



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

***TRANSIT RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY NEWS UPDATE***  
***CONTENTS –APRIL 2010***

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

***SPECIAL***

Transportation's Role in Reducing U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Volume 1: Synthesis Report.....	3
U.S. Department of Transportation Posts Open Government Plan on Website .....	3
Federal Transit Administration Awards TriMet \$2.4M for Streetcar Research .....	4
Federal Transit Administration Announces Additional \$765 Million for ARC Project.....	4
First Modern Streetcar to Debut in the District of Columbia, May 5-8, 2010.....	4

***RESEARCH IN PROGRESS***

Reconnecting America's Center for Transit Oriented Development.....	5
Rail Transit Passenger Protection .....	5
Strategic and Program Plan for Research Communication and Information Dissemination..	6

***FEDERAL RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS***

Easter Seals Project ACTION Update, April 2010.....	7
Mobility Management and Coordination are Advanced by New ITS in Kentucky .....	7
Adaptive Traffic Control Systems: Domestic and Foreign State of Practice .....	8
Bus Lane with Intermittent Priority (BLIMP) Concept Simulation Analysis .....	8
Bus Rapid Transit and Development: Policies and Practices that Affect Development Around Transit.....	8
Context Sensitive Solutions Toolkit .....	8
Estimating Soft Costs for Major Public Transportation Fixed Guideway Projects .....	9
FHWA Livability Initiative Website .....	9
FHWA Successes in Stewardship Newsletter.....	9
Mixed Income Transit Oriented Development Action Guide (MITOD).....	10
Performance Measurement and Outcomes, TCRP Research Results Digest 95 .....	10
The Road to Livability: How State Departments of Transportation are Using Road Investments to Improve Community Livability.....	10
Transit-Oriented Tools for Metropolitan Planning Organizations.....	11
Volpe Highlights: April 2010 .....	11

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

Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) Program and FY 2009 and 2010 Clean Fuels Grant Program.....	11
Assessing Mechanisms for Integrating Transportation-Related Greenhouse Gas Reduction Objectives into Transportation Decision Making.....	12
NC State University Named One of Top 5 Greenest Schools .....	12
Modal Primer on Greenhouse Gas and Energy Issues for the Transportation Industry .....	12
Research Needs Statements for Climate Change and Transportation .....	12

## ***RECOVERY***

New TRAX Buses Roll-Out Service .....	13
Nearly \$50 Billion in Federal Funds Available .....	13
Wyandotte County Putting Stimulus Money Toward Rapid Transit Bus Line on State Avenue .....	13

## ***SAFETY AND SECURITY***

APTA Seeks Public Transportation Security Funding .....	13
Safety Compass Newsletter: Spring 2010.....	14
Amtrak Security Efforts Aim to Defeat, Deter Most Dangerous Terror Tactics.....	14

## ***UNIVERSITY RESEARCH***

Syracuse to Build \$4.3M 'Green' Transportation Center .....	14
Terrorist Attacks on Public Bus Transportation: A Preliminary Empirical Analysis.....	15
Upwardly Mobile - University Transportation Center for Mobility Newsletter, Texas Transportation Institute.....	15

## ***INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH***

TRB's Research in Progress (RiP) Database Increases Coverage of International Transportation Research Projects .....	15
Commuter Culture in the United States .....	15
Cooperative Mobility Showcase 2010: Smart Vehicles on Intelligent Roads .....	16
Could EU-funded Study Herald the Dawn of a New Transport Era?.....	16
Tianjin to Build Smart Grid Demonstration Project .....	16
Transport Research Knowledge Centre Passes 6000 Project Milestone! .....	17
World's First ITS-Specific Test Track Takes Shape .....	17

## ***RESEARCH NEWS & RESOURCES***

Access Board Releases Draft Refresh Section 508 Standards and Section 255 Guidelines	17
Amtrak Introduces Podcasts for Sunset Limited .....	18
Amtrak Advancing Positive Train Control Installations .....	18
CTA Begins Testing of New Railcars .....	18
Expanding Biofuel Production: Sustainability and the Transition to Advanced Biofuels: Summary of a Workshop .....	18
Los Angeles Metro Transportation Library Launches 'Primary Resources' Blog .....	19
Mobility Services for All Americans: Paducah Area Transit System Grand Opening.....	19

METRO'S BRT 25 Survey: Analysis of Bus Rapid Transit in North America .....	20
Pittsburgh's Maglev Competitors Seem to Have Higher Hurdles.....	20
Streets as Places: A Training Seminar, April 22-23, 2010 .....	20
TIFIA Loan Applications Total \$13 Billion .....	20
Toronto Transit Commission may Opt for Open Electronic Fare Payment System.....	21
What is the Online TDM Encyclopedia? .....	21

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### ***SPECIAL***

## **Transportation's Role in Reducing U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Volume 1: Synthesis Report**

This is the U.S. Department of Transportation's report to the United States Congress, submitted in response to the requirements of Section 1101(c) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

The report examines greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels and trends from the transportation sector and analyzes the full range of strategies available to reduce these emissions. These strategies include: introducing low-carbon fuels, increasing vehicle fuel economy, improving transportation system efficiency, and reducing carbon-intensive travel activity. While the report does not provide recommendations, it does analyze five categories of policy options for implementing the strategies: an economy-wide price signal, efficiency standards, market incentives, transportation planning and funding programs, and research and development.

"Reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change is one of the great challenges of our time," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "Transportation is one of the major contributors to greenhouse gases, and the transportation sector must be a big part of the solution. This report provides valuable information that will help us in our effort to protect the environment."

More online at: [http://ntl.bts.gov/lib/32000/32700/32779/DOT\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Report\\_-\\_April\\_2010\\_-\\_Volume\\_1\\_and\\_2.pdf](http://ntl.bts.gov/lib/32000/32700/32779/DOT_Climate_Change_Report_-_April_2010_-_Volume_1_and_2.pdf)

## **U.S. Department of Transportation Posts Open Government Plan on Website**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has posted its Open Government Plan on its Website. The plan serves as a blueprint for making improvements by: encouraging more effective public participation in rulemaking, releasing high-value data sets, soliciting public comment via the Internet, providing tools for employees to discuss their innovative ideas, and instilling Open Government principles in the business culture.

