

MTC Asset, published twice a year, promotes the Midwest Transportation Consortium's research, outreach, and education programs for developing sustainable transportation asset management principles and techniques. This free newsletter is financed by the MTC.

The MTC is the U.S. Department of Transportation's university transportation center for federal region 7. It is located at and managed by Iowa State University's Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE).

In addition to Iowa State University, MTC members include the University of Missouri—Columbia, the University of Missouri—St. Louis, the University of Northern Iowa, the University of Missouri—Kansas City, and Lincoln University.

Midwest Transportation Consortium
ISU Research Park
2901 S. Loop Drive, Suite 3100
Ames, IA 50010-8632
Voice: 515-294-8103
Fax: 515-294-0467
www.ctre.iastate.edu/mtc/

David Plazak, Director
dplazak@iastate.edu

Charles Nemmers, Associate Director
nemmersc@missouri.edu

Marcia Brink, Editor
mbrink@iastate.edu

Iowa State University and the Center for Transportation Research and Education provide equal opportunities and comply with ADA requirements in programs and employment. Call the Affirmative Action Office at 515-294-7612 to report discrimination.



Transportation and geography: a natural mix at UNI

A new transportation geography course is being offered at the University of Northern Iowa by the Department of Geography. The course, taught by Assistant Professor Tim Strauss, aims to

integrate standard geography courses with GIS-based courses and uses technology to study transportation.

According to Strauss, transportation geography focuses on the movement of goods, people, and information across space, and on the various contexts in which this movement takes place. Strauss designed the course to examine transportation systems from several perspectives, including the importance of transportation

costs, economic development, public policy considerations, safety, and methodologies related to transportation analysis.

The course was facilitated by a provost's mini-grant, titled "Development of Material for a Transportation Geography Course Using Integrated Geographic Information Systems and Transportation Analysis Software."

The class will be taught the fall semester every other year.

Managing bridge assets better

The first National Bridge Load Testing and Rating Workshop was held March 20–21, 2001, in Kansas City, Missouri, under the direction of MTC Associate Director Charles Nemmers.

About 90 people attended the workshop, which brought together people from all levels of government seeking to improve management of their bridge assets by using live load testing as part of the condition evaluation process.

The featured speaker of the luncheon was Mr. Phillip Fish, a bridge inspection engineer with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. With his discussion of the December

2000 failure of the Hoan (Harbor Bridge) in Milwaukee, Mr. Fish emphasized the importance of design details and a good bridge inspection program.

The workshop also featured speakers from the FHWA, Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center, the Midwest Resource Center, five state departments of transportation, the University of Missouri—Columbia, Iowa State University, the University of Wyoming, and Colorado's BDI Consulting Firm.