Warwick Intermodal Station
Various stages of the RIDOT project are shown throughout this report. A description of the project and photo credits are on page 4.

This photo of the skybridge and walkway was taken in December of 2009.
The URI Transportation Center was established in 1999 to conduct multidisciplinary education, research, technology transfer and outreach for surface transportation systems and advanced transportation infrastructure.

The Center is one of 66 national centers supported by the U.S. Department of Transportation through the University Transportation Centers Program.

An Executive Director manages the overall operations of the Center, an Outreach Director directs all technology transfer activities and the assistant director oversees the research process. The Center has an Executive Board, chaired by the URI Vice President for Administration, whose members represent all of the Center’s stakeholder groups.

**Theme**

Surface Intermodal Transportation Systems and Advanced Transportation Infrastructure with Special Reference to the Marine Environment.

**Mission**

To advance U.S. technology and expertise in the many disciplines composing transportation through the mechanisms of education, research, and technology transfer at a university-based center of excellence.

**National UTC Goals**

**Education:** a multidisciplinary program of course work and experiential learning that reinforces the transportation theme of the Center.

**Human Resources:** an increased number of students, faculty and staff who are attracted to and substantively involved in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs of the Center.

**Diversity:** students, faculty, and staff who reflect the growing diversity of the U.S. workforce and are substantively involved in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs of the Center.

**Research Selection:** an objective process for selecting and reviewing research that balances multiple objectives of the program.

**Research Performance:** an ongoing program of basic and applied research, the products of which are judged by peers or other experts in the field to advance the body of knowledge in transportation.

**Technology Transfer:** availability of research results to potential users in a form that can be directly implemented, utilized, or otherwise applied.

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Innovation continues to be a cornerstone of the University of Rhode Island Transportation Center operations. We continually look for new ways in to expand our activities in research, education and outreach and in 2009 we had successful new initiatives in all of these arenas.

The URITC embarked on a new research initiative in 2009 partnering with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to develop a common research agenda. The goal of this joint research program is to match University of Rhode Island faculty research capabilities with the needs of RIDOT. We kicked this off with a research version of speed dating. Holding a morning of presentations from both groups, URI faculty described their research interests and RIDOT divisions described their research needs.

This joint session resulted in an 18% increase in research problem statements submitted which address the URITC research theme while at the same time tackling RIDOT problems. Full proposals will be developed for approximately half of these problems statements and we anticipate that this will lead to a series of successful research projects addressing both basic and applied research topics. By engaging in this joint research program both the URITC and RIDOT will leverage their research dollars while addressing mutually selected research topics.

Several new awards were also initiated in 2009. The first URITC Researcher of the Year award was given to Professor Michael Greenfield from URI’s Department of Chemical Engineering. Professor Greenfield was chosen to receive this award based upon his research and grant productivity in the field of transportation. The URITC also gave out two undergraduate transportation scholarships in 2009 to two young men, Stephen Zetina and Ailton Vicente, both of whom attended the URITC Business Academy which focuses on issues of supply chain management.

Our outreach programs continued to flourish with the assistance of our partners at RIDOT and Federal Highway Administration as well as the Rhode Island Consulting Engineers organization. Our Engineering Career Day and summer academies (Middle School, Engineering, Construction and Business) continue to attract students from across the state providing exciting opportunities to learn about careers in transportation.

Every year our programs continue to evolve. We added a Facebook application for our middle school Summer Transportation Institute sessions in an attempt to engage our participants long after they leave the URI campus. We intend to expand our foray into social media in the coming year.

These activities are only possible due to the hard work of the URITC staff and partners, all of whom we rely on to carry out our initiatives. That they also are the source of the new programs which we launch illustrates how dedicated they all are to making the URITC a focal point for transportation issues. I look forward to continuing our agenda and can’t wait to see what new initiatives we tackle in 2010.
EXECUTIVE BOARD

The URITC Executive Board is composed of the principal University and public sector stakeholders. The group provides advice to the President of the University of Rhode Island and to the URITC Executive Director in terms of the goals and overall objectives of the Center’s programs.

