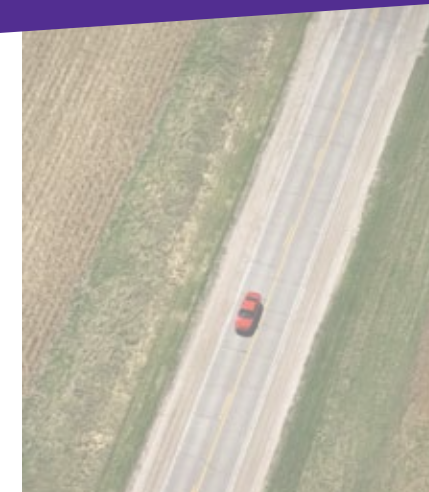


Dedicated to Improving the Sustainability and Safety of Rural Transportation Systems and Infrastructure



Visit the K-State Transportation Center's website at www.transport.k-state.edu

Kansas State
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UTC to Partner with WESP and MEP in Summer Internship Program

We are pleased to announce that the K-State UTC will be partnering with the K-State Women in Engineering and Science Program (WESP) and the College of Engineering Multi-cultural Engineering Program (MEP) in a summer internship program for underrepresented students interested in careers in science and engineering. The Campus Internship Program (CSI) employs incoming freshmen in K-State research groups. This program allows freshmen to investigate Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields to create and sustain excitement about their chosen fields.

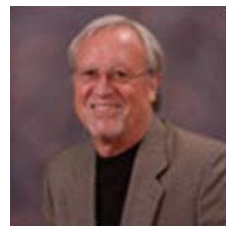


See www.k-state.edu/wesp/CSI/csi_index.html for more information on this exciting program.



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Dr. Robert W. Stokes

Director's Message

Greetings from the heartland. Spring '09 has been a busy and productive time for our UTC. Our research program continues to grow and our education and technology transfer programs are providing increasing numbers of students and professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet our nation's transportation needs. Our Advisory Committee held its Annual Meeting to review the Center's proposed FY 2010 research program and to discuss measures aimed at making the Center self-sufficient. The UTC-sponsored 91st Annual Kansas Transportation Engineering Conference was held in Manhattan on April 14-15. Even in these tough economic times, the conference attracted nearly 450 transportation professionals to K-State for the two-day conference. The conference program included a "UTC Directors' Forum" with the directors from K-State, the University of Kansas and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln transportation centers discussing the activities of their respective centers. In addition, several K-State UTC faculty presented the results of their UTC-sponsored research projects at the conference. We are pleased to announce that the K-State UTC will be partnering with the K-State Women in Engineering and Science Program (WESP) and the College of Engineering Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP) in a summer internship program for underrepresented students interested in careers in science and engineering. Two of our graduate students have been invited to participate in the NSF Research and Innovation Conference 2009. The K-State UTC is pleased to be able to provide travel assistance for these students to attend the NSF Conference. All of these successes are due to the continued commitment and support of our UTC faculty, staff, and students, the UTC Advisory Committee and our partners at RITA. Thank you all for your support and encouragement.

Robert W. "Bobb" Stokes
Director

UTC Hosts 91st Annual Kansas Transportation Engineering Conference



The 91st Annual Kansas Transportation Engineering Conference was held in the K-State Student Union on April 14-15, 2009. The K-State UTC is proud to be a sponsor of this very popular annual conference. This year the conference attracted approximately 450 participants from Kansas and surrounding states. UTC Director, Bobb Stokes, serves as the conference director and also moderated a "UTC Directors' Forum" as part of the conference program. The Directors' Forum consisted of presentations from the directors of the K-State UTC (Dr. Bobb Stokes), the Mid-America Transportation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Dr. Larry Rilett) and the University of Kansas Transportation Research Institute (Dr. Bob Honea). An

open question and answer session followed the presentations. Dr. Michael Babcock, Professor of Economics and UTC Faculty, presented the results of his UTC-sponsored research project on the "Impact of Kansas Ethanol Production on Kansas Transportation." Additional information on conference, including future conference dates, can be found at the conference website www.dcc.k-state.edu/conf/transportation.

