

UTC Category	Title III
UTC Name	University Transportation Center for Mobility
Initial Year	2005
Current Funding	\$1.5 million/year
UTC Director	Dr. Melissa S. Tooley, PE
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Theme	<i>Improving the Quality of Life by Enhancing Mobility</i>
Web site	<a href="http://utcm.tamu.edu/">http://utcm.tamu.edu/</a>
Strategic Plan Status	Approved

## Background

The University Transportation Center for Mobility (UTCM) was established in 2005 as a Title III University Transportation Center, and is housed within the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) at Texas A&M University (TAMU).

The theme of UTCM is "Improving the quality of life by enhancing mobility." The resources and expertise of TTI and the Texas A&M System provide a unique opportunity to make a difference in mobility in this country through the UTC Program, while developing research, education, and technology programs with a lasting impact. UTCM will accomplish its objectives through research in its four focus areas:

- 1) Coast-to-coast, border-to-border mobility
- 2) Rural public transportation
- 3) Congestion management and mitigation and
- 4) Innovative financing

Also, new education programs and technology transfer initiatives will be created that will continue to positively impact the development of the transportation workforce long after the grant has ended.

## UTCM Funded Projects 2007-08

### **Transit Services for Sprawling Areas with Relatively Low Demand Density: A Pilot Study in the Texan Border's Colonias**

Luca Quadrioglio, Zachry Dept. of Civil Engineering, TAMU

### **Transportation Planning, Policy and Climate Change: Making the Long Term Connection**

Eric Lindquist, George Bush School of Government & Public Service, TAMU

### **Impact of Reconstruction Strategies on System Performance Measures: Maximizing Safety and Mobility while Minimizing Life-Cycle Costs**

Ivan Damnjanovic, Constructed Facilities Division, TTI

### **Improving Intermodal Connectivity in Rural Areas to Enhance Transportation Efficiency and Reduce Metro/Port/Border Congestion: A Case Study**

Stephen Fuller, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, TAMU

### **Graduate Certificate in Transportation Planning**

Forster Ndubisi, Dept. of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning, TAMU

### **Partnering to Promote Workforce Development for the Transportation Profession**

Raghava Kommalapati, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Prairie View A&M University

### **A Guide to Transportation Funding Options**

Jason Crawford, Urban Analysis Program, TTI

### **Enhanced Urban Mobility Report**

Timothy Lomax, Mobility Analysis Program, TTI

## Educational Activities

UTCM's education activities are intended to increase the quantity and, more importantly, the quality of graduates prepared to enter the professional transportation workforce. Some of the activities UTCM supports include:

**Course Development.** Awards will be made to develop new transportation courses. These would be proposed by faculty and professional staff and are intended to enrich courses available for students, as well as for professional development. It is anticipated that these may be replicated in transportation programs at other universities.

**Program Development.** UTCM will support awards for the development of new transportation programs. These could be within a department or interdisciplinary in nature. The grant would support the activities necessary for the development and approval of a new degree or program, including curriculum development and support for those shepherding the proposal through the process.

**Student Research Opportunities.** UTCM offers undergraduate and graduate students the educational opportunities that research provides by requiring student involvement in all funded projects.

**Awards for Excellence.** UTCM will select an Outstanding Student of the Year. This student will be awarded \$1,000 and travel expenses to attend the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board in Washington, DC, including an awards ceremony.

**Other Enrichment Opportunities.** UTCM supports grants to expand existing opportunities to enrich the student learning experience such as summer programs, conferences or workshops.

## Technology Transfer Activities

Examples of T2 activities that are encouraged by UTCM include local, state and/or national conferences; professional development activities, including short courses, webinars, and online education; outreach programs for K-12 and higher education; diversity initiatives; and activities that enhance communications and opportunities for collaboration between transportation-related programs at TAMU.

UTCM requires technology transfer activities in all funded research projects, which may include publication of papers in refereed journals, independently published reports, presentations at conferences and/or acquisition of patents.

Other T2 activities undertaken by the UTCM include:

**UTCM Newsletter and web site.** *Upwardly Mobile*, the biannual UTCM newsletter and the UTCM web site provide articles, links and resources for information on mobility research activities.

**Mobility Colloquium.** UTCM offers a lunchtime seminar series to encourage fellowship among transportation researchers, students and professionals. Interactions may stimulate opportunities for collaboration.

**National Mobility Conference.** UTCM will develop and present a national conference to showcase the state of the art in transportation mobility and provide an opportunity for interaction in the transportation community.



*Dr. Eric Dumbaugh of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A&M University presents a UTCM Mobility Colloquium, November 12, 2007.*