Joint Transportation and Environmental Engineering Seminar

“Paying for Access, but Getting Immobility: Rethinking Finance and Governance Models for 21st Century Urban Transportation”

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Thursday – Oct. 2, 2014
3:30 – 4:30 pm
Location:
McCormick School of Engineering
Technological Institute
2145 Sheridan Road, Evanston
CEE Conference Room – Rm A230

Abstract: Urban centers are increasingly concentrated spaces for living and working in socially segregated metropolitan regions. Urban transport, however, is still largely conceived, financed and organized as a fragmented set of modally based services intended to serve lower-density metropolitan regions. Overcoming this disconnect between transport and land use requires a major rethinking on three dimensions: the definition of the required service, the methods of finance and the institutional structure.

Dr. Sclar’s new book, Urban Access for the 21st Century: Finance and Governance Models for Transport Infrastructure will serve as the basis for his presentation.

BIO: Elliott Sclar is a professor of urban planning. An economist and urban planner, he is the director of the Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CSUD) at Columbia University’s Earth Institute, one of seven global centers of excellence in Future Urban Transport supported by the Volvo Foundations of Gothenburg, Sweden. The center also receives support from the Rockefeller Foundation. Professor Sclar’s research interests include urban economic development planning, transportation and land use planning, and economics of privatization.

Sclar was a co-coordinator of the Taskforce on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers, one of ten task forces set up by the UN Millennium Project to aid in the implementation of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals. He was a lead author on the Taskforce's book length report (2005): A Home in the City.

Professor Sclar is a nationally recognized expert on privatization: his book You Don’t Always Get What You Pay For: The Economics of Privatization (Cornell 2000) won two major academic prizes: the Louis Brownlow Award for the Best Book of 2000 from the National Academy of Public Administration and the 2001 Charles Levine Prize from the International Political Science Association and Governance magazine for a major contribution to public policy literature.

In recent years Sclar has been a leading figure in a scholarly movement to reconnect the work of population health experts and urban planners in creating healthier cities. One of the main challenges he sees is the need to begin to develop more precise measurements of built environment impacts on population health. In November 2007 he received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the International Society for Urban Health in recognition of his work in this field.