
- Geospatial Analysis of Rural Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities ..... 8
- Technical Publications Catalog - October 2008 - September 2009 ..... 8
- Transit 2009, Volume 1 ..... 9
- Transit 2009, Volume 2 ..... 9

*ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE*..... 9

- Communicating Transportation, Energy, and Climate Change Concepts ..... 9
- Transportation Adaptation to Global Climate Change ..... 10

*RECOVERY*..... 10

- Federal Transit Administrator Breaks Ground on Transit Center Renovation and  
Expansion in Grand Rapids, Michigan ..... 10
- Western High Speed Rail Alliance - Brochure ..... 10
- What Have We Learned from the Recovery Act? ..... 11
- Will the Jobs Summit Yield Fruit for Transit? ..... 11

*SAFETY AND SECURITY*..... 11

- Improving Pedestrian and Motorist Safety along Light Rail Alignments ..... 11
- FMCSA Raises New Bus Company Requirements ..... 12
- TSA puts 5 on Leave after Security Manual Hits Internet..... 12

<i>UNIVERSITY RESEARCH</i> .....	12
A Global Collaboration to Chart the Future of Urban Mobility .....	12
Michigan Schools Reach Out to Transit Agency.....	13
Minnesota State College Could House Futuristic Transit System.....	13
Northern Arizona University Fueling Buses with Cooking Oil.....	13
Transportation @ MIT Rethinks Everything .....	13
<i>INTERNATIONAL</i> .....	14
IBM Global Rail Innovation Center Opens in Beijing, China.....	14
Beijing Upgrades 800 Traffic Lights to Help the Blind .....	14
Can Networks & Real-Time Data Fix Urban Transit? Ask Singapore.....	14
China Plans World's Fastest Train Service .....	14
Demonstration of Advanced Transport Applications in CityMobil Project .....	14
<i>RESEARCH NEWS &amp; RESOURCES</i> .....	15
AASHTO's Top Transportation Stories of 2009 .....	15
19th National Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation Conference .....	15
Data Warehousing.....	15
Department of Transportation Livability Initiative.....	16
Eno Brief: November 2009 .....	16
Fighting Harassment on Transit Systems .....	16
Florida Legislature Backs Rail Deal .....	17
Florida's StarMetro Adds 14 Paratransit Buses .....	17
Forming Partnerships with Transit – Webinar Series .....	17
Forming Partnerships with Transit.....	17
FTA Approves Houston LRT Project Advancement.....	18
FTA Funds 23 Prius Vehicles for San Jose, California Paratransit Fleet .....	18
Infrastructure = Competitiveness + Jobs .....	18
More Accessible Cabs Hit Cities .....	18
New Flyer to Provide Support for OC Transpo's Bus Fleet .....	19
Seats aren't Filled on Buses, Trains; Transit Ridership Drops with Economy .....	19
Talking Technology and Transportation (T3) Webinars .....	19
Web Extra: Rural University System Launches Web tools .....	20

## ***SPECIAL***

### **Transportation Secretary LaHood Proposes New Rail Safety Bill**

On December 8, 2009, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood called on Congress to pass the Obama Administration's Public Transportation Safety Program Act of 2009, a new transit safety bill to ensure a high and standard level of safety across all rail transit systems. LaHood made his remarks in testimony before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in Washington, D.C.

"The current system for federal rail transit safety oversight is weak and inadequate and does not guarantee a consistent level of safety for transit passengers," said LaHood.

Asking the Committee to consider the bill "seriously and promptly," LaHood pledged to assist Congress in enacting a new safety regime that will better protect daily riders as transit systems age and available revenues remain tight. More online at:

<http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/12/Sec-LaHood-proposes-new-rail-safety-bill.aspx>

### **Federal Highway & Transit Programs Extended Through February**

On December 21, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law a Department of Defense appropriations bill that included an extension of highway and transit authorization through February 2010 - the fourth short-term extension since the 2005 transportation law known as "SAFETEA-LU" expired September 30, 2009.

The 67-day extension (contained in HR 3326) became Public Law 111-118 on December 21 following Obama's signature and the Senate's December 19 vote of 88-10 to adopt the measure. Congress tacked the transportation authorization extension onto the defense measure because the House and Senate were unable to reach agreement on a longer-term measure. SAFETEA-LU's second extension expired December 18; a continuing resolution through December 23 kept federal highway and transit programs operating over the weekend until Obama signed the defense measure. This is the longest SAFETEA-LU extension to date. More online at:

<http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/123009authorization.aspx>

## ***RESEARCH IN PROGRESS***

### **American Cities Foundation Project TRANSIT**

Project:	FTA-PA-26-7263-02
Record Type:	Research in Progress
Funding:	\$570,000
Schedule:	August 2009 – August 2010
Performer:	American Cities Foundation 2401 North 54 <sup>th</sup> Street

Philadelphia, PA 19131-2423  
Contact: Sandra Glenn  
Phone: 215-476-8091  
FTA Project Monitor: Terrell Williams, TRI  
Phone: 202-366-0232  
Fax: 202-366-3765  
Email: Terrell.Williams@dot.gov

*Description.* This amendment supports the ongoing effort of the American Cities Foundation Project TRANSIT to connect neglected citizens of Philadelphia to careers and business opportunities available within the transportation industry.

Project TRANSIT is funded by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, and is organized around three (3) work-related areas:

- The Youth Component
- Community Outreach Component
- Business Component to Assist Disadvantaged Businesses.

Accomplishments to date. By working with the School District of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Streets Department, Project TRANSIT was able to reach over four hundred fifty (450) 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with information about careers in public transportation. One hundred forty (140) students participated in job-readiness training preparatory to placement into internship positions with the Streets Department of Philadelphia in transportation-related roles.

Index Terms: Public Transportation Careers, Job-Readiness Training  
Diverse Workforce, Professional Capacity Building

### **Biodiesel Hybrid/Electric Bus Research Program**

Project: FTA-AL-26-7006-01  
Record Type: Research in Progress  
Funding: \$964,260  
Schedule: January 2009 – March 2010  
Performer: University of Alabama  
152 Rose Administration Building  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487- 0124  
Contact: Clark Midkiff  
Phone: 205-348-1645  
FTA Project Monitor: Roy Chen, TRI  
Phone: 202-366-0462  
Fax: 202-366-3765  
Email: RoyWeiShun.Chen@dot.gov

*Description.* This cooperative agreement supports the efforts of the University of Alabama to develop a Biodiesel Hybrid/Electric Bus Research Program at its Center for Advanced Vehicle Technologies.

The project activities include:

- (1) Establishment of an emissions testing facility capable of making detailed measurements of engine performance, fuel economy, and pollutant emissions at conditions typical of urban and suburban transit routes;
- (2) Acquiring a broad data set of performance and emissions of diesel engines fueled with conventional and Biodiesel fuels at speed and load conditions typical of urban and suburban transit routes, either for a conventional diesel-only powertrain or diesel-electric motor hybrid electric powertrain; and
- (3) Development of a detailed computational simulation of a hybrid electric powertrain that will allow the integration of the experimental data so that highly accurate predictions of hybrid bus performance and emissions can be made.

The main benefits of this biodiesel/electric bus will be to the environment and to the transit rider, namely substantial savings in greenhouse gas emissions, as well as a smoother, more comfortable ride.

Index terms:        Biodiesel/Electric Hybrid Bus, Performance, Simulation  
                          Emission Reduction, Hybrid Electric Powertrain

**Transit Safety and Security Training Facility**

Project:                FTA-PA-26-7262  
Record Type:         Research in Progress  
Funding:              \$750,000  
Schedule:             October 2009 – December 2010  
Performer:            Chester County Economic Development Council  
                              737 Constitution Drive  
                              Exton, PA 19341  
  
Contact:                Kate Baganski  
Phone:                 610-212-2587  
FTA Project Monitor: Jarrett Stoltzfus, TRI  
Phone:                 202- 493-0361  
Fax:                     202-366-3765  
Email:                  RoyWeishun.Chen@dot.gov

*Description.* This project supports the efforts of the Chester County Economic Development Council to develop a county-wide training program for First Responders to effectively respond to human and natural disasters. Currently no public security and safety facility exists in the county to provide training for first responders, nor enables them to train together as a response team at one centralized, dedicated facility. Funds will be used to design, construct, and outfit a facility that will serve the training and

workforce development needs of Chester County's first emergency responders, including the 5,000 or more fire, police and emergency medical service personnel.

Index terms: First Responder, Public Transit, Safety & Security, Training Facility

**Transportation Logistics and Security Pilot Project**

Project: FTA-KY-26-7261-03  
Record Type: Research in Progress  
Funding: \$400,000  
Schedule: July 2009 – October 2010  
Performer: Northern Kentucky University  
Nunn Drive- AC 616  
Highland Heights, KY 41099  
Contact: Mark Santanello  
Phone: 859-572-5136  
FTA Project Monitor: Terrell Williams, TRI  
Phone: 202-366-0232  
Fax: 202-366-3765  
Email: Terrell.Williams@dot.gov

*Description.* The Northern Kentucky University Office of Economic Initiatives, in partnership with the Transportation Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK), will research, develop, and implement technology-based solutions for the purpose of enhancing the transportation authority's effectiveness and operational efficiency in the areas of logistics and security. Northern Kentucky University will study the use of wireless communication technology as a foundation for the Transportation Logistics and Security pilot project that address the needs of TANK. For this project, *logistics* is defined as the process of planning, implementing, and controlling the efficient flow of mass transit bus services through available routes. *Security* is defined as encompassing not only community protection related to Emergency First Response and Local Disaster Preparedness, but also to passenger safety. This is a four-year research project.

