



Caltrans Division of Research,
Innovation and System Information

Research

Notes

Planning Policy
and System
Information

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Project Title:
Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI)
- SAFETEA-LU Augmentation

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Task Manager:
Scott Williams
Associate Transportation Planner
k_scott_williams@dot.ca.gov

Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI)

The Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) conducts research, education, and information transfer programs regarding surface transportation policy and management issues

WHAT IS THE NEED?

The Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) was established by Congress in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Equity Act (ISTEA) and was reauthorized under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century (TEA-21). MTI successfully competed to be named a Tier 1 Center in 2002 and 2006 in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

Most recently, MTI successfully competed in the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011 to be named a Tier 1 Transit-Focused University Transportation Center. In the 2011 competition, MTI was selected as lead institution for a nine-university transit consortium (Mineta National Transit Research Consortium – MNTRC) funded by the Federal Transit Administration via the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (formerly the Research and Innovative Technology Administration) of the US DOT and tasked with “Delivering Solutions that Improve Public Transportation.” Consortium partners include: Bowling Green State University, Grand Valley State University, Howard University, Penn State University, Rutgers - the State University of New Jersey, University of Detroit Mercy, University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the University of Toledo. The consortium was awarded 3.5 million in US DOT grant funds for transportation research, education, workforce development, and technology transfer: \$2 million of this grant award went to MTI.

MTI is funded by the US Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST-R), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), which provides \$2 million in match funding and by other public and private grants and donations, including grants from the US Department of Homeland Security. Caltrans funds are used solely for MTI research, workforce development, and technology transfer activities.



DRISI provides solutions and
knowledge that improves
California’s transportation system

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

In 2014, research supported by the SAFETEA-LU and Caltrans grants engaged 76 of MTI's 282 certified Research and Consulting Associates, most of whom are PhDs, as well as 43 student research assistants. Significant research and information transfer efforts (local and regional forums, national symposia or summits, etc.), often sponsored with the Board of Trustees using non-grant funds, have also been completed. Research topics are selected annually through a carefully structured needs assessment process involving designated US DOT and Caltrans committees, the internationally prominent MNTRC/MTI Board of Trustees, and other national transportation leaders.

WHAT IS THE GOAL?

By working with MTI, Caltrans successfully leverages state funds and directly supports the work of the Caltrans' Divisions and Districts. MTI will continue to produce research that ties directly into the following strategic goals:

US DOT:

Mobility, Global, Connectivity, Environmental Stewardship, and Security.

FTA:

Increase Transit Ridership, Improve Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Protect the Environment and Promote Energy Independence.

FHWA:

Operations and Mobility Policy Analysis, Planning, and Systems Monitoring Planning and Environment.

Caltrans:

Safety and Health, Stewardship and Efficiency, Sustainability, Livability and Economy, System Performance, Organizational Excellence.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

MTI emphasizes policy and management research and selects only those projects with immediate and practical value for transportation officials and practitioners. The benefit to Caltrans is to acquire knowledge and implementable research products that will help the Department address the transportation challenges of today and tomorrow. To that end, MTI has adopted the following areas of emphasis:

- Safety and security of transportation systems

- Financing public and private sector transportation improvements
- Transportation, land use, the environment, and the economy interrelationships
- Transportation planning and policy development
- Intermodal connectivity and integration
- Sustainability of transportation systems
- Labor and workforce issues
- Transportation decision-making and consensus building

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

There are 17 active or completed MTI tasks under contract with Caltrans:

- Integrating Highway and Transit Knowledge into Benefit Cost Analysis
- A Tool to Evaluate and Optimize Multi-Modal Transit Access
- Comparing Modes of On-Board Transit Passenger Surveys
- Performance Measurement and Transit Data
- Promoting Intermodal Connectivity at California's High Speed Rail Stations
- What Do Americans Think About Federal Tax Options to Support Public Transit, Highways, and Local Streets and Roads?
- Park and Ride Linkage to Public Transit Service Productivity
- Modal Shift and High-Speed Rail: A Review of the Current Literature
- California Freight Mobility Plan (CFMP) and California Transportation Plan (CTP)
- The Purpose, Function, and Performance of Streetcar Transit in the Modern US
- Bicycling and Access to Transit by Low-Income Immigrants
- The Impact of Bikesharing on Bicycle Safety in North America
- Transportation Futures for Deep Greenhouse Gas Reductions
- International Lessons for Promoting Transit Connections to High-Speed Rail
- Passenger Flows in Railway Stations and Platforms
- The Nexus Between Infrastructure and Accessibility
- Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP)