



U.S. Senator Tom Carper Calls for Federal Commitment for Amtrak, Northeast Corridor

Addressing an overflow audience at the Bloustein School on April 5, U.S. Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) addressed the challenges facing Amtrak, the Northeast Corridor and passenger and freight rail service throughout the United States.

Senator Carper is the chief sponsor of ARRIVE-21 which would authorize \$42 billion in federal funding over six years to upgrade rail infrastructure and service. A former Governor of Delaware and Amtrak Board member, Senator Carper said improved rail freight and passenger service would bring much needed balance to the nation's transportation system.



Appearing with Senator Carper (center) prior to the event were (from left): former Governor James J. Florio, NJ TRANSIT Executive Director George D. Warrington, Bloustein School Dean James Hughes and VTC Director Martin E. Robins.

VTC, NTI Presentations Help Make TransAction 2004 a Success

VTC Director Martin E. Robins and NTI Director Paul Larrousse led a contingent of Rutgers staff presenters at the TransAction 2004 conference held April 19-21 in Atlantic City. The transportation conference, held annually since 1976, attracts over 1,000 participants.

Robins appeared with Distinguished Senior Transportation Fellow Louis J. Gambaccini and prominent legislators on a panel regarding the future of the Transportation Trust Fund, and led a panel on Amtrak restructuring of the Northeast Corridor. He also appeared with Allan Lichtenstein on a panel that examined the impacts of 9/11 on travel patterns in northern New Jersey and New York.

Larrousse discussed transit innovations in Europe. VTC Assistant Director Jon Carnegie made presentations regarding the Center's public outreach efforts with the Route 1 Penn's Neck project and ongoing Safe Mobility at Any Age forums. Ranjit Wallia took part in three panel discussions regarding bicycle/pedestrian issues. From NTI, Chris Kozub discussed emergency preparedness for transit systems and Clyde Earl delivered a presentation on driver fatigue.

Wisniewski, Gambaccini Renew Call for Gas Tax, Trust Fund Reforms

Assemblyman John Wisniewski, chairman of the Assembly Transportation Committee, and former New Jersey Transportation Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini, a Distinguished Senior Transportation Fellow at VTC, said New Jersey must raise the state gas tax and restore accountability to the Transportation Trust Fund to head off a pending crisis in transportation financing.

Speaking at the Bloustein School on May 5, Wisniewski said political leaders must accept that a substantial infusion of new state revenue needs to be created for transportation if New Jersey is to remain competitive economically. Gambaccini said winning support for a gas tax hike will require deep reforms in accountability and the creation of a broadbased coalition to educate the public such as he created in 1979 in gaining voter approval of a bond issue.



Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center
Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning
and Public Policy

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
33 Livingston Avenue, Suite 500
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
Tel.: 732/932-6812, Ext. 700
Fax: 732/932-3714
<http://policy.rutgers.edu/vtc>



VTC NEWS

Safe Mobility at Any Age

VTC, in partnership with the New Jersey Foundation for Aging, on April 29 conducted the third in a series of policy forums involving driver's license retesting and transportation options for those who cannot or choose not to drive. The third forum focused on the future of vehicle and roadway safety and design. Presentations were made by representatives from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Federal Highway Administration, AAA-New Jersey Auto Clubs, NJ Department of Transportation and the New Jersey State Police, as well as by VTC Assistant Director Jon Carnegie. The year-long forum series will lay the foundation 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.



NTI System Security Awareness Training

Two of the nation's largest transit systems, METRA of Chicago and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), have engaged NTI to deliver its *System Security Awareness for Transportation Employees* training program to their line employees. Funded by the Federal Transit Administration, the NTI training program has been implemented at over 650 transit agencies nationwide for 45,000 employees. METRA will bring in NTI for a week to train its 4,000 commuter rail employees. The MBTA, which serves the greater Boston area and Providence, plans to train its light rail, subway and bus employees in preparation for this summer's Democratic National Convention.



NTI staff also briefed the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the state Office of Counter Terrorism on the training program. The NJDOT wants to implement the training for its employees and the program could be expanded to cover other state agencies.

Approved by the Department of Homeland Security and federal highway and transit administrations, the program has been used by virtually every transit system nationally, including NJ TRANSIT, as well as state transportation departments in New York, Florida and Missouri. NTI staff were quoted by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Long Island Newsday* regarding the Rutgers training program in the aftermath of the Madrid bombings, and VTC Director Martin Robins was quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* regarding transit security.

I-287 RARITAN RIVER CROSSING STUDY

VTC, in partnership with Orth-Rodgers & Associates and QualQuan Insights, Inc., won a \$75,000 grant from Somerset and Middlesex counties to develop a mobility plan for the I-287 Easton Avenue/River Road interchange. The study will explore travel demand strategies, such as transit service enhancements, pedestrian and bicycle improvements, smart growth land use principles and Intelligent Transportation System strategies.

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON MOTOR VEHICLE FINES

VTC Director Martin Robins was appointed a member and attended the first meeting on April 27 of New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey's Task Force on Motor Vehicle Fines. The task force was created to examine the impacts of a law signed in June 2003 that significantly stiffened the penalties for motorists cited for failing to produce their driver's license, registration or proof of insurance when stopped by police. For instance, motorists unable to produce their insurance card within 24 hours of being issued a summons can have their vehicles impounded. The draconian nature of the penalties has prompted reports that some police have stopped issuing citations for these violations.

In Other News...

Responding to a request from Governor McGreevey for immediate, technology-based improvements in traffic management, Director Robins helped formulate a Rutgers proposal to create a New Jersey resource center for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)/ Advanced Traveler Information Systems...The summary proceedings for the February Common Ground conference were finalized and posted on the VTC website at <http://policy.rutgers.edu/vtc>...Utilizing a grant from the PSE&G Foundation, VTC staff organized a meeting with representatives of the Office of Smart Growth, NYU's Real Estate Institute and PSE&G about identifying the development of commercial office space near transit stations as one of the state's principal Smart Growth strategies...VTC Director Robins and Chip Hallock, president of the Regional Business Partnership, addressed the reasons for impending insolvency of the Transportation Trust Fund, the Fund's importance to New Jersey's economy and the need for new revenue at an April 1 meeting of the Transportation Research Forum in Newark...British-based *World Transport Policy & Practice* will publish a paper by VTC Program Administrator Dr. Jan Wells and Project Coordinator John Renne on transit-oriented development.