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“Transport Infrastructure Investment and Its Effects On Employment: Theoretical Linkages, Estimation Issues, and Recent Evidence”

Thurs. Feb. 1, 2007  
4:00 – 5:00 pm  
Refreshments available at 3:30 pm

Location:  
The Transportation Center  
Chambers Hall,  
Lower Level Conference Center  
600 Foster, Evanston

Abstract:  
Among several economic development impacts from improving transportation systems is the employment gain that is most easily and readily understood, thereby being most popular with the general public and politicians. Over the past decades, substantial attempts have been made to empirically examine whether investments in transport infrastructure can generate job opportunities throughout an economy. However, they provided mixed and inconclusive evidence for which one possible reason could be that much of the previous work has generally suffered from several methodological drawbacks. This seminar will describe potential linkages between transport infrastructure and labour markets, focusing on how investments in transport infrastructure could have long-term impacts on employment. This will be followed by a brief discussion on the econometric evidence and some estimation issues common in the existing literature. The importance of addressing these issues when examining the employment effect of transport investment will be demonstrated through a recent analysis of panel data for 48 contiguous states and at the county level for North Carolina.

Biography:  
Mr Piyapong Jiwattanakulpaisarn (Joey) is currently a PhD student in the Centre for Transport Studies (CTS) at Imperial College London. His main research interests include regional development impacts of transport infrastructure investment, econometric analysis of transport policy, and transport safety. Before joining CTS, he worked as a research associate at the Asian Center for Transportation Studies (ACTS), Asian Institute of Technology from which he received an MEng degree in Transportation Engineering. His work focused primarily on road and traffic safety.