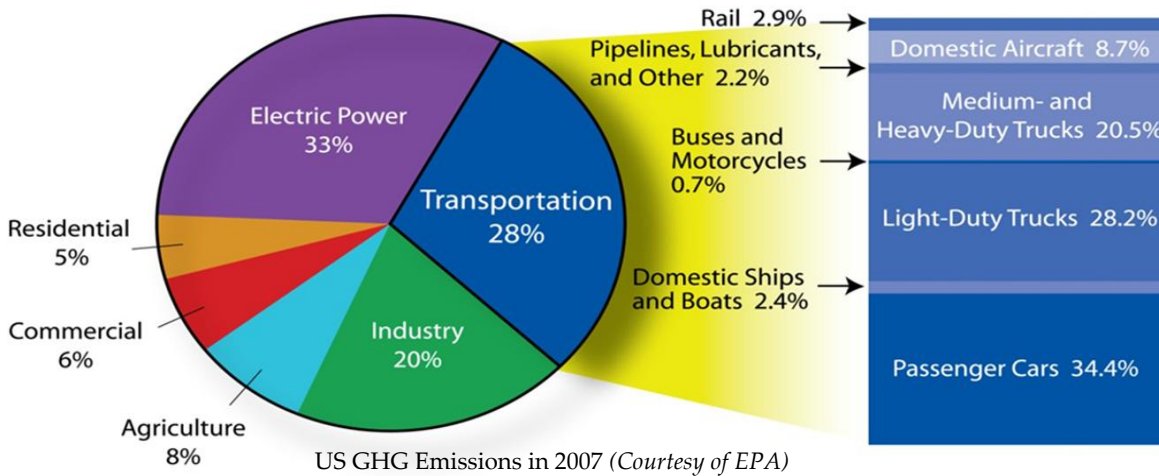


## Volpe Center Supports Federal Interagency Group on Transportation, Land Use, and Climate Change

Both the nation and the Federal government face enormous challenges in confronting the issues of climate change (CC) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Responsibility for both the contributing factors to CC/GHG emissions and their impacts on our society is shared by a number of Federal agencies. The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Planning, Environment and Realty sought the Volpe Center's assistance in strengthening coordination across government. Last sum-

mer, FHWA convened a meeting of agency representatives that led to the formation of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Transportation, Land Use, and Climate Change. The group seeks to align Federal programs and resources to support stakeholders in achieving GHG reductions through land use and transportation planning decisions resulting in the

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## COI Spotlight - Multimodal Systems Research and Analysis

Our nation's transportation system is a complex network of several major modes – including aviation, maritime, inland waterways, road, rail and transit – that are interconnected both physically and electronically in a manner that expedites the efficient and effective movement of people and goods over both short and very long distances. This system, in turn, comprises a significant segment within the larger global transportation system that makes possible our modern standard of living. This global system is the focus of this month's spotlight on the Center of Innovation (COI) for Multimodal Systems Research and Analysis. The COI specializes on analyzing the multimodal nature of our national and global transportation systems and recommending improvements to capacity, safety, security, environmental consequences, operations, economic efficiency and intermodal capabilities of these vital services.

### Centers of Innovation

- **Multimodal Systems Research and Analysis**
- **Safety Management Systems**
- **Environmental and Energy Systems**
- **Freight Logistics and Transportation Systems**
- **Physical Infrastructure Systems**
- **Communication, Navigation, Surveillance (CNS) and Traffic Management Systems**
- **Human Factors Research and System Applications**
- **Advanced Vehicle and Information Network Systems**

The COI's staff of economists, operations research analysts, policy analysts, transportation planners and related specialists applies their varied talents and skills to support a wide variety of projects for a core of major sponsors. These include the Research and Innovative Technology Administration's Joint Planning Office for Intelligent Transportation Systems (RITA/ITS/JPO), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Their projects range from implementing new ITS technologies and improving transit service in center cities to selecting appropriate vehicles for use within remote wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.

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## COI Spotlight *Continued*

The COI works closely with other Volpe Center units, particularly the COIs for Advanced Vehicle and Information Network Systems and Safety Management Systems.

A key theme running throughout the COI's portfolio is helping sponsors to comprehend their transportation operations within a much wider geographic and topical context. By understanding both their technical disciplines as well as the key transportation issues and the operations of transportation systems, the COI staff provides expert analysis and advice to their sponsors on the interrelationship of the various transportation-related factors with each other, such as



Volpe Center Image

operations, performance, energy and emissions characteristics, cost-effectiveness and cost-benefits tradeoffs, the potential impacts of policy changes, and useful "best practices" from other transportation and non-transportation activities. The COI staff can also help sponsors understand how their transportation-related operations interact with other transportation systems to which they are linked, as well as other non-transportation activities. These insights assist sponsors in seeing the "bigger picture" of their operations and how they fit within the wider context.