Index terms: Wireless Communication Technology, Security and Logistics, Emergency First Response, Transit Bus Service, Passenger Safety

**Vashon Island Passenger-Only Ferry Study**

Project: FTA-WA-26-7008  
Record Type: Research in Progress  
Funding: \$868,253  
Schedule: December 2007 – December 2010  
Performer: King County Department of Transportation  
201 South Jackson Street  
Seattle, Washington 98104-3856  
Contact: David Morrison  
Phone: 206-684-2154  
FTA Project Monitor: Raj Wagley, TRI

Phone: 202-366-5386  
Fax: 202-366-3765  
Email: Raj.Wagley@dot.gov

*Description.* This project supports the King County Department of Transportation (DOT) effort to assess, design, demonstrate, and evaluate a Vashon Island Passenger-Only Ferry service. The study is designed to assist King County DOT in the development of a plan for continuing passenger-only ferry service between Vashon Island and downtown Seattle. An important element of this study is the analysis of state-of-the-art technologies for vessels and dock facilities to maximize service efficiency, lower fuel consumption and minimize environmental impacts, including pollutant emissions and wake wash. The study will include an analysis of potential markets, operating and funding strategies, and possibly public and private involvement in the implementation of the King County ferry service program.

Index terms: King County Ferry Program, State-of-the Art Technologies, Vashon Island Passenger-Only Ferry Service, Potential Markets Operating and Funding Strategies, Environmental Impact

### **FEDERAL RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Assessment of Hybrid-Electric Transit Bus Technology**

TRB's Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Report 132 "Assessment of Hybrid-Electric Transit Bus Technology" explores decision-making guidelines coupled with a comprehensive life cycle cost (LCC) model designed to assist transit managers in evaluating, selecting, and implementing hybrid-electric technology options for transit buses. The LCC model allows the user to compare the total life cycle costs across several cost categories for up to six different "purchase scenarios." The LCC model is contained on the accompanying CD-ROM (CRP-CD-71), with the printed version of the report and available for download as an ISO image online.

This work is sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration and conducted in the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) which is administered by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies. TCRP is an applied research program that provides solutions to practical problems faced by transit operators. More online at: [http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/tcrp\\_rpt\\_132.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/tcrp_rpt_132.pdf)

#### **Finance, Pricing, Economics, and Economic Development**

TRB's Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2115 includes 16 papers that explore a financial model to assess the value capture potential of a roadway project, catastrophe bonds for transportation assets such as bridges, private funding of intermodal exchange stations in urban areas, value for money analysis in public-private partnerships, revenues from a statewide congestion pricing program, developing a value-pricing project, and more. More online at:

[http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Finance\\_Pricing\\_Economics\\_and\\_Economic\\_Development\\_162631.aspx?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=TransportationResearchBoard&utm\\_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+12-08-2009&utm\\_content=Web&utm\\_term=](http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Finance_Pricing_Economics_and_Economic_Development_162631.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=TransportationResearchBoard&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+12-08-2009&utm_content=Web&utm_term=)

### **Regional Rail Onboard Electronic Payment Project**

A recently completed FTA report documents the results of a joint effort between Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) and Temple University to test the feasibility of conducting electronic fare payment on commuter rail service using a system of hand-held devices that communicate with contactless smart cards. The objective was to develop a non-proprietary, plug-and-play multimodal transport payment portable solution for commuter rail service.

The project relied upon open source software and commercial off-the-shelf equipment to capture fare payment transactions, store the information, and download the information to a central database. The system has been demonstrated with effective applicability, usability and durability for today's transit systems. This report will be of interest to transit operators and planners responsible for fare payment and collection. Available February 2010 online at: [http://www.fta.dot.gov/assistance/research/research\\_8850.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/assistance/research/research_8850.html)

### **FHWA Research and Technology Now - November 2009**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has released the latest issue of its "Research and Technology (R&T) Now" news update. The update reports on research, technology, and development activities taking place within the U.S. Department of Transportation. More online at: <http://www.tfsrc.gov/rtnow/index.htm>

### **Geospatial Analysis of Rural Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released a report that explores the extent of motor vehicle traffic fatalities that occur in rural areas located close to urban areas.

According to NHTSA, 44 percent of all traffic fatalities occur in urban areas. The percentage increases to 63 percent in an area that also includes the rural area within 2.5 miles of the urban boundary. The percentage increases to 73 percent 5.0 miles out, 81 percent 7.5 miles out, and 86 percent 10 miles out. In summary, about three-quarters of all traffic fatalities in the Nation occurred in an area that includes all the urban areas along with the rural areas that are within 5 miles of the urban boundaries. More online at: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811196.pdf>

### **Technical Publications Catalog - October 2008 - September 2009**

FHWA's Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center presents its fifth Technical Publications Catalog. This is a comprehensive listing of research documents published from October 2008 through September 2009 and includes fact sheets, flyers, product



briefs, technical reports, summaries, and TechBriefs. More online at:  
<http://www.tfhrc.gov/techpubcat/10018.htm>

### **Transit 2009, Volume 1**

Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2110 includes 20 papers that explore the CityMobil project; carsharing; express bus versus rail transit; promoting public transportation; land consumption impacts of a transportation system; transit accessibility to jobs and employment prospects of welfare recipients; bus versus rail, a meta-analysis of costs, capacities, and land use.