The Department is committed to ensuring that the DOT Open Government Plan serves as a foundation for continued innovation in the areas of transparency, participation, and collaboration now and in the future. Your comments are welcomed.

More online at: <http://www.dot.gov/open/>

## **Federal Transit Administration Awards TriMet \$2.4M for Streetcar Research**

April 16, 2010. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff announced that Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet) will receive \$2.4 million in federal research funds to support the development of streetcar components that will be made in the United States.

At present there is no domestic manufacturer of streetcar propulsion systems. The propulsion system represents about 20 percent of the total cost of a vehicle. The FTA will fund 80 percent of the \$3-million project, with a local match of \$600,000. TriMet will use the funds to support the development of a domestically-produced streetcar propulsion system, as well as initial work to develop a streetcar that can operate for short distances without power from overhead wires. The work will be done by the Clackamas, Oregon-based manufacturer Oregon Iron Works, the parent company of United Streetcar LLC.

More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2010/04/FTA-awards-TriMet-2-4M-for-streetcar-research.aspx>

## **Federal Transit Administration Announces Additional \$765 Million for ARC Project**

April 14, 2010. U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced that the Federal Transit Administration will make a further “down payment” toward an eventual commitment of \$3 billion by approving a \$765 million Early Systems Work Agreement (ESWA) amendment to continue and expand work on the Access to the Region’s Core (ARC) rail project, which will carry the rail line under the Hudson River. The agreement includes \$385 million in federal funds matched by \$380 million in local funding.

Secretary LaHood said that the announcement reaffirms the administration’s firm intent to enter into a full funding grant agreement to provide \$3 billion in discretionary FTA New Starts funds for the \$8.7 billion project. The nine-mile commuter rail extension will consist of two new tunnels under the Hudson River, new rail tracks between Secaucus Junction and New York’s Penn Station, and a new rail station underneath 34th Street in midtown Manhattan. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Print/2010/04/FTA-announces-additional-765M-for-ARC-project.aspx>

## **First Modern Streetcar to Debut in the District of Columbia, May 5-8, 2010**

Washington. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) will host the DC Streetcar Showcase from Wednesday, May 5 through Saturday, May 8, 2010 at City Center DC, the site of the old convention center. After a 50 year hiatus, streetcars will once again operate in the nation’s capital in 2012.

District residents, workers, and visitors will have an opportunity to board one of the District’s new modern streetcars. Showcase admittance is free. The event schedule is as follows:

- 11am – 7 pm - Wednesday, May 5 through Friday, May 7;
- 11am – 5pm - Saturday, May 8.

The District owns three streetcars, currently stored at Metro's rail yard in Greenbelt, Maryland. For the Showcase, the DDOT will transport one of the vehicles downtown to be set on tracks in Lot B of City Center DC. Public access to Lot B is at the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> and H Streets, NW, (just north of Gallery Place Metro Station on the Green and Yellow Lines).

Media Contact: John Lisle (DDOT) at 202-671-2004

More online at:

<http://www.ddot.dc.gov/DC/DDOT/On+Your+Street/Mass+Transit+in+DC/DC+Streetcar>

## ***RESEARCH IN PROGRESS***

### **Reconnecting America's Center for Transit Oriented Development**

Project No:	FTA-CA-26-1007-04
Record Type:	Research in Progress
Funding:	\$1,060,000
Schedule:	September 2009 – September 2012
Performer:	Reconnecting America 426 14 <sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1005 Oakland, CA 94612-2714
Contact:	Allison Brooks
Phone:	510-268-8602
FTA Project Monitor:	Jeff Price, Office of Planning and Environment
Phone:	202-366-4033
Fax:	202-493-2478
Email:	<a href="mailto:Jeff.Price@dot.gov">Jeff.Price@dot.gov</a>

*Description.* This cooperative agreement enables Reconnecting America's Center for Transit-Oriented Development (Center) to partner with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to advance the field of transit-oriented development (TOD) through the development and dissemination of research, data analysis, best practices, and tools that foster more sustainable and equitable community development near transit stations. The center will continue to expand knowledge of the critical linkages between mixed-income housing, economic development, and transit, as well as develop an online national TOD database of demographics, land use data and travel behavior data for existing and planned fixed transit station in the U.S. and more.

Index Terms:	Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)	Livability	Urban Design
Real Estate Markets	Mixed- Income TOD	Metropolitan Planning	Public Transit

### **Rail Transit Passenger Protection**

Project No:	FTA-KS-26-7008
Record Type:	Research in Progress
Funding:	\$175,000
Schedule:	March 2009 – April 2011
Performer:	National Institute of Aviation Research Wichita State University

1845 Fairmont  
Wichita, Kansas 67260-0007  
Contact: Gerardo Olivares  
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FTA Project Monitor: Roy WeiShun (Roy) Chen  
Phone: 202-366-0462  
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Email: Roy.WeiShunChen@dot.gov

*Description.* This cooperative agreement supports the research objective of Wichita State University to identify the injury mechanisms to light rail vehicle (LRV) passengers, and to propose future areas of research that will lay the foundations necessary to generate rail transit vehicle interior design guidelines that enhance the level of safety to passengers during collisions.

Statistically, light rail systems have higher injury rates on a per passenger-mile basis than heavy rail and commuter rail, because light rail transit systems in most cities operate on city streets with at-grade crossings. Occupant safety is dependent on the configuration and severity of the accident, as well as the degree of crashworthiness engineered in the overall vehicle design.

