

## NTI WINS OVER \$1 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SECURITY TRAINING

The National Transit Institute (NTI) at VTC has won three federal funding awards to develop specialized security training for the nation's transportation industry.

In July, the Federal Transit Administration awarded NTI \$600,000 to develop a followup course to its *System Security Awareness* training program which has been administered to over 61,000 transit workers nationally since June 2002. The new course was created in conjunction with NJ TRANSIT and is now being administered. In September, NTI won a \$250,000 grant from the National Cooperative Highway Research Program to adapt the course for highway workers.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security then awarded NTI a \$200,000 contract to develop an anti-terror training program for employees of Amtrak, the freight railroads and commuter railroads.

NTI has become the recognized leader in developing anti-terror training for the nation's transportation industry. Its courses were used to train transit workers in preparation for the Democratic and Republican national conventions and its materials were translated to Greek to help Athens transit officials prepare for the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

CNN broadcast excerpts of correspondent Jeanne Meserve's interview with NTI's Chris Kozub about security preparations for the Republican National Convention.



*NTI developed its security awareness program with NJ TRANSIT*

## VTC/CAIT SPEARHEAD RUTGERS DRIVE FOR TRANSPORTATION LEADERSHIP

VTC and the Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation have begun developing a close working partnership to help Rutgers achieve its goal, as declared by Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Philip Furmanski, of becoming a national leader in transportation research.

The two centers have begun working on projects involving a redesign of the Holland Tunnel approaches and system security. VTC Director Martin E. Robins and CAIT Director Ali Maher see future opportunities for the two centers to collaborate utilizing their expertise in policy and technology. A new Rutgers-wide initiative on logistics is also planned.

The partnership was hailed by the *Home News Tribune* in an editorial, 'Nation needs Rutgers' transportation expertise.' The editorial said, "This is welcome news, not only because New Jersey's highways and roads are overcrowded with cars, and not only because the state is lagging behind in maintaining its infrastructure, but also because there are signs that the university can excel in the field."

## NJDOT KEEPS PED/BIKE PROJECT ON THE ROLL WITH NEW \$350,000 GRANT

The New Jersey Department of Transportation has awarded VTC \$350,000 to continue the New Jersey Pedestrian & Bicycle Resource Project for a fourth year. The project serves as an information clearing house and encompasses various areas of research and education.

The project organized the successful Common Ground conference held in February 2004 at the Bloustein School which coalesced transportation, health and environmental advocates behind shared strategies to advance healthy living. Under the new contract, VTC will follow up on the findings and recommendations of the Common Ground conference as well as continue research projects, such as the review of Title 39's treatment of pedestrian rights and infrastructure.



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# VTC NEWS

## SAFE MOBILITY AT ANY AGE

VTC and the New Jersey Foundation for Aging on September 28 held the fifth of six Policy Forum sessions regarding the mobility challenges confronted by the elderly and those who choose not to drive. Held in New Brunswick, the forum featured speakers Katherine Freund, executive director of the Independent Transportation Network of Portland, ME; Helen Kerschner, executive director of The Beverly Foundation of Pasadena, CA; Timothy Puglia with Wheels, Inc., of Philadelphia; Tara Braddish, executive director of HART of Flemington, and; Sue Dowling, executive director of the Interfaith Network of Care, Inc. of Middlesex County.



Tara Braddish



Helen Kerschner

The forum focused on community transportation alternatives and different systems utilizing volunteers to provide car transportation for seniors and the disabled. Among the issues covered was providing insurance coverage, whether or not to charge for services, how to recruit volunteers and how to promote the availability of the transportation services.

The Safe Mobility series will wrap up at the end of this year with a final forum to review the knowledge gathered from the various presentations and to develop recommendations for future policy and legislative initiatives to improve safety and address critical equity and social issues affecting seniors and others unwilling or unable to drive.

## TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Research efforts by VTC into Transit-Oriented Development, a Smart Growth strategy that anchors development and redevelopment activity around rail and bus stations, have received a boost with two new projects. The New Jersey Department of Transportation has awarded VTC a second contract to study New Jersey's experience with the Transit Village program. During the first research project, the Center held a statewide symposium where it released its findings regarding the first eight municipalities in New Jersey to be designated transit villages. The experience of municipalities subsequently to gain transit village status will now be explored.

In addition, VTC, on behalf of NJ TRANSIT, will produce an electronic newsletter three times annually that will report on issues both nationally and in New Jersey involving Transit-Oriented Development. To learn more about TOD at the Center, visit our website at: <http://policy.rutgers.edu/vtc/tod/>

During the summer, *World Transport Policy & Practice* published an article by VTC's Dr. Jan Wells and John Renne, "Emerging European-Style Development in the United States: Transit-Oriented Development."

## TRANSPORTATION FINANCE CRISIS

VTC Director Martin E. Robins has continued speaking and writing about the deepening crisis with transportation financing in New Jersey and has joined a broad-based team that will examine how the issue could hamper the state's economy and quality of life. Robins made presentations to Leadership Newark and the Fund for New Jersey in June, and in September, *The Journal of Transportation Law, Logistics & Policy* published his article, "The Crisis in State Transportation Finance: Lessons Learned from the New Jersey Experience."

Robins is part of a team headed by the Regional Plan Association that will be examining the funding crisis in the months ahead, based on a grant from The Fund for New Jersey.

## FREIGHT RAIL STUDIES

The Brookings Institution has hired VTC to examine federal and regional policy regarding freight movement by rail, sea, air and truck. The study will establish a policy agenda and examine how the public has lost sight of the importance of freight movement to the economy.

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority filed with the federal Surface Transportation Board a VTC study that identified the strengths and weaknesses of the Conrail Shared Assets entity created in northern New Jersey by CSX and Norfolk Southern as part of their 1998 acquisition of Conrail. The study cited concerns about detrimental marketing practices and absences of economic development activity by the two railroads. The U.S. Department of Transportation subsequently filed a statement with the STB requesting that the Board conduct an inquiry into the performance of the railroads in the Shared Assets area.

## In Other News...

VTC Director Martin E. Robins took part in Leadership New Jersey's October 13 "Forum on of the Future of New Jersey," appearing on a panel that addressed "Transportation and Utilities: What's Smart?"... A study performed for the Kellogg Foundation, *The Role of Amtrak's Intercity Passenger Rail Services in New Jersey*, was published and posted on our website at: [http://policy.rutgers.edu/vtc/documents/InstAnal.Amtrak\\_NJ.pdf](http://policy.rutgers.edu/vtc/documents/InstAnal.Amtrak_NJ.pdf)...The summary report for a Real Intersection Design workshop held in Plainsboro was produced and posted on the VTC website at: [http://policy.rutgers.edu/vtc/documents/PedBike.RID-NJ\\_04\\_Plainsboro.pdf](http://policy.rutgers.edu/vtc/documents/PedBike.RID-NJ_04_Plainsboro.pdf)...VTC Assistant Director Jon Carnegie has been named to a state Task Force on Reducing Auto Risks Through Technology. The task force, which includes experts in law enforcement, highway safety, and insurance, will explore how the implementation of high technology systems in vehicles can reduce accidents and exert downward pressure on automobile insurance rates.