This issue of the TRR No. 2110 also examines walking distance and transit-oriented development, multitasking of rail passengers in an urban corridor, onboard ticket sales, ridership growth from extended transit service hours, use of entry-only automated fare-collection system data, transit passenger information websites, urban travel training for older adults, regional rail park-and-ride users response to parking price changes, and a citywide personal rapid transit system. More online at:

[http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Transit\\_2009\\_Volume\\_1\\_162658.aspx](http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Transit_2009_Volume_1_162658.aspx)

### **Transit 2009, Volume 2**

TRB's Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2111 includes 21 papers that explore transit signal priority, bus-on-shoulders operations, road capacity at bus stops, optimal bus stop spacing, optimal bus scheduling and headway control, bus operational parking, boarding and alighting in transit assignment, and bus travel times with passive traffic signal coordination.

This issue of the TRR also examines bus rapid transit in dedicated bus lanes; the curbside intercity bus industry; taxi vacancy rates, fares, and subsidies; feeder transit services; cost contingencies within the transit project development process; mass transit performance measurements; public transport connectivity performance measurement; and decision support system for project delivery in transit. More online at:

[http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Transit\\_2009\\_Volume\\_2\\_162668.aspx?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm\\_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+12-21-2009&utm\\_content=Web&utm\\_term=](http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Transit_2009_Volume_2_162668.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+12-21-2009&utm_content=Web&utm_term=)

## ***ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE***

### **Communicating Transportation, Energy, and Climate Change Concepts**

A special feature article in the September-October 2009 issue of the *TR News* highlights the Transportation Research Board Planning and Environment Group's recent annual competition to recognize fresh and creative methods of communicating technical transportation issues and concepts to the public. The focus of the competition was energy and climate change in transportation. The top entries ranged from a book to multimedia

presentations and interactive online games. More online at:  
<http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/trnews/trnews264special.pdf>

### **Transportation Adaptation to Global Climate Change**

A newly released white paper, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, asserts that short-term efforts to increase the transportation system's resilience will reduce long-term costs from climate change and proposes federal policy options for the Obama Administration and Congress to address the impacts of climate change on the transportation sector.

This paper, prepared by Cambridge Systematics Inc. for the Bipartisan Policy Center's National Transportation Policy Project (NTPP), identifies principles and key areas for federal policy action, including climate impacts and adaptation research, transportation planning processes, project development, design and engineering considerations, and federal programs and funding. The paper proposes three main vehicles for implementing adaptation policy: surface transportation authorization, climate and energy legislation, and executive actions. More online at:  
[http://bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/Transportation%20Adaptation%20\(3\).pdf](http://bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/Transportation%20Adaptation%20(3).pdf)

## **RECOVERY**

### **Federal Transit Administrator Breaks Ground on Transit Center Renovation and Expansion in Grand Rapids, Michigan**

*\$10.6 Million in Recovery Act Funds Helps Create Jobs.*

December 18, 2009. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff joined members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation and local officials in Grand Rapids at a groundbreaking for the renovation and expansion of the Wealthy Street SW transit operations center. The project is partially funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

"Thanks to Recovery Act funds, this state-of-the-art, green facility is being built two years ahead of schedule and will serve Grand Rapids citizens for years to come," said Administrator Rogoff. "Construction of the operations center will give a jump-start to the local economy and create 50 new jobs." More online at:  
[http://www.fta.dot.gov/news/news\\_events\\_10928.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/news/news_events_10928.html)

### **Western High Speed Rail Alliance - Brochure**

The Western High Speed Rail Alliance (WHSRA) was founded and exists for the purpose of determining the viability of developing and promoting a high-speed rail network to provide high-speed rail connections throughout the Rocky Mountain and Intermountain West regions with eventual possible connections to the Pacific Coast and other areas of the United States. Funds made available under the High-Speed Rail portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is just the beginning of the initial investment of a high-speed rail network in our nation.

In this brochure, the Western High Speed Rail Alliance envisions a Denver-to-Los Angeles corridor via high-speed rail network, with regional hubs in Las Vegas, Salt Lake, Denver and Phoenix. High-speed rail purports to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil, reduce congestion and put the U.S. even with, if not ahead of, the rest of the world in connectivity and global economic sustainability. More online at: <http://www.whsra.com/>

### **What Have We Learned from the Recovery Act?**

After nine months of implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), what lessons have we learned that could be applied to the upcoming jobs bill? What has worked that should be continued or expanded? What hasn't worked that should be fixed or scrapped altogether? And to what extent should the legislation try to accomplish larger transportation policy goals than simply generating jobs?