Robert Weygand, Chair
URI Vice President, Administration

Michael Lewis
Director, RIDOT

Peter Osborn
Division Administrator, R.I. Division, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Mark M. Higgins
Associate Dean, URI College of Business Administration

Phillip Kydd
Assistant Director, RIDOT

Raymond Wright
Dean, URI College of Engineering

Jared Rhodes
Chief, R.I. Statewide Planning Program

Peter Alfonso
URI Vice President, Research and Economic Development

Kevin Smith
President & CEO, Sustainable Supply Chain Consulting

STAFF

Deborah Rosen
Executive Director

Nancy Murphy
Fiscal Management Officer

Neil Nachbar
Writer

Tory Perrotta
Senior Wordprocessing Typist

Ronald Giles
Senior Information Technologist

CONSULTANT

Jeff Cathcart

INTERMODEL PHOTOS

Pictured on the front and back covers, and pages 5, 20, 25 and 34, are various stages of construction of the Warwick Intermodal Station. All photos of the station in this report were taken by Chuck Aube, except for the one on the back cover at the bottom, which was shot by Don Pillsbury.

The station will provide a direct rail connection from T.F. Green Airport in Warwick. The project includes the station, a consolidated rental car facility, a bus hub for local and intercity buses, a parking garage to accommodate both the rental car fleets (2,200 spaces) and commuter rail passengers (1,000 spaces).

A unique aspect of the $267 million project is a 1,250-foot, elevated, enclosed skywalk with moving sidewalks that will connect to the airport and to the station. According to RIDOT, the station will be the closest rail connection to a major airport terminal in the country. For more information about the project, go to www.dot.state.ri.us
On May 14, the URITC held its 9th annual Transportation Week Breakfast at the Radisson Airport Hotel in Warwick, R.I.

The event attracted 109 members of the Rhode Island transportation community, including leaders from the federal and state transportation agencies, transportation practitioners and engineers from private industries.

Donald DeHayes, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at URI, spoke briefly about the University’s role in educating the transportation workforce of tomorrow.

After Michael Lewis, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), made a few opening remarks, Deborah Rosen, Executive Director of the URITC, gave the audience an update on URITC research projects, professional development workshops and outreach initiatives.

The keynote speaker was Richard Brancato, Director of Transportation Programs for the Coalition of Northeastern Governors.

The event concluded with the presentation of the fifth annual RIDOT Quality Awards. The following is a list of winners.

**Transportation Innovation Award**
Joseph N. Waller, Jr., Public Archaeology Lab, Inc.
Michael Hebert, RIDOT

**Highway Transportation Safety Award**
Inspector Alan Davis, Cranston Police Department

**Transportation Excellence Award**
Michael Savella, P.E., RIDOT
Katherine Trapani, Quonset Development Corp.
Mayrai Gindy, Ph.D., URI
Frances Anne Segerson, RIDOT (awarded posthumously)

**URI TC Researcher of the Year**

The URITC named Dr. Michael L. Greenfield, associate professor in URI’s Department of Chemical Engineering, its Researcher of the Year at the 9th Annual Transportation Week Breakfast.

The award was in recognition of Greenfield’s URITC-funded projects and their resulting publications and presentations. His most recent URITC-sponsored research project is “Simulation, Modeling and Interpretation of Asphalt Rheology.”

The project was initiated through conversations about the fundamentals of asphalt rheology with Colin Franco of RIDOT, his co-worker Francis Manning, and the staff in Franco’s Research and Technology Division of RIDOT. The group talked about the measurements conducted to characterize paving asphalts. The project was an effort to apply the methods that were discussed to real-world asphalt rheology data.

The long-term goal of the project was to relate the properties of polymers and fluids of real-world interest, such as asphalts, to the underlying structure, packing and dynamics of the molecules found within them. The benefit to the public would be to build roads that last longer and exhibit better performance.

A challenge involved in this research was how to interpret the asphalt rheology data so that the results can be used to learn about asphalts in general instead of only about the few specific asphalts that were employed in measurements several years ago.

Greenfield joined the URI faculty in 2002 after working for six years in the research labs of Ford Motor Co.
On May 13, the fifth annual Middle School Robotics Challenge was hosted by the University of Rhode Island Transportation Center at URI’s Kingston Campus. Fourteen teams from 10 schools participated in the robotics competition and poster contest.

The participating schools included:
- Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School (Coventry)
- Barrington Middle School
- Cole Middle School (East Greenwich)
- Martin Middle School (East Providence)
- Monsignor Clark Middle School (Wakefield)
- Newport Community School
- Our Lady of Mercy School (East Greenwich)
- Riverside Middle School (East Providence)
- Westerly Middle School
- Winman Junior High School (Warwick)

Professor Robert Tyce, from URI’s Graduate School of Oceanography, ran the robotics competition. The teams were given a time limit to complete as many of the six transportation-related tasks as possible. The tasks were worth a total of 265 points. After the first round, teams were given time to make adjustments and improve their score in the second round.