Index Terms: Light Rail Transit	Passenger Protection	Interior Design
Rail Transit Vehicle Collision	Public Transit	Configuration Minimize Injuries

### **Strategic and Program Plan for Research Communication and Information Dissemination**

Project: FTA-MA-26-7127  
Record Type: Research in Progress  
Funding: \$212,500  
Schedule: April 2010 – December 2011  
Performer: Volpe National Transportation Systems Center  
Kendall Square  
Cambridge, MA 02139-1500  
Contact: Suzanne Sloan  
Telephone: 617-494-3282  
Email: [Suzanne.Sloan@dot.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Sloan@dot.gov)  
FTA Project Monitor: Edwin Rodriguez, TRI  
Phone: 202-366-0671  
Fax: 202-366-3765  
Email: Edwin.Rodriguez@dot.gov

*Description.* This project seeks the professional technical services of the Volpe Center in analysis, evaluation and development of a comprehensive strategic plan and program for communicating and disseminating information about the Federal Transit Administration's research and results of that research. The services include enhancing the content and design of the public website—the portal for communicating FTA research and technology program and project results worldwide. Services also include an evaluation defining and describing the functional responsibilities of the FTA staff assigned to the communication and information

dissemination function within the Office of Research, Demonstration and Innovation (TRI), with recommendations for improving performance of those functions. Ultimately, the plan will reflect FTA interest in federal research and development and its continuing commitment to facilitate the dissemination and implementation of transit research results to the transportation community and the general public.

Index Terms: Strategic Plan      Research and Communication Plan      Public Transit  
Information Dissemination      Research Results Implementation      Knowledge Management

### ***FEDERAL RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS***

#### **Easter Seals Project ACTION Update, April 2010**

Easter Seals' Project ACTION (ESPA) has released the latest issue of its quarterly newsletter, dedicated to Mobility Management especially on the need to combine a systems approach to mobility management with a person-centered approach. One person applauded as integral to the expansion of mobility management is Doug Birnie from the Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Doug's article, Mobility Management and Its Person-Centered Approach, is available on page 2 of this newsletter.

Currently, ESPA has undertaken a program to develop a national volunteer network of coaches—the Mobility Management Independent Living Coaches (MMIL) program—to train one independent living coach in each state to teach mobility managers about independent living concepts. This project is the first of several on which ESPA will partner with other national organizations to bring mobility management to communities across the country. Throughout the initiatives, ESPA will focus primarily on education, training, and information to improve options for older adults and people with disabilities so that they may continue to be active participants in their towns, cities, and villages.

ESPA is a national technical assistance program created by Congress and sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration. More online at:

<http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/EasterSealsUPDATEApr2010.pdf?docID=134243>

#### **Mobility Management and Coordination are Advanced by New ITS in Kentucky**

A new era in travel and mobility management began March 12 in Paducah, Kentucky, when Paducah Area Transit System (PATS) along with three other travel providers opened the doors on the Purchase Area Travel Management Coordination Center for all of far Western Kentucky. The goal of the initiative is to improve performance and cost efficiency for transportation providers, while making transportation management easier for passengers through intelligent transportation systems.

An open house showcased the center's new intelligent transportation systems (ITS), advanced technology now being used to manage and coordinate the services of Paducah Area Transit System, Easter Seals West Kentucky, Fulton County Transit and Murray Calloway County Transit. The article is on page 8 of the same newsletter quoted above—*Easter Seals Project*

*ACTION Update, April 2010.* More online at:

<http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/EasterSealsUPDATEApr2010.pdf?docID=134243>

### **Adaptive Traffic Control Systems: Domestic and Foreign State of Practice**

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Synthesis 403: Adaptive Traffic Control Systems: Domestic and Foreign State of Practice explores the state of practice of adaptive traffic control systems (ATCSs), also known as real-time traffic control systems, which adjust, in real time, signal timings based on traffic conditions, demand, and system capacity.

More online at: [http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp\\_syn\\_403.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_syn_403.pdf)

### **Bus Lane with Intermittent Priority (BLIMP) Concept Simulation Analysis**

FTA-FL-26-7109-2009.8 report documents a preliminary implementation study to determine the potential impacts of a new and innovative transit priority treatment along a bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor in Eugene, Oregon. The National Bus Rapid Transit Institute at the University of South Florida in partnership with Lane Transit District undertook this study to determine the benefits of a new and innovative BRT treatment concept that provides transit preferential treatment when needed—Bus Lane with intermittent Priority (BLIMP).

Operationally, BLIMP is an exclusive bus lane that is provided priority on a temporary, bus-actuated basis via overhead variable message signs and in-ground dynamic lane markings. Only two other similar applications exist: an intermittent bus lane in Lisbon, Portugal; and a Dynamic Fairway in Melbourne, Australia, which adapts the IBL to suit the Melbourne tram system.

More online at: <http://www.nbrti.org/research.html>

### **Bus Rapid Transit and Development: Policies and Practices that Affect Development Around Transit**

The development of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems is relatively recent in the United States, but several systems are in operation and more are advancing. This research reflects the need for a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between land use and BRT system development, particularly in comparison to other fixed-guideway modes such as heavy and light rail transit (LRT).

FTA-FL-26-7109.2009.5 research discusses current or potential development impacts along BRT corridors at selected North American sites, and the policies and practices that have been implemented within each respective city that has the ability to affect development patterns around transit. The cities that were selected for discussion are those in which both BRT and light rail transit (LRT) operate, namely: Los Angeles, Ottawa, Boston, New York, Baltimore, and Pittsburgh. Additional note has been taken as to whether the benefits and incentives offered along transit corridors between BRT and LRT are equitable in cities in which both modes operate. More online at: <http://www.nbrti.org/research.html>

### **Context Sensitive Solutions Toolkit**



The Peninsula Rail Program has developed the Context Sensitive Solutions toolkit for stakeholders of the San Francisco to San Jose section of the California High-Speed Train Project. The purpose of the toolkit is to provide a methodical approach for both providing technical and project information to stakeholders and for soliciting a wide range of inputs that will be used to further shape the project alternatives.

The Peninsula Rail Program is a partnership between Caltrain and the California High-Speed Rail Authority, established to plan and implement a Caltrain modernization program known as Caltrain 2025, and high-speed train service from San Jose to San Francisco.

