Transportation@MIT

In 2009, MIT researchers launched Transportation@MIT, a partnership of MIT’s School of Engineering, the Sloan School of Management, and the School of Architecture and Planning. Our purpose is urgent and impactful: to mobilize MIT’s resources to transform global transportation systems and meet the needs of mobility and the environment in the 21st century. Representing 15 departments, our team of more than 240 faculty members engages in transportation-related research and pursues new multidisciplinary projects. This year, Transportation@MIT continued our efforts in three main areas: research, education, and community.

We are in the third year of a five-year project that addresses challenges of future urban mobility. The initiative is led by professor Emilio Frazzoli and is funded by the National Research Foundation of Singapore. In academic year 2012–2013 we also finished a three-year project on the productivity of US transportation systems involving faculty and researchers from several MIT departments and funded by the Speedwell Foundation and the Shelter Hill Foundation.

In education, 1.041 Transportation Systems Modeling, an undergraduate subject initiated based on recommendations from our Education Committee, was offered for a third time. This subject contributes to the civil and environment engineering curriculum and to concentrations in transportation for students pursuing flexible engineering undergraduate degrees. Additionally another new subject, 16.715 Transportation and the Environment, was offered this spring, covering different modes of transportation, their environmental impacts, and mitigation options.

This year our community was energized by many events organized in coordination with the Institute-wide MIT Transportation Club. Using seed funding and support from Transportation@MIT, the club has several hundred active student members at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The club hosted its third transportation showcase, featuring student research, industry recruiters from 18 companies, and drawing more than 300 attendees. We also hosted seven seminars on current academic- and government-based projects from MIT’s School of Engineering and the Sloan School of Management, Carnegie Mellon University, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, and other organizations. We have also invested time in developing relationships with the transportation departments of the City of Boston and the State of Massachusetts. Our purpose is to collaborate with both departments so that we can analyze and solve practical problems together for the future of our community.

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