

Program

Overview

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the UCLA Lake Arrowhead Symposium, which is a collaborative enterprise that brings researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders together each fall to discuss and debate the transportation – land use – environment connection. This fall we will reflect on what has changed – and what hasn't – since the 1991 program on *Strategies for Making Connections between Transportation, Land Use and Air Quality*. While the transportation – land use – environment connection has been considerably “mainstreamed” over the past two decades, many challenges remain, and new ones have emerged. In the face of a persistent economic downturn, a deepening public finance crisis, waxing concern with climate change, and chronic geo-political instability, the challenges to linking transportation, land use, and the environment have never been greater.

The focus of this year's UCLA Lake Arrowhead symposium is *Infrastructure Investment for Sustainable Growth*. Some argue that our economic vitality will depend on a switch to greener technologies, jobs, and policies; others suggest that environmental goals, no matter how laudable, ought to be put on hold until the economy and tax revenues rebound; still others argue that sustainably accommodating the state's growth in population and demand will require sweeping changes to the ways we consume resources, build regions and cities, and travel about. Amidst this uncertainty, one fact remains clear – our infrastructure systems are in dire need of maintenance and, in some form, expansion. But when we dig deeper, the consensus erodes: Do we invest in maintaining and redeveloping existing buildings, land, highways, roads, and transit systems? Should we expand our road, air, and freight infrastructure to reduce congestion and accommodate expected growth in demand? Or should we turn our attention to alternative, more environmentally sustainable infrastructure investments as we move forward? Further, do we pay for these improvements with increased borrowing, taxes, or user fees?

Our goal is to explore the challenges to and opportunities for infrastructure investment to support economically and environmentally sustainable growth in the years ahead. From the perspectives of research, policy, and practice, speakers will address the social, environmental, and economic arguments for paths to sustainable growth. We will look at current and proposed solutions for increasing capacity and/or managing growth and demand, with particular attention to public and private transportation and goods movement. We also address the management of transportation and land infrastructure systems, examine proposals for improving the performance of these systems, and revisit efforts to scare up sufficient resources to pay for infrastructure development and maintenance. Finally, we explore the challenges to building consensus for action amidst potentially competing economic and environmental imperatives.

This symposium is intended for policy decision-makers and analysts in the public and private sectors whose work concerns land and transportation systems and their environmental consequences. Our speakers and audience members are intentionally heterogeneous to stimulate thoughtful discussion and debate among all participants. We encourage you to join in the conversation this fall at Lake Arrowhead.

Symposium Co-organizers:

Catherine Showalter, Director, Public Policy Program; Director, Community Services Department, UCLA Extension

Brian D. Taylor, Professor and Chair of Urban Planning; Director, Institute of Transportation Studies, UCLA

Allison Yoh, Associate Director, Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies; Associate Director, Institute of Transportation Studies, UCLA

Sunday, October 17, 2010

1:00 p.m. Registration, Check-In, & Refreshments

1:30 Welcome

Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr., Dean, UCLA School of Public Affairs

Catherine Showalter, Director, Public Policy Program; Director, Community Services
Department, UCLA Extension

1:45-2:15 Symposium Overview

Speaker:

Brian D. Taylor, Professor and Chair of Urban Planning; Director, Institute of Transportation
Studies, UCLA

2:15-3:30

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

This opening session lays the groundwork for the next two days by setting the context for infrastructure investment and sustainability. Speakers will discuss the challenges of meeting growth and demand in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner, and the particular challenges of doing so with limited resources. Speakers will provide an update on the condition of our transportation infrastructure systems, and the challenges before us in rebuilding America. We will reflect on just how badly our systems are in need of expansion and rehabilitation, and how transportation systems fare vis-à-vis other infrastructure in the U.S. Finally, this session will include a discussion on the role of federal, state, and local policies in shaping both the supply of and demand for highways, roadways, ports, and transit networks. With federal transportation reauthorization still out of immediate reach, how likely are we to see a program that will better manage the supply of and demand for infrastructure?

Moderator:

Allison Yoh, Associate Director, Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies; Associate Director,
Institute of Transportation Studies, UCLA

- **Transportation policy, environmental quality, and sustainability: looking back, looking forward**

Speaker:

Martin Wachs, Director of the Transportation, Space and Technology Program, RAND
Corporation

- **The state of transportation infrastructure: the challenges of rebuilding America**

Speaker:

Sue McNeil, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of
Delaware

- **Public policies to better manage the supply of and demand for infrastructure**

Speaker:

JayEtta Hecker, Director of Transportation Advocacy, Bipartisan Policy Center

Discussion

3:30-3:45

Break

3:45-5:30

SEEKING SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE

One dimension of a resilient and reliable infrastructure system is a dependable revenue stream for construction, maintenance, and operations of facilities. Building on the previous session's discussions about the state of our infrastructure, speakers in this panel discuss new efforts to promote a stable system of infrastructure finance – ranging from new methods for evaluating the economic and environmental sustainability of transportation projects, to federal efforts to restructure the way we invest in infrastructure to promote sustainable growth. Speakers will present the pros and cons of innovative financing plans on the horizon and assess the challenges that lay ahead in implementation. We will also discuss the role of public-private partnerships in managing and paying for infrastructure.