More online at: [http://www.caltrain.com/peninsularailprogram\\_csstoolkit.html](http://www.caltrain.com/peninsularailprogram_csstoolkit.html)

### **Estimating Soft Costs for Major Public Transportation Fixed Guideway Projects**

*TCRP Report 138: Estimating Soft Costs for Major Public Transportation Fixed Guideway Projects: Part I: Guidebook; Part 2: Final Report* is an important resource that addresses the costs for professional services for major transit investments. The Guidebook is a resource intended for project managers and cost estimators working for transit agencies or other organizations in the early phases of planning a major fixed guideway public transportation project. Part 1 defines and describes soft costs and provides a new methodology to estimate soft costs based on historical projects. Part 2: Final Report presents more detailed technical information about this project's data collection, methodology, and statistical analysis. The Final Report may be used not only by transit agencies, but also by regional governments, state and national departments of transportation, researchers, project sponsors, and estimators.

Generally, soft costs are the capital expenditures that are required to complete an operational transit project, but which are not spent directly on activities related to brick-and-mortar construction, vehicle and equipment procurement, or land acquisition. Instead, these expenses (soft costs) are incurred on professional services that are necessary to complete the project.

More online at: <http://www.trb.org/Publications/Public/PubsTCRPPProjectReports.aspx>

### **FHWA Livability Initiative Website**

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has launched a Livable Communities webpage that is intended to provide information on the FHWA Livability Initiative as well as provide updates on the Housing and Urban Development, Department of Transportation, and Environmental Protection Agency Partnership for Sustainable Communities.

More online at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability/>

### **FHWA Successes in Stewardship Newsletter**

The Federal Highway Administration's has released the April 2010 issue of Successes in Stewardship Newsletter. The feature story in this edition is the agency's *Eco-Logical Grant Program: Updates and Progress*. FHWA established the *Eco-Logical* grant program in 2007 to pilot a new, more ecosystem-sensitive approach to infrastructure development. Currently, the program is funding 15 projects across the country.

This issue of Successes in Stewardship highlights three projects funded by the *Eco-Logical* grant program that demonstrate the strength of *Eco-Logical* in action.

More online at: <http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/strmlng/newsletters/apr10nl.asp>.

### **Mixed Income Transit Oriented Development Action Guide (MITOD)**

The U.S. Federal Transit Administration has launched an interactive online action guide designed to help local jurisdictions and planners develop strategies to create mixed-income transit-oriented development around planned transit stations. The term “mixed-income TOD” (MITOD) is shorthand to describe a set of goals that include the provision of a mix of housing choices, affordable to a range of incomes, for people at different stages of life within a specific transit station area. More online at: <http://www.mitod.org/home.php>

### **Performance Measurement and Outcomes, TCRP Research Results Digest 95**

TCRP Research Results Digest 95 presents an overview of the spring 2009 mission performed under TCRP Project J-03, International Transit Studies Program. The mission team explored how performance measurements are used to achieve organizational goals and enhance quality of service at public transport planning, funding, and operating agencies in Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China; in the city-state of Singapore; in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and in Taipei, Taiwan. Performance measures are used by U.S. public transportation agencies to direct resources, improve operations, determine efficiency and effectiveness of service, and ensure strategic goals are met. A list of study team members is included in Appendix A of this April 2010 digest. More online at: <http://www.trb.org/Publications/Public/PubsTCRPResearchResultsDigests.aspx>

### **The Road to Livability: How State Departments of Transportation are Using Road Investments to Improve Community Livability**

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has released a new report, *The Road to Livability*, describing how a full range of transportation options—including improvements to roadways, transit, walking, and biking—can improve livability in our communities. AASHTO’s “livability” objective is to use transportation investments to improve the standard of living, the environment, and quality of life for all communities, rural, suburban and urban.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has made “livability” one of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) top priorities. Transportation is a critical link in creating more livable communities—playing an important role in connecting affordable housing, good jobs, a safe and healthy environment, and strong schools.

This report documents a number of ways state departments of transportation are working to enhance a community’s attractiveness, build its local economy, create a sense of place, preserve its character, enhance its safety, and more. The effort includes expanding options for biking, walking, and transit use, as well as implementing such road-related, livable policies as revitalizing urban centers, building local economies, and preserving historic sites and scenic country roads. More online at: <http://downloads.transportation.org/LR-1.pdf>

## **Transit-Oriented Tools for Metropolitan Planning Organizations**

The Center for Transit-Oriented Development (CTOD) has released a guide, “Transit-Oriented Tools for Metropolitan Planning Organizations,” to aid Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in taking a more proactive role in planning and promoting compact growth along transit corridors. Funded through a cooperative agreement between Reconnecting America and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the guide highlights best practices related to regulations, funding, information sharing, and partnerships

The Center for Transit-Oriented Development (CTOD) is a national nonprofit effort dedicated to providing best practices, research and tools to support market-based transit-oriented development. CTOD partners with both the public and private market sectors to strategize about ways to encourage the development of high performing communities around transit stations and to build transit systems that maximize development potential. More online at:

[http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/public/display\\_asset/100412\\_ctod\\_pressrelease](http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/public/display_asset/100412_ctod_pressrelease)

## **Volpe Highlights: April 2010**

The U.S. Research and Innovative Technology Administration's Volpe National Transportation Systems Center has released the latest issue of its monthly newsletter that highlights work taking place at the center as well as information of interest to the transportation research community. This issue highlights the appointment of Anne Aylward to the position of Deputy Associate Administrator for Research, Innovation and Technology at the Volpe Center. In this role, Anne leads the Centers of Innovation (COIs), which encompass all of the research, innovation, technology, and transportation program analysis functions performed by the Volpe Center. More online at: <http://www.volpe.dot.gov/infosrc/highlts/pdf/apr10.pdf>

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

### **Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) Program and FY 2009 and 2010 Clean Fuels Grant Program**

April 13, 2010. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the availability of discretionary funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 for the Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) program funds and FY 2009 and 2010 Clean Fuels Grant program funds, augmented with FY 2010 Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities program funds.