Twenty-nine (29) online responses to these questions can be viewed on the National Journal Transportation Experts Blog website. More online at: <http://transportation.nationaljournal.com/2009/12/what-have-we-learned-from-the.php>

### **Will the Jobs Summit Yield Fruit for Transit?**

On December 3, 2009 the White House Jobs Summit drew business executives, economists, finance experts, labor leaders and small business owners to Washington, D.C., to share ideas on boosting employment. A national delegation of transit and business leaders was among those in attendance, with plans to promote the benefits of investing in “ready-to-go” public transit infrastructure projects that will create and sustain jobs. More online at: <http://blogs.metro-magazine.com/transitdispatches/archive/2009/12/10/will-the-jobs-summit-lead-fruit-for-transit.aspx>.

## ***SAFETY AND SECURITY***

### **Improving Pedestrian and Motorist Safety along Light Rail Alignments**

TCRP Report 137 “Improving Pedestrian and Motorist Safety along Light Rail Transit Alignments” addresses pedestrian and motorist behaviors contributing to light rail transit (LRT) safety and describes mitigating measures available to improve safety along LRT alignments. The three objectives of TCRP Project A-30 are addressed in the chapters identified in brackets. The objectives are:

- To develop a framework or template for collecting data to be used to improve pedestrian and motorist safety along LRT alignments [Chapter 7],
- To identify and summarize pedestrian and motorist behavior [Chapters 2 and 3], and
- To document best practices for improving pedestrian and motorist safety along light rail transit alignments [Chapters 2, 4, 5, and 6].

TCRP Report 137 includes recommendations to facilitate the compilation of accident data in a coordinated and homogeneous manner across LRT systems. The report also provides a catalog of existing and innovative safety devices, safety treatments, and practices to use along LRT alignments. The results of this research may be useful to transit operators, consultants, and state safety oversight agencies.

More online at: [http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/tcrp\\_rpt\\_137.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/tcrp_rpt_137.pdf)

### **FMCSA Raises New Bus Company Requirements**

On December 16, 2009 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) began enforcing its New Entrant Safety Assurance Process rule which requires newly registered truck and bus companies to meet stricter safety requirements. This final rule raises the compliance standards for passing new entrant safety audits and requires that new carriers correct safety deficiencies before being granted permanent registration.

"Safety is our highest priority," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "This new rule says that we are serious about having safe trucks and buses on the road. This is important for those behind the wheels of these big rigs and those who share the road with them." More online at: [http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/12/FMCSA-raises-new-bus-co-requirements.aspx?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+MetroMagazine-IndustryNews+%28Metro+Magazine+-+Industry+News%29&utm\\_content=FeedBurner](http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/12/FMCSA-raises-new-bus-co-requirements.aspx?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+MetroMagazine-IndustryNews+%28Metro+Magazine+-+Industry+News%29&utm_content=FeedBurner)

### **TSA puts 5 on Leave after Security Manual Hits Internet**

Five Transportation Security Administration employees have been placed on administrative leave after a sensitive airport security manual was posted on the Internet, the agency announced Wednesday, December 9, 2009. TSA said the version of the manual that ended up online was several editions old and did not expose the agency's current airport screening protocols.

More online at: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/TRAVEL/12/09/tsa.training.manual/>

## **UNIVERSITY RESEARCH**

### **A Global Collaboration to Chart the Future of Urban Mobility**

*MIT teams up with three universities in Singapore to develop smart, sustainable urban transportation solutions*

MIT and the National Research Foundation of Singapore announced the launch of a project to develop new models and tools for the planning, design, and operation of future urban transportation. Aimed at making urban transportation systems more environmentally sustainable—first in Singapore, and ultimately on a global scale—these new models will be developed and deployed by nearly 60 researchers from four academic institutions. More online at: <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2009/transportation-collaboration.html>

### **Michigan Schools Reach Out to Transit Agency**

Parking concerns and a push to become greener have been contributing factors in the higher use of public transportation amongst students and faculty at two Michigan schools — Saginaw Valley State University and Delta College — according to officials at Bay City, Michigan-based Bay Metro Transit Authority. More Online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/12/Michigan-university-college-reach-out-to-transit-agency.aspx>

### **Minnesota State College Could House Futuristic Transit System**

Local leaders are supporting a \$25 million proposal to build a Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system in Winona, Minnesota and construction of a PRT test lab at Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical. PRT involves a network of guideways that uses small, pod-like vehicles to shuttle passengers directly to their destinations. The first phase would include a one-mile guideway at Southeast Tech with about 20 pods. More online at: [http://www.lacrossetribune.com/news/local/article\\_5bd0c4ce-e6d3-11de-90dc-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.lacrossetribune.com/news/local/article_5bd0c4ce-e6d3-11de-90dc-001cc4c03286.html)

### **Northern Arizona University Fueling Buses with Cooking Oil**

Northern Arizona University is using a filtering system to convert cooking oil collected from the school dining halls into biodiesel fuel. The fuel is currently being tested on two transit buses, and the savings are expected to be significant.