Moderator:

Maria Mehranian, Managing Partner/CFO, Cordoba Corporation

- **Evaluating the economic and environmental sustainability of large-scale infrastructure projects**

Speaker:

Jan Whittington, Assistant Professor, Urban Design and Planning, University of Washington

- **An infrastructure bank and Villaraigosa's 30/10 plan**

Speaker:

Denny Zane, Executive Director, Move LA; former Mayor of Santa Monica

- **Public-private partnerships: a New Deal for infrastructure management in the 21st century?**

Speaker:

Kome Ajise, Manager, Public-Private Partnerships, Caltrans

- **Federal transportation reauthorization: prospects and pitfalls for restructuring funding to support sustainable investment**

Speaker:

Susan J. Binder, Senior Associate, Cambridge Systematics; former Majority Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Discussion

5:30-6:30

Check-in and Reception

6:30-8:00

Dinner

8:00-9:30

OPERATIONALIZING “LIVEABLE” AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE: FROM CONCEPT TO PRACTICE

The Obama Administration is promoting liveability as a significant driver of federal policy. The concept may be sound, but what does it look like when applied? How do we turn it from an abstract concept to reality in terms of operations, maintenance, and performance measurement of our infrastructure? In this session, we’ll hear from experts with varied perspectives on challenges to implementation, and how livability and sustainability are being translated into practice.

Moderator:

Catherine Showalter, UCLA Extension

Keynote Speaker:

Heather Fargo, Executive Policy Officer, California Strategic Growth Council, Natural Resources Agency

Panel of Commentators:

Julia Lester, Principal, ENVIRON International Corporation

Randall Lewis, Executive Vice President, Lewis Operating Corporation

Katherine Perez, Executive Director, Urban Land Institute

Alan E. Pisarski, Independent Consultant

Discussion

9:30-11:00

Informal reception

Monday, October 18, 2010

8:30-10:15 a.m. **GOING GREEN: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS TO RE-MAKE GOODS MOVEMENT**

Green ports will be the focus of this session, with an emphasis on the siting and operations of their facilities. With port infrastructure improvements, how are natural resources balanced with business interests in this dire economy? What considerations are given to environmental justice impacts resulting from the movement of goods near and through communities? And finally, what are the effects of the economic crisis on the stability of and planning for green ports? Experts representing practice and policy will share their views, leading to a dynamic exchange to begin the day.

Moderator:

Gill Hicks, Director for Southern California, Cambridge Systematics

▪ **Tradeoffs in multimodal handling of goods: balancing the environment and economics**

Speaker:

John Husing, Vice President, Economics & Politics, Inc.

▪ **Greening our trade corridors: goods movement and green ports in California**

Speaker:

S. David Freeman, former president of the Los Angeles Harbor Commission

▪ **Mitigating the negative effects of capacity improvements: environmental justice and infrastructure**

Speaker:

Thomas O'Brien, Director of Research, Center for International Trade and Transportation, CSULB

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-12:00 p.m. **MANAGING THE GREEN ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE YEARS AHEAD**

Panelists in this session present some concrete recommendations for managing streets and highways to reduce the environmental footprint of both transportation infrastructure and of travel. Proposals range from new pavement technologies to the better management of parking facilities, and new efforts to evaluate the sustainability of roads using multiple performance measures.

Moderator:

Laurie Berman, District Director, California Department of Transportation

▪ **Environmental assessment of pavement alternatives: decision-making in light of current knowledge and unresolved questions**

Speaker:

John Harvey, Professor, University of California, Davis; Principal Investigator, University of California Pavement Research Center

▪ **Managing terminal facilities (i.e. parking) as infrastructure**

Speaker:

Richard Willson, Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

▪ **Sustainable Transportation Access Rating System (STARS): a performance-based system to integrate economic & environmental sustainability**

Speaker:

Peter Hurley, Board Chair, North American Sustainable Transportation Council

Discussion

12:00-1:30

Lunch

1:30-3:15

TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Public investment in transit has increased substantially over the past quarter century, with the explicit objective of providing mobility for those (because of age, income, or disability) without other means, and a greener travel alternative for those with access to private vehicles. Transit infrastructure investment in particular (i.e. vehicles, station, track, facilities, and the like) has grown considerably, but shortfalls in funding to operate current and planned transit services are large and growing in many areas. If public transit systems are to attract substantially more riders, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support “liveable” communities, and stimulate economic development, a more sustainable model of transit finance and operation is required. The three presentations in this session explore these issues and the challenges to the future of public transit.