These discretionary program funds will be distributed in accordance with the mission of each program and in support of the U.S. Department of Transportation's environmental sustainability efforts. This Federal Register Volume 75, (April 13, 2010) notice includes priorities established by FTA for these discretionary funds, the criteria FTA will use to identify meritorious projects for funding, and instructions on how to apply for funding under each discretionary program.

More online at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/FR-2010-04-13/2010-8398/content-detail.html>.

TIGGER program proposals must be submitted by August 11, 2010. Application instructions, eligibility, projects, and history of TIGGER program can be found at the FTA website. More online at: <http://www.fta.dot.gov/tigger>

### **Assessing Mechanisms for Integrating Transportation-Related Greenhouse Gas Reduction Objectives into Transportation Decision Making**

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Web-Only Document 152: "Assessing Mechanisms for Integrating Transportation-Related Greenhouse Gas Reduction Objectives into Transportation Decision Making" examines alternative methods that state departments of transportation and metropolitan planning organizations may use to manage greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. More online at: <http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/163179.aspx>

### **NC State University Named One of Top 5 Greenest Schools**

April 26, 2010. Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine recently selected Raleigh, N.C.-based NC State University (NC State) as one of its top five "greenest schools" in the Southeastern U.S. Universities were evaluated on factors such as renewable energy, energy conservation, food, alternative transportation, LEED/green building, recycling, environmental studies, green space and campus conservation and outdoor recreation.

NC State was chosen for the list because of its variety of alternative transportation options. The University offers free commuting options, including the "GoPass" –a regional transit pass available to all students and staff to ride free on local Capitol Area Transit (CAT) and regional Triangle Transit (TT) buses and "WolfWheels," a bike rental program that launched March 29. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2010/04/N-C-State-named-one-of-Top-5-Greenest-Schools-.aspx>

### **Modal Primer on Greenhouse Gas and Energy Issues for the Transportation Industry**

TRB Transportation Research Circular E-C134: "Modal Primer on Greenhouse Gas and Energy Issues for the Transportation Industry" is a primer designed to provide transportation decision makers with an inclusive, educated, and objective overview of the current state of the transportation industry from a greenhouse gas and energy standpoint. More online at: [http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Modal\\_Primer\\_on\\_Greenhouse\\_Gas\\_and\\_Energy\\_Issues\\_f\\_163289.aspx](http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Modal_Primer_on_Greenhouse_Gas_and_Energy_Issues_f_163289.aspx)

### **Research Needs Statements for Climate Change and Transportation**

TRB's Transportation Research Circular E-C144: Research Needs Statements for Climate Change and Transportation includes a series of specific research needs statements on climate change and transportation designed as a resource to be used by universities, students, research organizations, government agencies, and other interested parties as they contemplate and fund research in this area. More online at: <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/circulars/ec144.pdf>

## ***RECOVERY***

### **New TRAX Buses Roll-Out Service**

Six new city TRAX buses made their first run across the city on Friday morning, April 23, provided by \$235,000 in government stimulus funds directed through the Federal Transportation Administration, and awarded to the Ark-Tex Council of Governments through the Texas Department of Transportation—according to the Mount Pleasant Daily Tribune.

The 13-passenger/two wheelchairs or 15 passenger/no-wheelchair capacity buses replace the 10-year-old, 22-passenger buses, some with speedometers registering more than 200,000 miles. The new buses are smaller, more economical, and fueled by gasoline, not diesel fuel, according to Linda Pugh, Ark-Tex Council of Governments rural transportation and community development manager. The old buses will be sold through an online auction, she said. More online at: <http://www.dailytribune.net/articles/2010/04/24/news/01.txt>

### **Nearly \$50 Billion in Federal Funds Available**

Nearly \$50 billion in federal funds is available to states for the spring and summer construction season through a new law, the Transportation Department announced Wednesday, April 28..

The Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act (HIRE) extends funding authority for surface transportation programs through the end of 2010, providing an additional \$40.1 billion to the Highway Trust Fund, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced today. "These funds will help make it easier for states to put people back to work and begin long-term projects," LaHood said. More online at: <http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/appropriations/93515-nearly-50-billion-in-highway-funds-available-to-states>

### **Wyandotte County Putting Stimulus Money Toward Rapid Transit Bus Line on State Avenue**

Wyandotte County is taking a big step toward starting a high-tech, express bus service between downtown Kansas City and the Village West entertainment complex. The county has about \$12 million in federal stimulus money to put toward a State Avenue line that would be 30 percent faster than existing bus service. The goal is to take riders from downtown to Village West in 42 minutes. Now it takes 58 minutes. More online at: <http://www.kansascity.com/2010/04/20/1891802/wyandotte-county-putting-stimulus.html>

## ***SAFETY AND SECURITY***

### **APTA Seeks Public Transportation Security Funding**

April 22, 2010. The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) asked Congress to appropriate \$1.1 billion for public transportation security funding in the fiscal-year 2011 budget to help safeguard transit agencies from terrorist attacks.

A recent survey of public transit systems identifies \$6.4 billion in security needs, APTA President William Millar told House Appropriations Committee on Homeland Security members during a recent hearing. Millar urged Congress to provide at least \$1.1 billion in funding for FY2011, which is the level authorized under the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007. Federal funding provided in FY2010 for public transportation security totaled \$253 million. More online at: <http://www.apta.com/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Safety Compass Newsletter: Spring 2010**

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration has released the latest issue of its Safety Compass newsletter. The newsletter covers program delivery, best practices, research, training, regulations, and legislation designed to help improve and establish a more productive national and local safety program. This issue's feature story is American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Saving Lives on America's Highways. More online at: <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/newsletter/safetycompass/2010/spring10/spring10.pdf>

### **Amtrak Security Efforts Aim to Defeat, Deter Most Dangerous Terror Tactics**

Amtrak testified before a Senate committee that "the security of our system is our top priority" and its efforts are focused on defeating or deterring the most dangerous and likely terror tactics, including use of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on board a train or at a station and the emerging threat of an active shooter.

