Our Transportation Center: Keeping the Momentum

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Growing Interest in Transportation Research at Northwestern

- 45 Faculty members affiliated with the Center; highly inter-disciplinary
- 30 Students receiving some form of support through the TC
- In 07-08, ~$2M in program expenditures; already past this level since Oct. 08.
- Continuing growth in research proposals submitted by faculty through the TC
- Selected sponsored research projects by TC Faculty
  (included in package: illustrate scope and diversity)
Growing Interest: BAC (II)

- Expansion and renewal of BAC; 10 new members in attendance at this meeting
- Greater faculty involvement in BAC company research and stronger interaction fostered by TC
- Increased level of interaction and special projects with several companies; building towards future collaborations
Growing Interest: Outreach (III)

• Vigorous outreach programs:
  – Seminar series
  – Sandhouse Gang (member Joe Szabo tapped as Federal Railroad Administrator by Obama Administration)
  – Patterson Lecture
  – Lipinski Symposium (now in second year, and Sec. LaHood tentatively lined up as keynote for next Fall)

• Frequent media stories and quotes by TC faculty and researchers
  – Gellman on airline industry
  – Mahmassani on crowd dynamics (e.g. inauguration)
  – Schofer on infrastructure policy and public transit

• NUTC Group for alumni, BAC and friends
  (229 members so far)
Growing Interest (IV): On Our Campus

• Joint activities with
  – *ISEN* (M. Ratner and D. Dunand, co-directors)
  – *Institute for Sustainable Practices* (K. Gray and D. Dana, co-directors)
  – *Institute for Massive Change* (new; Bruce Mau Director)

• Close coordination with
  – *Infrastructure Technology Institute* (National DOT Center of Excellence; Joe Schofer Director)
  – *Center for Commercialization of Innovative Transportation Technology* (US DOT Tier II Center; Bret Johnson, Director)

• *Future of Movement Institute*
Growing Interest (V): In Our Region

• CHICAGO 2016 Olympic Committee
  – TC sponsored evening workshop attended by over 40 faculty and students
• Argonne Transportation Analysis group
  – Workshop under new ISEN initiative
  – Researcher seminars and visits
• Illinois Center for Transportation (UIUC)
  – Partnering in projects with IDOT
  – Closer strategic coordination
Growing Interest (VI): In the World

• Major technical assistance program with Ministry of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia
  – Focus on mobility and service logistics in Makkah
  – Organized several workshops, international expertise
  – Collaborative research links

• GLOBAL ALLIANCES: \textit{work in progress}
  – Networking at global scale w. universities, research centers, government labs and major operators
  – Through BAC
  – Extensive web of existing international collaborations
EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

• Relaunched executive program last year through course on Pricing, customized for Panama Canal Authority
• Developed road map for new offerings, to start in the summer
• Focus: strategic issues; timeliness; high policy relevance
NEW PROFESSIONAL MS EMPHASIS

- Developing new emphasis program area of existing professional Master of Project Management:
  - Large-Scale Transportation Infrastructure
  - Developing new course offering on unique challenges of large transportation projects for coming Fall (Gellman)
WHERE WE ARE HEADING: STRATEGIC GOALS

• Pre-eminent think-tank and laboratory for cutting-edge transportation research “that matters” on a global scale
• Premier educational program in transportation systems
• Essential partner for novel, high-impact research
• Advance state of practice through mix of engaged application-driven research and fundamental advances
GETTING THERE: TWO KEY ELEMENTS

• ENGAGE FACULTY AND STUDENTS
  – Core asset and mission
  – Intellectual stimulation, collaboration, partnering, exchange, opportunity-creation

• ENHANCE INTERACTION WITH BAC
  – Critical strategic asset, competitive differentiator
  – Essential stakeholders
  ➔ Add value to BAC involvement
    – Formulation of strategic research agenda; critical themes
    – Increased collaboration and research engagement
    – Executive education and special events
    – Leverage NU resources
OUR EVOLVING BUSINESS MODEL

• Support for core TC operations and programs exclusively from private sources: BAC membership dues, donations, alumni giving, and endowment income
• Support for student stipends and research largely through sponsored research projects and grants: government and corporate; deliverable-oriented, lacks flexibility
• Increase revenue through new executive programs and technical assistance contracts
• Collaborative industry-university initiatives in major challenge areas
• Contributed funds for seed research and student fellowships