More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/12/Northern-Ariz-U-fueling-buses-with-cooking-oil.aspx>

### **Transportation @ MIT Rethinks Everything**

“We’re literally reinventing the wheel,” says William Mitchell, director of the Media Lab Smart Cities Group at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mitchell points to the revolutionary in-wheel traction and steering system of the CityCar, a stackable, all-electric, two-passenger vehicle that could radically alter personal urban transportation. With no steering wheel, no central motor or drive train, and the ability to be picked up and dropped off at multiple charging stations in virtually any city in the world, CityCar owes little if anything to conventional automotive thinking. More online at: <http://architectureboston.com/2009/11/09/transportation-mit-rethinks-everything/>

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **IBM Global Rail Innovation Center Opens in Beijing, China**

A new center of innovation opens its doors—IBM Global Rail Innovation Center serves as a forum for rail leaders world-wide to collaborate on the challenges facing railroads and drives the co-creation of solutions, industry standards, research and thought leadership in the pursuit of smarter railroads.

More online at: <http://www-03.ibm.com/press/us/en/presskit/27553.wss>

### **Beijing Upgrades 800 Traffic Lights to Help the Blind**

In Beijing, 800 traffic lights at 100 major crossroads have been upgraded to indicate the time remaining until traffic lights change and also broadcast voice reminders that alert the blind, according to Beijing traffic management bureau. According to the *People's Daily* article, traffic lights are getting "smart" since Beijing is using the latest information and communications technologies to streamline the city's traffic. More online at:

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90882/6834932.html>

### **Can Networks & Real-Time Data Fix Urban Transit? Ask Singapore**

Five years from now, Singapore may have a model of urban transportation that's smart, green, and full of lessons for cities around the world. That's the goal of a new project from the MIT and the National Research Foundation of Singapore called the Future of Urban Mobility. More online at: <http://earth2tech.com/2009/11/03/can-networks-real-time-data-fix-urban-transit-ask-singapore/>

### **China Plans World's Fastest Train Service**

China has started selling tickets for what it says will be the world's fastest train, running an average speed of 217 mph. The Wuhan-Guangzhou high-speed railway, which began service December 26, 2009 will travel the route's 664 miles in three hours, compared with more than 10 hours of previous trains—the news agency Xinhua reported Friday, December 18. Tickets for the journey range from about \$72 to \$114, close to the price of airline tickets, Xinhua said. More online at:

<http://www.masstransitmag.com/publication/article.jsp?siteSection=3&id=10309>

### **Demonstration of Advanced Transport Applications in CityMobil Project**

CityMobil is an integrated project of the European Union. The objective of the project is to achieve a more effective organization of urban transport, resulting in a more rational use of motorized traffic with less congestion and pollution, safer driving, a higher quality of living, and enhanced integration with spatial development.

Subproject 1 of CityMobil focuses on demonstration activities with the objective of demonstrating the feasibility of innovative and advanced urban transport solutions and to

evaluate the systems according to their impact. Three large-scale demonstrations were carried out: (1) Personal rapid transit at Heathrow Airport in London; (2) Cybercars in Rome; and (3) Autonomous guided buses in Spain. These demonstrations and other showcase activities are designed to raise awareness in European cities of innovative forms of urban transportation. More online at: <http://trb.metapress.com/content/nx68g713r5362651/?p=6de58365f134423eba049ba9f80b27c1&pi=1>

## **RESEARCH NEWS & RESOURCES**

### **AASHTO's Top Transportation Stories of 2009**

The American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Journal posted reviews of the top transportation stories of 2009 online, including the following:

- New Administration Takes Control of Washington
- States Put Economic Recovery Funds to Quick Use
- Obama Makes High-Speed Rail a National Priority
- National Commission on Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Issues Report
- Minnesota & Florida Take Top Honors in America's Transportation Awards Competition and others

More online at: <http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/Default.aspx>

### **19th National Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation Conference**

TRB is sponsoring the 19th National Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation Conference on October 24-27, 2010 in Burlington, Vermont. This conference is designed to address key rural public and intercity bus transportation themes including accessibility; rural transit policy and planning; alternative fuels; intelligent transportation systems and rural transit; regional systems; networks and coalitions; operations, safety, and security; and tribal transportation. For additional information contact Peter Shaw, PShaw@nas.edu, of TRB. More online at:

[http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/19th National Rural Public and Intercity Bus Trans\\_162575.aspx?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=TransportationResearchBoard&utm\\_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+12-08-2009&utm\\_content=Web&utm\\_term=](http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/19th_National_Rural_Public_and_Intercity_Bus_Trans_162575.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=TransportationResearchBoard&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+12-08-2009&utm_content=Web&utm_term=)

### **Data Warehousing**

The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Deployment Program of the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) enabled the agency to deploy a series of technologies that would more fully integrate its operations. Under the ITS Deployment Program, CARTA consolidated all of its operational data into a data warehouse—a data management system that makes different lines of business more productive by setting up data in a way that allows flexible views into how business units

perform. Since it was implemented, the data warehouse has provided the agency with the tools it needs to identify areas where improvements in operational efficiency are possible, enabling CARTA both to increase effectiveness and save money. More online at:

[http://www.masstransitmag.com/web/online/Online-Exclusives/Data-Warehousing/5\\$10283](http://www.masstransitmag.com/web/online/Online-Exclusives/Data-Warehousing/5$10283)

### **Department of Transportation Livability Initiative**

In early December 2009, Secretary LaHood announced \$280 million for urban circulator, bus, and bus facility projects which support the Department of Transportation's Livability Initiative. Project proposals are due in February 2010 with expected project selection by summer 2010. Read more about funding opportunities and get answers to commonly asked questions.

More online at: [http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants\\_financing\\_7829.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants_financing_7829.html)

### **Eno Brief: November 2009**

The Eno Transportation Foundation has released the latest version of its monthly on-line newsletter. The newsletter is designed to provide information on transportation policy, executive leadership, news within the greater Eno community, and other items of interest.

This issue highlights the Eno Transportation Foundation's 2009 Annual Policy Forum, "Paying for Transportation: The Public, Trust Fund and User Fees." As one of the focus issues for 2010, Eno will continue reporting on their research and effort in improving the way we pay for transportation.

Discussions at the forum centered on how important a system-wide perspective is if the nation is to turn to a less formulaic, more performance-based policy model; one where national goals such as mobility, economic competitiveness, access, and energy independence and sustainability are prioritized and replace the old-style modally driven policy architecture characterizing U.S. policy for decades. More online at: <http://www.enotrans.com/vertical/Sites/%7B894F22DF-1788-4CA0-A19C-02688F64CCBE%7D/uploads/%7B115A5E05-C6CF-48A0-B64F-D968A477B9CE%7D.PDF>

### **Fighting Harassment on Transit Systems**

This article is about women and their exposure to daily sexual harassment, whether at work or riding a bus or subway. At a recent joint hearing of three New York City Council committees—Transportation, Women's Issues, and Public Safety—the New York Police Department (NYPD) and Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials spoke about the cry from its riders for more prevention and enforcement of sexual harassment. More online at: <http://blogs.metro-magazine.com/transitdispatches/archive/2009/12/03/what-do-you-do.aspx>



## **Florida Legislature Backs Rail Deal**

Ending a struggle that stretched over two years, Florida lawmakers endorsed a commuter train for Central Florida, agreed to pay more for commuter rail service in South Florida, and potentially improved the state's chances of winning federal funding for high-speed rail. Governor Charles Crist calls the action "a historic step to transform Florida's future," but critics maintain the state is paying too much. More online at: <http://www.theledger.com/article/20091208/NEWS/912085033/1338>

## **Florida's StarMetro Adds 14 Paratransit Buses**

Tallahassee, Florida's StarMetro's paratransit service, Dial-A-Ride, placed 14 new buses on the street. The new 23-foot Challenger buses will replace older buses from Dial-A-Ride's current fleet. The new buses seat 16 passengers and come equipped with three foldaway seats, three wheelchair positions, and a rear lift. A federal transportation grant paid for the complete replacement of the 14 buses at a cost of approximately \$1.02 million. In compliance with the ADA, the Dial-A-Ride Program provides curb-to-curb service for those citizens who cannot access StarMetro's fixed-route service. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/12/Fla-s-StarMetro-adds-14-paratransit-buses.aspx>

## **Forming Partnerships with Transit – Webinar Series**

TRB is cosponsoring the *Forming Partnerships with Transit* webinar series, to consist of four 90-minute webinars on accessible transportation that will be broadcast one each day from August 2 through August 5, 2010.

The webinars are being produced by Easter Seals Project ACTION with assistance from TRB's Committee on Accessibility. The webinars will include information presented or collected during TRB's 89th Annual Meeting, January 10-14, 2010, in Washington DC. More online at:

[http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Forming\\_Partnerships\\_With\\_Transit\\_162634.aspx?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=TransportationResearchBoard&utm\\_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+12-08-2009&utm\\_content=Web&utm\\_term=](http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Forming_Partnerships_With_Transit_162634.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=TransportationResearchBoard&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+12-08-2009&utm_content=Web&utm_term=)

## **Forming Partnerships with Transit**

Easter Seals Project ACTION presents "Forming Partnerships with Transit" training course, from Monday, January 26, 2010 through Friday, March 12, 2010. This free, six-week online training course is designed for transit advocates interested in increasing their role in the design and implementation of transportation services in the community.

Easter Seals Project ACTION is a congressionally-created national technical assistance program for persons with disabilities that is sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration.

More online at:

[http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA\\_fpwt\\_announcement2010](http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA_fpwt_announcement2010)

### **FTA Approves Houston LRT Project Advancement**

FTA approved the advancement of the Houston Metro University Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) project into the Preliminary Engineering phase. The University Line is projected to generate 49,000 boardings per day by the year 2030 and will provide a connected network serving Houstonians commuting from east, west and southwest to the city's principal destinations and activity centers. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/12/FTA-approves-advancement-for-Houston-s-LRT-project.aspx>

### **FTA Funds 23 Prius Vehicles for San Jose, California Paratransit Fleet**

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is adding 23 new Toyota Prius hybrid vehicles to its paratransit fleet, for a total of 106 Prius vehicles — reportedly one of the largest hybrid fleets in the county. Eighty percent of the funding for the purchase was provided by a grant from FTA.