"We are devoting our efforts to making it harder and harder for terrorists to use their preferred strategies to attack our stations, trains, and passengers," said Amtrak Chief of Police John O'Connor. More online at: <http://www.masstransitmag.com/publication/article.jsp?siteSection=3&id=11292>

## ***UNIVERSITY RESEARCH***

### **Syracuse to Build \$4.3M 'Green' Transportation Center**

In March 2010, Syracuse University's (SU) Office of Planning, Design and Construction announced it plans to build the \$4.3 million transportation center next to the Syracuse Center of Excellence building in downtown Syracuse.

The facility includes a public bus stop for the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority's (Centro) Connective Corridor bus loop; a Syracuse University, City of Syracuse and State of New York partnership making modern and convenient transportation available to connect the University and the city's cultural sites.

"The new intermodal transportation facility will provide surface parking for 99 vehicles, including recharging stations for electric vehicles and preferred parking spaces for alternative fuel/highly efficient vehicles," said Eric Beattie, Director, Office of Planning, Design and Construction, at SU. More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2010/04/Syracuse-to-build-4-3M-green-transportation-center.aspx>



## **Terrorist Attacks on Public Bus Transportation: A Preliminary Empirical Analysis**

The Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University has released a report that examines data on terrorist attacks against public bus transportation targets and serious crimes committed against such targets throughout the world. Data include the frequency and lethality with which buses, bus stations, and bus stops are attacked; the relationship between fatalities and attacks against bus targets and the relationship between injuries and attacks against those targets; how often, relative to other surface transportation targets, buses are attacked, first with all weapons and then with only explosive and incendiary devices; the relative lethality of attacks; and the distribution of attacks. More online at:

[http://transweb.sjsu.edu/mtiportal/research/publications/documents/MTI-Bus-InterimBusReportFINAL4-6-10\(withCovers\).pdf](http://transweb.sjsu.edu/mtiportal/research/publications/documents/MTI-Bus-InterimBusReportFINAL4-6-10(withCovers).pdf)

## **Upwardly Mobile - University Transportation Center for Mobility Newsletter, Texas Transportation Institute**

*Upwardly Mobile* is the University Transportation Center for Mobility newsletter, produced semi-annually by the Texas Transportation Institute, Texas A&M University System. This January 2010 edition highlights the fifteen UTCM projects awarded for fiscal year (FY) 2010. These projects total over \$1.25 million, span all of UTCM's focus areas, and include projects addressing research, education, and technology transfer.

More online at: <http://utcm.tamu.edu/publications/newsletter/v4n1/docs/jan10news-print.pdf>

## **INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH**

### **TRB's Research in Progress (RiP) Database Increases Coverage of International Transportation Research Projects**

The European Commission's Transport Research Knowledge Centre (TRKC) has begun posting information about its ongoing projects to the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Research in Progress (RIP) database. This effort is expected to add information about more than 6,000 new projects to the database. By collaborating with the TRKC, the RIP database has expanded its scope and is becoming a worldwide resource on ongoing transportation research.

More online at:

[http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/TRBs\\_Research\\_in\\_Progress\\_RiP\\_Database\\_Increases\\_Coverage\\_of\\_International\\_Transportation\\_Research\\_Projects](http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/TRBs_Research_in_Progress_RiP_Database_Increases_Coverage_of_International_Transportation_Research_Projects)

### **Commuter Culture in the United States**

This Mintel report explores the public transit market in the US. It provides insight into the external and internal factors affecting service and ridership trends, and what they mean for launching and marketing campaigns via buses, subways and rail systems and taxicab fleets.

The report provides an in-depth examination of the public transit market for industry retailers, distributors, and marketers interested in pursuing opportunities to capitalize on trends within segments and to evaluate the competition. Additionally, the report examines the opportunities that are available through these three transit segments: buses, subways and rail and taxicabs. This report was published by RESEARCH AND MARKET identified as the world's largest market resource, Dublin, Ireland. More online at:

[http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/1dfcfc/commuter\\_culture\\_in\\_the\\_united\\_states\\_2009](http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/1dfcfc/commuter_culture_in_the_united_states_2009)

### **Cooperative Mobility Showcase 2010: Smart Vehicles on Intelligent Roads**

The Cooperative Mobility Showcase 2010 featured the world's largest most varied and extensive demonstrations of vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) communication technologies and applications, held in and around Amsterdam on 23-26 March 2010.

Cooperative Mobility means the interconnection of vehicles and infrastructure to create and share new kinds of information, leading to a better cooperation amongst drivers, vehicles and roadside systems. The effects are substantial on the safety and efficiency of the road network, on environmental impact and will stimulate a wave of innovative applications for driver assistance and comfort.

More online at: <http://www.cooperativemobilityshowcase.eu/nl/en/pages/default.aspx>

### **Could EU-funded Study Herald the Dawn of a New Transport Era?**

April 8, 2010. Are cooperative systems in transport a thing of the future? Researchers from the CVIS (Cooperative vehicle-infrastructure systems) project say they are. CVIS received nearly EUR 22 million in European Union (EU) funding to develop, demonstrate and evaluate selected reference applications of cooperative systems in both urban and interurban environments.

According to CVIS, cooperative drivers using cooperative vehicle infrastructure systems will lead to a better future. Intelligent transportation systems, which bring information and communication technologies to the transport sector, are pivotal to achieving this objective.

More online at:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP6\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&DOC=1&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=0127defa7679:9b7c:5085d551&RCN=31962](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP6_NEWS&ACTION=D&DOC=1&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=0127defa7679:9b7c:5085d551&RCN=31962)

### **Tianjin to Build Smart Grid Demonstration Project**

It is reported that China will launch its second smart grid demonstration project in Tianjin in April 2010. Tianjin smart grid will include charging stations and energy storage system for motor vehicles. Meanwhile, the grid will explore multi-grid integration and quantifying electric energy. Construction of the project will begin in April and possibly complete 80 percent this year. It is anticipated that the smart grid project will be online at the end of 2012.