Here are the results of the robotics competition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riverside Middle School (Team B)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winman Junior High School (Team A)</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Middle School (Team A)</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westerly Middle School</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Mercy School</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The theme of the poster contest was transportation careers. Westerly Middle School’s poster on the future of various modes of transportation won first place. A team from Riverside Middle School captured second place and a team from Winman Junior High School finished third.
On May 15, 130 students from 10 Rhode Island high school programs attended the third annual Engineering Career Day at the University of Rhode Island’s Kingston Campus.

Engineering Career Day was sponsored by the University of Rhode Island Transportation Center, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Rhode Island Consulting Engineers (RICE).

Divided into four groups, the students learned about the many career options related to transportation engineering by rotating through four learning labs.

The labs, which were led by industry professionals and URI faculty, included:
• Bridge and Geotechnical Engineering
• Highway and Traffic Engineering
• Surveys & Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
• Storm Water Management, Hazardous Materials, Environmental Planning

Students came from the following schools:
• Blackstone Academy (Pawtucket)
• Central Falls High School
• East Bay Met School (Newport)
• East Providence Career & Technical Center
• GAP Program/Talent Development (Providence)
• Middletown High School
• Newport Area Career & Technical Center
• Shea High School (Pawtucket)
• The College Crusade of Rhode Island (Providence)
• Tolman High School (Pawtucket)
On May 13 and 14, the Rhode Island Construction Career Days (CCD) event was held at the Rhode Island Department of Transportation’s (RIDOT) East Greenwich facility.

More than 941 students from 56 Rhode Island high schools attended the eighth annual event. After receiving a duffle bag with a CCD T-shirt, hard hat, work gloves, safety glasses and career information, students took turns operating more than 30 pieces of construction equipment, including backhoes, excavators, pavers, jackhammers and bucket trucks.

Inside the RIDOT facility, more than 70 industry and DOT professionals shared career information on welding, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, carpentry and other disciplines. Students had an opportunity to operate a backhoe simulator, build a wooden toolbox and design a bridge on a computer.

Highlights of the event included:
• The URITC driver simulator. Students and adults enjoyed testing their skills on the simulator.
• More than 200 applications were handed out for the Construction Academy, Engineering Academy and the Business Academy offered in the summer at the URITC.
• Monika Sudyka from the Polish T2 Center attended. She hopes to start a similar event in Poland.
• There was great support from Junior Achievement, the trade unions, apprenticeship programs, RIDOT and industry professionals.
• The event was featured on four television news broadcasts and in three newspapers.

CCD is managed by the URITC and sponsored by RIDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. Rhode Island’s event was one of 56 such events held in 28 states throughout the country in 2009.
The URITC continues to manage the Construction Career Days Center, whose mission is to introduce students to the transportation construction industry.

Despite a rough economy, there were just as many CCD events held across the country in 2009 as there were in 2008 (56). Minority attendance exceeded 40% in 2009, while the number of females attending events remained stable. From the inception of the CCD program in 1999 to the end of 2009, more than 340,000 students have attended a CCD event.

New Hampshire hosted its first CCD event in 2009 at the Hopkinton State Fairgrounds on Sept. 25. The event drew 358 students from 22 schools. Some attendees traveled more than two hours to attend.

In regards to outreach and marketing, it was a very busy and successful year for the CCD program.

A few of the highlights included:
- Presentations were given at the VIP luncheon associated with the Mason, MI CCD event, at the VIP breakfast held in conjunction with the Denver, CO CCD event, and at the National ACE All Affiliates National Conference in San Diego, CA.
- The NCCDC had a strong presence at the 2009 NAWIC Conference in Phoenix, AZ. The CCD program had a booth set up, was mentioned several times in the conference brochure and was a topic of one of the workshops.
- Using an electronic marketing service, the CCD Center e-mailed out two newsletters and a greeting card. Each item was sent to 600-700 people.
- A 10th anniversary reunion of the original CCD Program founders and original CCD planning committee members was held in Texas. The meeting was publicized in the 2009 Fall/Winter CCD newsletter and Texas Contractor magazine.
- More than 1,500 photos were submitted and posted on the NCCDC website from 32 events. The volume of photos and the number of events represented in the photos were both all-time highs.
The 15th annual SMILE Engineering Challenge, sponsored by the University of Rhode Island Transportation Center and the Federal Highway Administration, was held at URI’s Memorial Union Ballroom on March 6-7.