The new vehicles are replacing Mercury Marquis sedans, which are replaced every five years due to high mileage. VTA Deputy Director of Operations, Jim Unites says the agency selected the Prius to save on fuel costs and help the environment. "We've tripled our fuel economy. We were driving vehicles that were getting 15 miles per gallon and with the Prius, we're getting 45."

More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2009/12/FTA-grant-funds-purchase-of-23-Priuses-for-paratransit-fleet.aspx>

### **Infrastructure = Competitiveness + Jobs**

Secretary LaHood spoke at the Brookings Institution two days after President Obama outlined the Administration's efforts to put Americans back to work while rebuilding the nation's infrastructure.

The Secretary spoke to an audience gathered for the Bernard L. Schwartz Forum on US Competitiveness, "a discussion on the connection between infrastructure investments and economic growth." That connection was made obvious, the Secretary said, by DOT's successful experience with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

More online at: <http://fastlane.dot.gov/2009/12/infrastructure-competitiveness-jobs.html>

### **More Accessible Cabs Hit Cities**

Washington, DC is one of a growing number of local governments across the nation tapping into FTA funds to jump-start accessible taxi services in their area, says Alfred LaGasse, chief executive officer of the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association in Rockville, Maryland. Federal funds, known as New Freedom grants, give taxi companies

the incentive to run an accessible cab service, for which start-up costs are high and profit potential is unproven.

“The best thing about accessible taxis that isn't talked about is that it could replace the huge paratransit cost for most of the U.S.,” says Jim Weisman, co-founder of the American Association of People with Disabilities. More online at:  
[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-12-20-wheelchair-taxis\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-12-20-wheelchair-taxis_N.htm)

### **New Flyer to Provide Support for OC Transpo's Bus Fleet**

OC Transpo is an urban transit service of the city of Ottawa. Under the agreement, New Flyer will open a service center in the National Capital area in early 2010 to provide bus warranty, technical and integrated supply chain services for the 700 New Flyer buses currently in operation by OC Transpo. The center is expected to employ approximately 12 employees on its opening. The partnership arrangement combines current open matters with future opportunities. More online at:  
<http://www.masstransitmag.com/publication/article.jsp?siteSection=3&id=10311>

### **Seats aren't Filled on Buses, Trains; Transit Ridership Drops with Economy**

After a record year in 2008, the number of people riding buses and trains dropped in 2009 as unemployment rose and fewer people traveled to work. Last year, public transit ridership hit a 52-year high of 10.7 billion rides. This year, January-through-September ridership was down 4 percent from the first nine months of last year to 7.7 billion trips, according to new figures from the American Public Transportation Association. More online at:  
<http://www.masstransitmag.com/publication/article.jsp?siteSection=3&id=10310>

### **Talking Technology and Transportation (T3) Webinars**

The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Professional Capacity Building Program is offering online access to audio transcripts, with question and answer discussions, of recently completed T3 Webinars:

- T3 Webinar archive Transit Operations Decision Support Systems:  
[http://www.pcb.its.dot.gov/t3/s091021/s091021\\_transitops\\_intro.asp](http://www.pcb.its.dot.gov/t3/s091021/s091021_transitops_intro.asp)
- T3 Webinar archive on Developing an RWIS Concept of Operations:  
[http://www.pcb.its.dot.gov/t3/s091013/s091013\\_rwis\\_intro.asp](http://www.pcb.its.dot.gov/t3/s091013/s091013_rwis_intro.asp)
- T3 Webinar archive on Version 6.1 of the National ITS Architecture:  
[http://www.pcb.its.dot.gov/t3/s091027/s091027\\_arch\\_intro.asp](http://www.pcb.its.dot.gov/t3/s091027/s091027_arch_intro.asp)

Web-based ITS Knowledge and Learning Resources are available via the U.S. Department of Transportation's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Program Website. More online at: <http://www.itsoverview.its.dot.gov/>

## **Web Extra: Rural University System Launches Web tools**

Go West Transit system, which serves Western Illinois University and Macomb, Illinois, has launched a real-time map showing transit buses on their routes as well as a text messaging system that can send bus schedules directly to riders' cell phones. More online at: <http://www.metro-agazine.com/News/Story/2009/12/Rural-university-system-launches-Web-tools.aspx>

### **DISCLAIMER**

*Articles and Web URL's are furnished for purposes of information dissemination with no warranty of accuracy or Section 508 compliance.*

For more information contact Marina Drancsak ([Marina.Drancsak@dot.gov](mailto:Marina.Drancsak@dot.gov)) at the Federal Transit Administration's Office of Research, Demonstration, and Innovation.