More online at:

[http://www.steelguru.com/news/chinese\\_news/MTM4Nzc1/Tianjin\\_to\\_build\\_smart\\_grid\\_demonstration\\_project\\_in\\_April.html](http://www.steelguru.com/news/chinese_news/MTM4Nzc1/Tianjin_to_build_smart_grid_demonstration_project_in_April.html)



## **Transport Research Knowledge Centre Passes 6000 Project Milestone!**

The Transport Research Knowledge Centre (TRKC) database now features more than 6,040 projects funded at European or national levels (covering 30 countries from the European Research Area). Projects have been categorized according to the following information coverage:

- Short profile includes information on origin, program funding, thematic transport categories and available point of contact.
- Profile, in addition to the above, features a more detailed project outline including background, objectives and methodology.
- Results provide information on key project outputs as well as technical and policy implications.

More online at: [http://www.transport-research.info/web/projects/transport\\_themes.cfm](http://www.transport-research.info/web/projects/transport_themes.cfm)

## **World's First ITS-Specific Test Track Takes Shape**

ERTICO ITS Europe reported in its newsletter that April 2010 marked a major milestone --the completion of the road network that will form the basis of innovITS ADVANCE--the world's first purpose-built facility for the development, testing and validation of ITS products and services. InnovITS ADVANCE is the international center for connecting vehicles, highways, and communications. The new facility, when completed, will become a virtual city in which automakers, telecom companies and highway operators will be able to develop, test and validate the next generation of ITS innovations. More online at:

[http://www.ertico.com/en/news/ertico\\_newsroom/worlds\\_first\\_its\\_specific\\_test\\_track\\_takes\\_shape.htm](http://www.ertico.com/en/news/ertico_newsroom/worlds_first_its_specific_test_track_takes_shape.htm)

### ***RESEARCH NEWS & RESOURCES***

## **Access Board Releases Draft Refresh of Section 508 Standards and Section 255 Guidelines**

The Access Board is updating its standards for electronic and information technology in the Federal sector covered by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. As part of this effort, it is also updating guidelines for telecommunications products subject to Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act.

On March 17, the Board released for public comment a draft of the updated standards and guidelines. The draft features a new structure and format that integrates both 508 standards and 255 guidelines into a single document referred to as the "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Standards and Guidelines." Requirements have been reorganized according to functionality instead of product type. The released draft includes proposed revisions to various performance criteria and technical specifications.

Products and technologies covered by this rulemaking include telephones and cell phones and other telecommunication products, computer hardware and software, websites, media players, electronic documents, and PDAs, among others.

More online at: <http://www.access-board.gov/news/ict-draft-rule.htm>

### **Amtrak Introduces Podcasts for Sunset Limited**

April 14, 2010. Amtrak passengers traveling between New Orleans and Los Angeles can download a podcast that provides commentary about the communities along the route. Amtrak partnered with the National Park Service and Texas A&M University to produce the free podcast for the Sunset Limited, which is available at [AmtrakRailGuide.com](http://AmtrakRailGuide.com) in MP3 and printed format.

“We are excited to provide passengers the opportunity for a self-guided tour of one of America’s great railroad journeys,” said Emmett Fremaux, Amtrak’s vice president of marketing and product development. More online at: <http://www.thetransitwire.com/2010/04/14/amtrak-introduces-podcasts-for-sunset-limited/>

### **Amtrak Advancing Positive Train Control Installations**

April 8, 2010. Amtrak announced an aggressive schedule to expand positive train control technology three years ahead of a federal deadline. The railroad will install PTC on all of its tracks along the Northeast Corridor and on its Michigan Line by the end of 2012.

“Amtrak has long been a leader in the development and operation of PTC safety technology and we are extending it to cover all of the tracks we own,” said President and CEO Joseph Boardman.

More online at: [http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2010/04/Amtrak-advancing-PTC-installations.aspx?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed+MetroMagazine-IndustryNews+Metro+Magazine+-+Industry+News](http://www.metro-magazine.com/News/Story/2010/04/Amtrak-advancing-PTC-installations.aspx?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed+MetroMagazine-IndustryNews+Metro+Magazine+-+Industry+News)

### **CTA Begins Testing of New Railcars**

April 19, 2010. The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) introduced prototypes of the agency's new 5000-series railcars and announced that the cars will begin testing in revenue service on April 19. The CTA selected Bombardier Transportation to manufacture the cars. The total cost for the 406 railcars is \$603.6 million.

These new additions to the rail fleet offer a number of customer amenities in addition to more safety features and technologies that will enhance operations and maintenance and provide a smoother, more comfortable ride. Among them are networked security cameras; glow-in-the-dark safety signs and floor strips; an event recorder system; a new aisle-facing seating configuration that accommodates more customers per car; regenerative braking technology; and new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/Channel/Rail-Transit/News/Story/2010/04/CTA-begins-testing-of-new-railcars.aspx>

### **Expanding Biofuel Production: Sustainability and the Transition to Advanced Biofuels. Summary of a Workshop**

The Science and Technology for Sustainability Program, part of the National Academies' Division on Policy and Global Affairs (PGA), has released a report that explores the effects of

biofuel production and use on water quality and quantity, soils, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions, air quality, public health, and the economic viability of rural communities. More online at:

[http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Expanding\\_Biofuel\\_Production\\_Sustainability\\_and\\_th\\_163265.aspx?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=TransportationResearchBoard&utm\\_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+04-13-2010&utm\\_content=Customer&utm\\_term=](http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Expanding_Biofuel_Production_Sustainability_and_th_163265.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=TransportationResearchBoard&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+04-13-2010&utm_content=Customer&utm_term=)

### **Los Angeles Metro Transportation Library Launches ‘Primary Resources’ Blog**

The Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library and Archive is one of the most comprehensive transportation libraries in the United States. “We are the only multimodal transit and transportation library in Southern California, serving employees, the public, governmental and research institutions around the world.”

Currently, the Metro Library is offering a new resource for information related to transit and transportation in Southern California - Primary Resources blog to compliment the daily aggregated news items. Metro Library has a lot of important resources from its collection and beyond to share with the transit and transportation community.