SMILE is an acronym for Science and Math Investigative Learning Experiences. The event attracted a record number of students. Accompanied by teachers or advisors, 113 students from six schools participated.

The middle schools represented included:

• Calcutt Middle School (Central Falls)
• Curtis Corner Middle School (South Kingstown)
• Deering Middle School (West Warwick)
• Roger Williams Middle School (Providence)
• Samuel Bridgham Middle School (Providence)
• Woonsocket Middle School

The challenge requires students to split into teams and work on a transportation-related science project that involves design, cost analysis, construction, testing, teamwork and communication.

The specific project changes each year. This year's task was to design and construct a crane prototype that could lift a model maglev (magnetically levitated) car onto a magnetic guideway track. Once the car was lifted onto the track, the objective was for the car to travel the length of the track in the fastest possible time.

Teams had an imaginary budget of $250,000 to purchase the wood, pennies, magnetic stripping, rubber bands and foam board that they needed for the task.

URI students, faculty and volunteers from local businesses offered encouragement, but the students were expected to solve problems and make adjustments with limited assistance.

SMILE Program Director Carol Englander watches closely as one of the maglev cars glides down the track.

Photo courtesy of URI Quad Angles
Since 2005, the Federal Highway Administration’s Dwight D. Eisenhower Fellowship Program has enabled students from the University of Rhode Island (URI) to conduct a transportation-related research study at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM) and students from UPRM to do the same at URI.

The program is administered by the URITC and the UPRM Transportation Technology Transfer Center.

In 2009, UPRM students Máximo Polanco, Alvin Nieves, Jeannette Feliciano, Liza Rios and URI students Colleen Grinham, and Caitlyn Maleck participated in the 10-week summer exchange program.

This was Nieves second summer in the program. “Everyone at URI has treated me well,” said Nieves.

A faculty advisor is assigned to each student to provide guidance during the course of the fellowship. The program has been just as beneficial and enjoyable for the faculty as it has been for the students.

Professor Jay Wang, from URI’s Mechanical, Industrial & Systems Engineering department, was assigned to work with Polanco.

“Máximo is self-motivated and reliable,” said Wang. “He worked well with his fellow team members.”

Polanco’s research study was on vehicle headway. “What attracted me to this topic was the goal of improving driver safety,” explained Polanco. “The objective was to develop a way to communicate to drivers what is considered a safe driving distance when traveling on Rhode Island highways.”

At the end of the period, the students presented their research findings and conclusions to faculty, students, and staff from both universities.

“I gained self-confidence by giving the presentation in English,” said Feliciano. “It was my first formal presentation in a language that isn’t my first language.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Research Topic</th>
<th>Mentor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeannette Feliciano</td>
<td>Eye Movements During Merging*</td>
<td>Dr. Manbir Sodhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liza Rios</td>
<td>Oversize/Overweight Vehicle Routing and Permitting with a GIS</td>
<td>Dr. Mayrai Gindy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alvin Nieves</td>
<td>SnowFlake Expansion</td>
<td>Dr. Valerie Maier-Speredelozzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Máximo Polanco</td>
<td>Vehicle Headway Management on R.I. Highways</td>
<td>Dr. Jay Wang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleen Grinham</td>
<td>Red Light Running in Western Puerto Rico</td>
<td>Fabiola Buitrago, PhD student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitlyn Maleck</td>
<td>Development of Nanoscaffolds Through Oxidation on Titanium-Alloy Disks to Increase Artificial Implant Lifespan</td>
<td>Dr. Paul Sundaram and Carlos R. Ramos-Saenz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Jeannette Feliciano will present her research project during the poster session of the Transportation Research Board’s 89th Annual Meeting on Jan. 11 in Washington, D.C. Only 25 students out of close to 200 were selected to present.
On April 4-11, a small group of transportation officials from Rhode Island traveled to Warsaw, Poland and the Czech Republic to learn about technology transfer activities in Central Europe and to discuss potential joint venture partnerships with officials.

The Rhode Island contingent included Daniel Berman of the Federal Highway Administration, Rhode Island Division Office (FHWA-RI); Phillip Kydd of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT); and Jeff Cathcart, who represented the Rhode Island Local Technical Assistance Program (RI-LTAP). Joining the group was Patrick Hasson, the Safety and Design Technical Service Team Leader in the FHWA Resource Center.