Moderator:

Pam O’Connor, Chair of the Board of Directors, Los Angeles Metro

▪ **The transit capacity challenges to “green” policy mandates in the years ahead**

Speaker:

Duncan Watry, AICP, Senior Planner, BART

▪ **Balancing new infrastructure investments with improved operations: how can we get the most transit bang for the subsidy buck?**

Speaker:

Brian Taylor, UCLA

▪ **Challenges to and opportunities for sustainable streams of operating support for public transit**

Speaker:

Carl Sedorky, General Manager/CEO, Monterey-Salinas Transit

Discussion

3:15-5:30

Free Time

5:30-6:30

Reception

6:30-8:00

Dinner

8:00-9:30

THE FULL SPEED AHEAD? EVALUATING OUR SUBSTANTIAL COMMITMENTS TO HIGH-SPEED RAIL IN CALIFORNIA AND THE U.S.

This evening session focuses on four aspects of the significant and unprecedented national and state commitments to inter-city high-speed passenger rail. The four speakers in this session will provide an overview and update on current plans for HSR development in California, the U.S., and abroad, will present and analyze alternative projections of costs and ridership, will consider the potential energy savings and environmental benefits of HSR, and will evaluate HSR investments as a sustainable economic development strategy.

Moderator:

Allison Yoh, UCLA

▪ **Laying the tracks: an overview and status report on high-speed rail development in California**

Speaker:

Rod Diridon, Sr., Board Member, California High-Speed Rail Authority and Executive Director, Mineta Transportation Institute

▪ **Forecasting the cost, benefits, and use of high-speed rail in the years ahead**

Speaker:

Samer Madanat, Xenel Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UC Berkeley

▪ **Going green? High-speed rail investments in the U.S. as an energy and environmental policy strategy**

Speaker:

Anthony Perl, Professor of Urban Studies, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia

▪ **Thinking about high-speed rail investment as an economic development strategy**

Speaker:

David Levinson, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Minnesota

Discussion

9:30-11:00

Informal Reception

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

7:30-8:30 a.m.

BREAKFAST SESSION “SMALL TABLE” DISCUSSIONS

During breakfast, conference participants are invited to join moderated, small-group conversations reflecting on the presentations and discussions heard over the past day and a half. This is a time to engage with others and to reflect on the ideas, experiences, and solutions we’ve heard so far – with particular attention to the issue of building trust and consensus for change. These comments will later be incorporated into discussions following the featured morning presentation.

8:45-10:15

BUILDING TRUST AND CONSENSUS FOR CHANGE: POLITICAL COMMUNICATION AND THE CHALLENGES OF CREATING ROOM FOR FAILURE

A featured speaker will present his thoughts on and specific experiences with promoting consensus on problem identification, and the innovative ideas and policies to solve those problems. How do we forge ahead with innovation in a culture that levies a high political cost on failure? Following, moderators from the breakfast discussion sessions will briefly report on comments received from participants about building trust and consensus for change, to kick off a lively extended dialogue and discussion.

Interlocutor:

Carol Whiteside, California Strategies, LLC

Featured speaker:

Alan Lowenthal, Senator, State of California; Chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing; Chair of California Ports Subcommittee

Report from panel of moderators on breakfast discussions

Panelists/Moderators:

LeRoy Graymer, Founding Director, Public Policy Program, UCLA Extension

Jolene Hayes, Transportation Development Manager, Port of Long Beach

Leslie Rogers, Region IX Administrator, Federal Transit Administration

Joan Sollenberger, Deputy Director, Urban Land Use and Transportation Center (ULTRANS), UC Davis

Extended Discussion

10:15-10:30

Break

10:30-12:00 p.m.

ARROWHEAD LESSONS FROM THE PAST TWO DAYS AND LAST TWO DECADES

Despite our newest and most innovative ideas and our best efforts at ensuring sustainable growth through infrastructure investment, political obstacles often stymie progress. Panelists will take a retrospective look at changes in popular and political views over the past 20 years since the first UCLA Lake Arrowhead symposium was held. They will draw from discussions over the past two days of this year’s symposium, and discuss whether (and how) to better communicate the case for the transportation – land use – environment connection, or whether a new case for the transportation – land use – environment connection is needed at this critical juncture in time.

Moderator:
Brian Taylor, UCLA

Speakers:
Dave Calkins, Partner, Sierra Nevada Air Quality Group
Genevieve Giuliano, Professor, School of Policy, Planning and Development, USC
Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, Southern California Association of Governments

Closing Discussion

12:00-1:30

Concluding Lunch