More online at: <http://metrotransportationlibrary.blogspot.com/2010/04/as-many-of-you-know-metro-library.html>

### **Mobility Services for All Americans: Paducah Area Transit System Grand Opening**

Mobility Services for All Americans (MSAA) is a U.S. Department of Transportation Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) research initiative. In 2009, in cooperation with the United We Ride Initiative, three grantees received full awards to deploy their versions of a replicable and scalable Travel Management Coordination Center (TMCC) utilizing ITS technologies to coordinate transit services to transportation disadvantaged individuals, including individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and the low-income.

Selected sites included Paducah Area Transit System (Paducah, KY), Lower Savannah Council of Governments (Aiken, SC), and Camden County Workforce Investment Board (Camden, NJ)

In March 2010, the Paducah Area Transit System (KY) hosted its Grand Opening and went “live” with its TMCC which includes Murray Calloway Transit, Fulton County Transit, and Easter Seals West Kentucky as project partners (collectively named Purchase Area Regional Transit). The one call center is replicable and scalable, demonstrating to others how transportation providers and non-profit agencies can utilize ITS to address the rising costs and needs of all riders, especially those with special transportation challenges. The Lower Savannah Council of Governments MSAA/TMCC demonstration is scheduled to go live in August 2010. The Camden County Workforce Investment Board MSAA/TMCC demonstration is scheduled to go live in June 2011. FTA contact person: [Aletha.Goodine@dot.gov](mailto:Aletha.Goodine@dot.gov).

More online at: <http://www.ridepart.com/tmccintro.htm>.

## **METRO'S BRT 25 Survey: Analysis of Bus Rapid Transit in North America**

April 2010. This year, METRO's BRT 25 Survey results feature 43 projects, 42 of which are located in the United States, and one in Canada. The survey, sponsored by North American Bus Industries, Inc., explored bus rapid transit (BRT) projects in North America. The region producing the highest number of new BRT systems was the West Coast, with a total of 16 projects to begin operation between 2010 and 2017.

Funding was once again the most common challenge cited this year, at 36 percent, with land use and project coordination at 24 percent and 16 percent, respectively. Other difficulties noted in the survey were construction, at 12 percent, and gaining community support, 8 percent.

Survey results indicate that 64 percent of survey respondents are looking to fuel their buses with clean diesel, with nearly as many, 60 percent, selecting hybrid-electric propulsion. Twenty-eight percent of those surveyed chose CNG, up significantly from 2009's 14 percent.

For intelligent transportation systems (ITS) technology use, agencies mainly selected passenger information (100 percent), signal manipulation (96 percent), and voice annunciation (84 percent). More online at: <http://www.metro-magazine.com/resources/Images/METRO04-BRT.pdf>

## **Pittsburgh's Maglev Competitors Seem to Have Higher Hurdles**

PENNSYLVANIA - Pittsburgh's plan for a \$5.25 billion maglev train is further along than similar projects competing for federal money, because obstacles are holding back the others. Since 1999, the government slowly has advanced four proposals for high-speed trains that hover above magnetic tracks, and all encountered major hurdles: The Las Vegas-to-southern California maglev; Baltimore-to-Washington project; and the Atlanta-to-Chattanooga line.

More online at: [http://www.masstransitmag.com/web/online/Top-Transit-News/Pittsburghs-Maglev-Competitors-Seem-to-Have-Higher-Hurdles/3\\$11261](http://www.masstransitmag.com/web/online/Top-Transit-News/Pittsburghs-Maglev-Competitors-Seem-to-Have-Higher-Hurdles/3$11261)

## **Streets as Places: A Training Seminar, April 22-23, 2010**

*Streets as Places* introduced participants to new ways of thinking about streets as public spaces along with the concept, Placemaking—building great streets and great communities. The seminar was intended for anyone interested in creating a great street, including transportation professionals, civic and elected officials, and citizen activists. Specific topics highlighted at the training seminar were transportation and land use, community engagement, street design flexibility, transit and station planning, and bicycle friendly streets. Streets as Places training was held in Greenwich Village, New York City, on April 22-23, 2010.

More online at: <http://www.pps.org/training/streets-as-places/>

## **TIFIA Loan Applications Total \$13 Billion**

April 2, 2010. A U.S. Department of Transportation program that lends money to states to help finance big projects has received nine times as many requests for loans this year as it has funding available. The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program, known as

"TIFIA," provides about \$1.5 billion annually. But, this year, it received a record 39 applications seeking more than \$13 billion in aid, the Charlotte Observer reported.

TIFIA loans are attractive to states because they not only offer low interest rates but are also subordinate to other notes, meaning they don't have to get paid back first. They also provide some repayment flexibility in the loan's early years. Without TIFIA's low interest rates, commercial loans for the three North Carolina facilities could add at least \$100 million to the cost of each project. More online at: <http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/040210tifa.aspx>

### **Toronto Transit Commission may Opt for Open Electronic Fare Payment System**

April 19, 2010. The Toronto Transit Commission may implement an "open payment" system that allows riders to use credit or debit cards, and even cell phones to pay their fares at turnstiles or fare boxes.

More online at: <http://www.itbusiness.ca/it/client/en/home/News.asp?id=57224>

### **What is the Online TDM Encyclopedia?**

The Online TDM Encyclopedia is the world's most comprehensive information resource concerning innovative transportation management strategies. It describes dozens of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies and contains information on TDM planning, evaluation and implementation. It has thousands of hyperlinks that provide instant access to more detailed information, including case studies and reference documents.

*Transportation Demand Management* or *TDM* (also called *Mobility Management*) refers to various strategies that change travel behavior in order to increase transport system efficiency and achieve specific planning objectives.

The Encyclopedia, updated February 2010, has an international perspective, with ideas and examples from all over the world, including both developed and developing countries. The Encyclopedia is created and maintained by the Victoria Transport Policy Institute—an independent research organization located in Victoria, British Columbia.

More online at: <http://www.vtpi.org/tdm/tdm12.htm>

### **NOTICE**

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