

Meeting 3: Transportation Research Cluster

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Meeting Date: Friday, April 27, 2007
Meeting Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:30 pm
Location: KAUFMAN 239
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1. The April 27, 2007 meeting had interested ODU faculty and private sector leaders present. It was a success with a very nice presentation given by Tom Albert on Maglev research at ODU. The presentation is attached and it reflects to a large extent the content of the meeting. We had a brief discussion on Maglev's potential and the input from private sector was that although expensive, Maglev can be marketed as an environmentally friendly technology that is also quieter than most of its competitors.
2. JC Brinker (ODU) had invited the leaders from the private sector to the meeting, which included:
 - a. Margaret Kubilins, Founder, President of Kubilins Transportation, Inc.
 - b. Gerhard Thelen, V.P. Operations and Strategic Planning, Norfolk Southern, Inc.
 - c. George Sadler, President, TranSystems, Inc.
 - d. Dave Tucker, Senior Vice President, GE Transportation, Inc.
 - e. Hildreth Strode, Retired GE, Business Owner, Venture Capitalists
3. Ms Margaret sent a message reproduced below, as she was not able to attend. Mr George Sadler and Hildreth Strode were present at the meeting, and provided very helpful comments on Maglev and generally about private sector participation in research. The potential for such collaborations is substantial, and it can be in the form of both research and educational opportunities for ODU.
4. Pizza and drinks were served at the meeting, and we hope to provide it in the future!

AGENDA

12:00 Noon-12:15 PM: Self-introductions & updates on
any transportation research activities

12:15-12:45 PM: Research focus
Maglev by Professor Thomas Alberts

12:45-1:00 PM: Discussion on Maglev and potential for leveraging research

1:00-1:25 PM: Open discussion on:
- Private sector transportation activities (JC Brinker)
- Potential collaborations with private sector companies
- Intra-ODU collaborations/teams

1:25-1:30 PM: Future presenters (topics & speakers) and updates on any transportation conferences

To: Jerome C Brinker Jr
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04/26/2007 02:39 PM

From: Margaret A. Kubilins, PE
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Subject: Transportation Research Cluster

JC ~ As we discussed, my contribution to the Transportation Research Cluster is to offer a perspective on transportation from a livable street point of view.

Kubilins Transportation Group, Inc. does its fair share of highway work and traffic signal design, which is mostly straight up all about moving cars and trucks. The perspective that I am speaking of is about the context sensitive design. It's about mobility for all modes of travel (pedestrian, bicycles, autos and trucks) and quality of life. It's about how land use and transportation are woven together.

Since receiving the invitation to attend the Cluster meetings, I have pondered how my perspective fits with the rest of the group. I am working on understanding how our knowledge as a group collectively adds to the broader engineering credence "to dedicate our professional knowledge and skill to the advancement and betterment of human welfare." Moving goods safely and efficiently at a global level is as important as it is at the local level. An exercise in tracing an item from manufacturing through to the purchase would be helpful. The work that Kubilins is most closely tied to is getting the delivery truck to the site where the item is purchased and also getting the customer to the location of purchase.

It appears that there are others within the group that focus on getting the item from the manufacturer in China to the US, through the port, then to a distribution center, etc. The overlap is easily seen on Hampton Blvd. Well, we can go from there.

Sorry ... having to miss the actual meeting. Let me know how the meeting goes...