Among the COI's major current and recent activities are the following:

- Developing a methodology for Amtrak to determine the true fully allocated costs of its train routes and related business activities, to assist them in making more effective business decisions;
  - Conducting cost-benefit analyses of trucking and hazardous materials regulations for FMCSA;
  - Studying various transportation options for use within such sensitive Federally-managed lands as national forests, wildlife preserves, and national parks and
- historic sites for the U.S. Department of the Interior;
  - Assisting metropolitan and regional planning councils to include reduced greenhouse gas emissions targets in their future planning documents and processes in a manner that is consistent with these agencies' other responsibilities for FHWA and FTA;
  - Developing and managing a professional capacity building program for FHWA and FTA that offers information, technical assistance, tools and training to local and state transportation employees to improve their skills, and their successful integration of new technologies into their systems;
  - Analyzing congestion reduction alternatives such as congestion pricing and new technology initiatives for the ITS JPO; and
  - Managing and improving the FHWA Highway Economic Requirements System model, which covers a wide range of topics such as congestion pricing, emissions, fuel consumption, crash frequency, pavement deterioration, and economic impacts.

## Federal Interagency Group Aims to Achieve GHG Reductions *Continued*

reduced growth of vehicle-miles traveled (VMTs) by car and truck. The Volpe Center's Multimodal Systems Research and Analysis Center of Innovation has been providing facilitation and analytical support to the Group.

Today, more than a dozen agencies from the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Interior and Transportation (DOT), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) participate in the Working Group's activities. Agency representatives meet monthly to develop and pursue cooperative activities that support improved land use planning, coordinated multimodal travel demand management, and natural resource conservation practices. The Group also coordinates with new activities such as the DOT's Livability Initiative and the joint HUD/DOT/EPA Sustainable Communities Partnership, among others.

The Working Group has recently developed an action and strategies plan which was presented to the Working Group members' senior management at a June 2009 meeting in Washington DC. The plan, which will be further developed over the next several months, focuses on two key areas identified by the Working Group – integrated regional planning and development; and intermodal gateway mobility planning.

In the area of *integrated regional planning and development*, the Group recommends that Federal participants in the transportation, housing, land use, environmental, energy, and economic planning processes work together to develop regulations, incentives, and technical assistance that can aid state, regional, and local agencies in better decision-making resulting in reduced GHG emissions and reduced growth of VMT while supporting a variety of other public interest goals. The

Group also recommends efforts to implement *intermodal gateway regional planning* by recognizing the key role that "gateway communities" play in facilitating access to National Parks and Forests, ports, and other important economic and recreational destinations. The Group recognizes the need for Federal agencies to support the development of more sustainable and climate-friendly travel and resource protection by encouraging intermodal transportation options and connectivity within and around these communities.

The Volpe Center supports several other FHWA climate change activities, including the development of a FHWA Adaptation Strategy, implementation of the Carbon Sequestration Pilot Program focused on highway right-of-way, and production of out-reach materials on climate change and transportation planning.

## Volpe Supports Government-wide Feds Feed Families Initiative

The Volpe Center is contributing to Feds Feed Families— a Nationwide, Government-wide effort, led by the Office of Personnel Management in partnership with the Chief Human Capital Officers Council.

The goal is to collect 1 million pounds of food from Federal employees and staff are being encouraged to donate five pounds of food items through a summer food drive. As of June 24, 27,654 pounds of food has been collected nationwide for food pantries.

The Volpe Center's first round of donations were provided at the end of June to the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House (MFNH) located in one of the most densely populated and diverse neighborhoods of Cambridge. The organization was founded in 1902 and today provides services to over 1,500 children, youth, families and individuals each year.

Our Nation's food pantries need our support more than ever. Their stock is diminishing at an alarming rate and they are facing severe shortages of non-perishable items, just as summer leaves more children without school nutrition programs.

Follow the progress of this Federal effort on Twitter:  
<http://www.twitter.com/fedfooddrive>



Left to right: Effie Cho, Volpe Center Human Resources Division; Richard John, Volpe Center Director Emeritus and Acting Director; Barbara Kibler, Executive Director, Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House; (MFNH); Annie Small, Associate Director, Administration and Accounting, MFNH; and Peter Appel, Administrator of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration. Volpe's campaign was coordinated by Ms. Cho under the direction of Volpe Center Human Resource Chief Sue Connors and Acting Deputy Associate Administrator for Operations David Scali. *Volpe Center Photo by Diane Wells*

## Innovative Transportation Solutions Focus of Work at National Parks

Two recent events in Eastern Massachusetts demonstrated continued Volpe Center assistance to the U.S. Department of the Interior in developing and implementing innovative solutions to transportation issues on Federally-owned and managed lands.

