

Center for Safety Equity in Transportation

If you have a right to get there, you have a right to get there safely.

December 2018

2018 Region 10 Transportation Conference

The Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium (PacTrans) and Center for Safety Equity in Transportation (CSET) hosted the 2018 Region 10 Transportation Conference on October 12th, 2018 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The theme, *North to the Future: Emerging Mobility and Safety Issues in the Pacific Northwest*, engaged participants in dialogue on how to move the state of our transportation system forward while being conscious of safety and mobility implications. More than 130 professionals, academics and students in the field of transportation engineering attended the conference, many of whom came from outside the state of Alaska.

The conference started off with a keynote address presented by Ryan Anderson, Assistant Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT&PF), titled *"Moving Safer, Moving Smarter, Transportation in Alaska."* The presentation provided the audience with an excellent overview of the construction and maintenance requirements of Alaskan roads.

The conference included 3 mobility focused sessions running concurrently with 3 safety focused sessions and ended with a panel focused on balancing safety and mobility. There were four panelists: Anne Chang, SAE International, Dan Schacher,

AKDOT&PF, David Yang, AAA, and Daniel Work, Vanderbilt University.

Students also had the opportunity to attend a special session focused on career development provided on October 13. Colin Singleton, CRW Engineering Group, Jackson Fox, Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System, and Marc Luiken, AKDOT&PF each presented on a transportation engineering topic to a group of approximately 30 students.

Registered attendees of the conference were provided the opportunity to take an excursion focused on permafrost and its impact on Alaska Infrastructure on Saturday, October 13. The excursion included visiting the Permafrost Tunnel, created and maintained by the Department of Defense for research purposes and a stop at the Trans-Alaska Pipeline visitor's center. Those who took advantage of the excursion found it a highlight of their trip.

CSET Director Billy Connor notes that "Based on conversations in the hallway, the PacTrans/CSET conference was a great success. Thank you to all those who participated."

Announcements

Angel Gonzalez named CSET 2018 Student of the Year. Angel is currently finalizing his Master's thesis at the University of Idaho. His thesis characterizes fatal and severe injury crashes on low-volume unpaved roads in Idaho.



Safety-focused sessions were held in the new BP Design Theater in the Engineering Learning and Innovation Facility.



The PacTrans Award Ceremony was held during lunch on October 12 along with a concurrent poster session....

CSET has been funded through the 2016 University Transportation Center Program by the US Department of Transportation as part of the FAST Act at approximately \$1.4 million in each of the next five years.

CSET Executive Board Members Honored at Conference

The Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium (PacTrans) presents several awards at its annual meeting. This year CSET Executive Board members Dr. Nathan Belz and Dr. Kevin Chang were honored with awards. Dr. Belz received the 2018 Researcher of the Year award in recognition of his significant research contributions in rural transportation issues, ability to incorporate meaningful student research into his projects and his robust community service and leadership. He serves as the Assistant Director for CSET and is an Assistant Professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Dr. Kevin Chang received the 2018 Educator of the Year award in recognition of his sustained outstanding teaching, including mentoring, advising, and use of innovative teaching techniques. He has served as the President of the ITE Education Council and is regularly recognized as an exceptional faculty advisor. He is an Assistant Professor at the University of Idaho (UI) and serves as the Associate Director of CSET for UI.



Dr. Nathan Belz receiving the 2018 PacTrans Researcher of the Year at the 2018 meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska. From left to right: Billy Connor (CSET Director), Dr. Nathan Belz (CSET Assistant Director), Dr. Yinhai Wang (PacTrans Director), Cole Kopca (PacTrans Assistant Director).



Dr. Kevin Chang receiving the Educator of the Year award at the 2018 meeting. From left to right: Dr. David Hurwitz, (PacTrans Associate Director), Dr. Kevin Chang, Dr. Yinhai Wang (PacTrans Director), Cole Kopca (PacTrans Assistant Director).

CSET at the TRB Annual Meeting, January 14 - 17

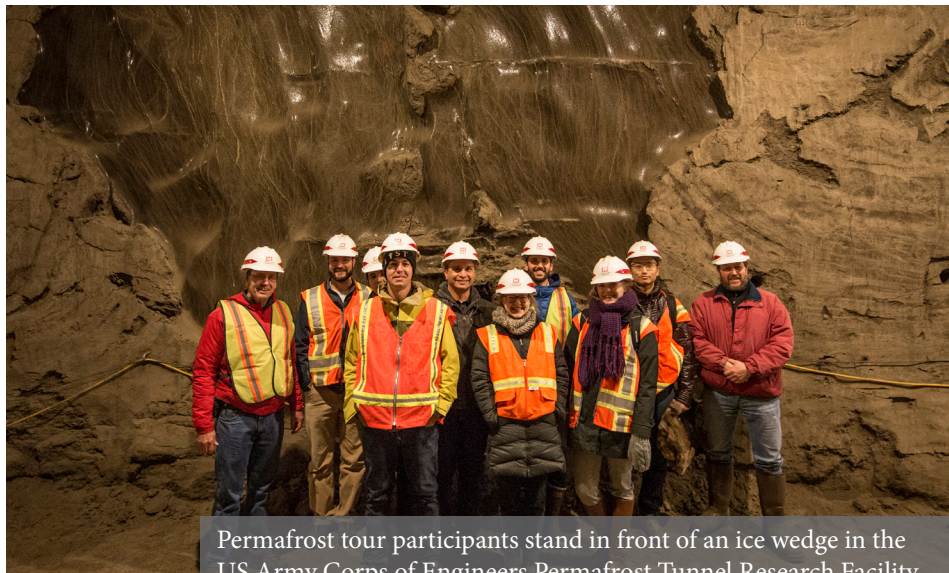
Researchers affiliated with CSET will be participating in the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Results from funded research will be presented in 6 posters and 2 lectures during the meeting.

UAF Come study with us!

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is actively seeking graduate students interested in research related to rural, isolated, tribal and indigenous transportation safety. Civil engineering is preferred, but also looking for interdisciplinary and Alaskan Native students. For more information contact Nathan Belz at npbelz@alaska.edu.



Permafrost tour participants stand in front of the Alyeska Pipeline in Fox, AK to see how thermosyphons help protect frozen ground.



Permafrost tour participants stand in front of an ice wedge in the US Army Corps of Engineers Permafrost Tunnel Research Facility.