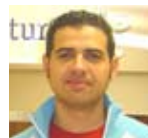


UTC Sponsors MUTCD Training Courses

The K-State UTC-sponsored Traffic Assistance Services for Kansas (TASK) program, delivered the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for Technicians training course at three locations in Kansas in March 2009. These three courses were attended by approximately 125 local street and highway department supervisory and technical personnel. Details concerning the TASK program and other UTC-sponsored training courses can be found at the "training course" link on our website www.transport.k-state.edu.



UTC Graduate Students to Attend NSF Research and Innovation Conference 2009



Ahmed Abd El Fattah



Ranjit Godavarthy

Two K-State UTC graduate students have been invited to participate in the student poster session at the NSF Research and Innovation Conference 2009, to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii June 22-25, 2009. Ranjit Prasad Godavarthy will be presenting a research poster titled "Decreasing Excessive Delay for Motorists at Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossings Using the HAWK Beacon Signal." Ranjit's presentation is based on a UTC-funded research project under the direction of Dr. Eugene R. Russell. Ahmed Abd El Fattah will be presenting a research poster titled "LRFD Software for Design and Actual Ultimate Capacity of Confined Circular Columns." Ahmed's presentation is based on a UTC-funded research project under the direction of Dr. Hayder Rasheed. The K-State UTC is pleased to provide travel support for Ranjit and Ahmed to attend the NSF Conference.

Research Program Update

Improving the Usage of Demand Responsive Transit in Rural Kansas

Principal Investigators: Dr. Sunanda Dissanayake (Associate Professor), Brian Geiger (Graduate Research Assistant)



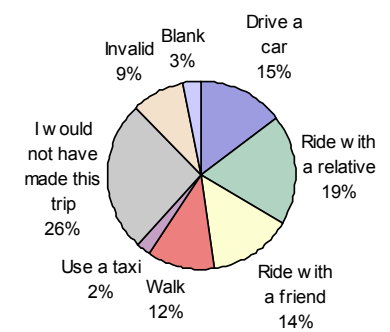
The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) supports approximately 180 transit providers in the state's 105 counties. Many of these providers have been in existence for many years, but ridership still remains low. The majority of these systems operate in rural areas of Kansas. These providers usually operate in a demand-responsive format, as opposed to large cities, which use buses running on fixed routes. This research was conducted by the K-State UTC to determine if any types of service improvements or enhancements to the service could be found to increase ridership of demand response transit service in rural Kansas.

In order to determine if ridership of public transportation in rural Kansas can be increased, customer satisfaction surveys were conducted. One survey was distributed to current riders of demand response systems, one survey was distributed to non-riders of public transportation, and the last survey was given to providers to obtain basic system information throughout Kansas.

Typical users of public transportation in rural Kansas are the elderly, disabled, and low-income. Those who do not fall into one of these three categories often do not use public transportation in rural areas. These non-riders have other methods of getting around, typically driving their own vehicle. Only 35% of the riders had a personal vehicle they could use to make the trip had public transportation not been available. They are dependant on public transportation for their mobility in most cases. Riders were asked what mode of mobility they would use if public transportation were unavailable (see pie chart for summary of results).

Results from the rider survey show riders are very content with the service and are very appreciative that the service is available. This is noticeably different from the non-riders, who typically think the service is good to have, but are not interested in using it themselves. It was found that the more vehicles a person has access to in their household, the less knowledge they have about public transportation in their area. They are content to use the vehicles they have because it is more convenient than public transportation in rural Kansas.

If transit service were not available, how would you make this kind of trip?



It appears there is very little that public transportation providers can do to substantially increase ridership in rural Kansas. People who are using the service are pleased with the service, and those who do not use it are choice riders who have mobility options that provide more independence for their travels.



Brian Geiger, Graduate Research Assistant, poses with a typical demand responsive transit vehicle in use in many rural areas of Kansas.

Please visit our website for a detailed description of our Research Program.
www.transport.k-state.edu