In June, staff from the Advanced Vehicle and Information Network Systems COI attended the mid-year Transportation Research Board (TRB) Committee on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands meeting held in Woods Hole, MA. The meeting, which the Volpe Center had helped to plan, discussed alternative transportation activities in public lands, particularly the Cape Cod national seashore and wildlife refuge locations. During the meeting Mr. Gary Ritter was named the Chair of the Research Subcommittee, and initiated an effort to develop a research problem statement on transit performance measures for submission to the Transit

Cooperative Research Program. Mr. Michael Dyer of the Physical Infrastructure Systems COI was designated as this Committee's liaison to the TRB Ferry Committee. Eric Plosky teamed up with Linda McIntyre of the National Park Service to brief the Committee on research needs relative to travel demand forecasting in national parks and public land areas.

Earlier in the month, Lindsey Morse and Ben Cotton of the Advanced Vehicle and Information Network Systems COI traveled to several Cape Cod towns to undertake fieldwork as part of the Parking and Transit Study for the Cape Cod National Seashore. They investigated existing and potential parking area locations for Federal and town-owned beaches and erosion threats to parking areas, and created a photographic library of these sites. This information will be incorporated into the final Volpe Center report providing a number of future parking and transit alternatives for visitors to these sites.



Bicycle racks at Nauset Light Beach, Eastham, MA.  
*Volpe Center photo*

## Recipient of Prestigious John A. Volpe Transportation Internship

Gabriel Lopez-Bernal is the recipient of the 2009-2010 John A. Volpe Transportation Internship. Mr. Lopez-Bernal is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning with a concentration in Regional Planning, Transportation, and Land Use Issues from Tufts University, Medford, MA. Mr. Lopez-Bernal also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida.

Mr. Lopez-Bernal has worked in the Multimodal Systems Research and Analysis Center of Innovation at the Volpe Center as a Student Trainee in Community Planning since February. At the Center, he has contributed to a wide range of projects, including the SafeTrip-21 program; projects in support of the National Park Service; and the Federal Highway Administration's Surface Transportation Environment and Planning (STEP) Cooperative Research Program.



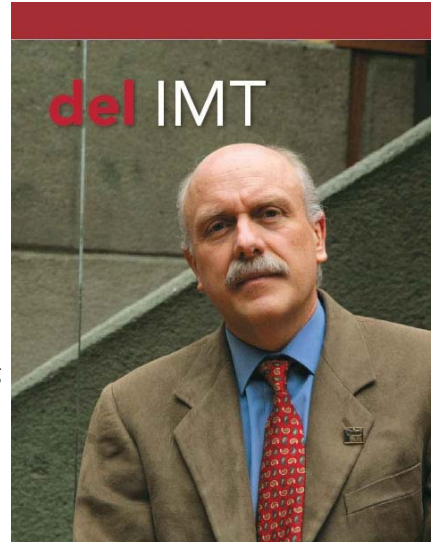
Gabriel Lopez-Bernal, recipient of the prestigious transportation internship.

*Volpe Center Photo by Diane Wells*

The John A. Volpe Transportation Internship is named in honor of the second U.S. Secretary of Transportation. The internship features major tuition assistance and paid work opportunities at the Volpe Center for selected outstanding graduate students in the engineering, scientific, and social science disciplines who have expressed an interest in working in the field of transportation.

## Director-General of Mexican Transport Institute Visits Volpe

On June 25, 2009, Dr. Roberto Aguerrebere Salido, Director-General of the Mexican Transport Institute (IMT) visited the Volpe Center. The IMT, located in Querétaro, Mexico, is the primary research and technology facility for the Mexican Federal Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (SCT), with an emphasis on surface transportation, training and technology transfer to Mexican transportation officials, and economic and policy analysis.



Dr. Roberto Aguerrebere Salido, Director-General of the Mexican Transport Institute (IMT)

*Photo courtesy of IMT*

Dr. Richard John, Director Emeritus and Acting Director of the Volpe Center, hosted the visit and provided an overview of the Volpe Center's portfolio with an emphasis on several major Volpe Center programs of interest to Mexico.

Dr. Aguerrebere was briefed on the Volpe Center's support to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Comprehensive Safety Analysis 2010 initiative, activities related to Intelligent Transportation Systems, various approaches to analyzing new inter-city and intra-city passenger rail service proposals and ongoing work in support of the Federal Aviation Administration's NextGen efforts.

A demonstration of the Volpe Center-developed Maritime Safety and Security Information System (MSSIS), which the Mexican Navy is interested in extending into Mexican waters, was also provided.

## Volpe Center Highlights

For information on *Highlights*, contact: [volpehighlights@dot.gov](mailto:volpehighlights@dot.gov)

For general comments or questions, contact: 617.494.2224 [www.volpe.dot.gov](http://www.volpe.dot.gov) or [askvolpe@dot.gov](mailto:askvolpe@dot.gov)

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