The group had three specific objectives:
1. To work with Poland to become part of the Central European T2 group and offer the team the opportunity to learn about technology transfer activities in the Central European T2 Countries.
2. To meet with various officials to discuss potential joint venture partnerships. Some of the benefits included a discussion of High Speed Rail developments in the Central European Union, road safety research projects in the Czech Republic and the implementation of workforce development programs.
3. To meet with officials at Ostrava University to finalize arrangements for an International Summer Transportation Institute.

The delegation participated in the Central European (CETE) T2 meeting and a series of round table discussions, toured laboratories in Warsaw and Tisnov and met with Czech Republic Ministry of Transport officials in Prague.

The Central European-Rhode Island Technology Transfer Partnership, or “twinning relationship,” was first initiated in 2001.
The University of Rhode Island Transportation Center selected Steven Humphrey of Tiverton, RI as its 2009 Student of the Year in recognition of his outstanding academic record, research achievements and the leadership skills he demonstrated as a spokesperson in URI’s supply chain management program.

“Supply chain management is a new major in the URI College of Business Administration and student leadership is critical to attracting students to a new discipline,” said URITC Executive Director Deborah Rosen. “I am confident that Steven will continue to be a leader in this field in which transportation plays a key role.”

Humphrey received his certification in transportation and logistics from the American Society of Transportation in fall 2009 and graduated from URI’s undergraduate program with a degree in supply chain management in the spring. He assisted in transportation network design and in modeling and assessing business capabilities for containerization at the Port of Davisville in Quonset Point, RI.

“Supply chain management and transportation have a great overlap in process flow and logistics,” explained Humphrey. “They involve the same abilities. I used the skills I was taught to map out transportation network designs that optimize efficiency.

In addition to his academic endeavors, Humphrey dedicated a lot of his time as an undergraduate to serving multiple leadership roles in the URI Mentor Program, URI Freshman Orientation and Student Alumni Association.

It was his involvement with the Orientation program that helped shape his career goals.

“In my third year with the program, I was a student program coordinator. This included training orientation leaders and planning their schedules and events. We evaluated the program as a whole and used logistics to plan the best and most efficient way for it to work,” Humphrey said.

Completing these tasks led him to consider a career choice that involves similar responsibilities.

“It confirmed my interest in project management and called on both of my strengths in logistics and analytics while allowing me to work with people,” Humphrey said.

Humphrey is currently enrolled in the MBA program at URI. He keeps an open mind about the future and uses the program as a tool which will allow him to explore career paths in business and transportation.

As part of the program, Humphrey interns with the URITC. As a research assistant, he is completing a project in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to create an annual report by researching and tracking data from various RIDOT departments.
The sixth annual URITC Summer Transportation Institute (STI) was held for two 2-week sessions starting July 7 and August 3 at URI’s Kingston campus.

Representing diverse backgrounds, 38 middle school students learned about transportation careers and the respective education and training requirements.

Classroom instruction, guest speakers, field trips and hands-on projects were key components of the academic program.

Activities included:
• Introduction to bridges by a R.I. Department of Transportation bridge engineer
• Introduction to engineering careers by a City of Providence engineer and a RIDOT engineer
• Computer bridge building contest
• Balsa wood bridge building contest
• Safety sessions at the Kingston Railway Station
• Writing in daily journals
• Work zone safety sessions
• Tour of T.F. Green Airfield
• Hands-on activities at the New England Laborer’s Training Center

As part of the enhancement program, the participants experienced a multi-modal trip on which they rode a commuter rail, a subway, a van, a trolley and walked.

At URI, the students visited dorms, classrooms and sports facilities, met staff and ate in a dining hall. The students also toured the New England Laborers’ Training Center.
In 2009, the URITC hosted three summer academies for high school students: the Construction Academy, the Engineering Academy and the Business Academy. A total of 44 students from diverse backgrounds participated. Transportation was made available from central pick-up points in Providence.

Goals of the Summer Academies
These initiatives were designed to:
• give first-hand knowledge of transportation work
• provide many opportunities for mentoring by industry role models
• spread the message that the transportation sector offers many rewarding career options
• make students aware of necessary courses early enough in their education to be prepared to move on to a career or college with the right tool kit
• increase diversity in the transportation workforce

Engineering Academy
Fifteen high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors attended this academy from July 27 – 31. The curriculum included:
• highway design
• bridge design
• traffic engineering
• water resources
• environmental engineering
• geographic information systems
• geotechnical engineering
• reading a scale
• blueprint reading
• preparing an estimate
• surveying and layout

Classroom instruction, guest speakers, field trips, and hands-on training were key components of the academic program. Activities included a tour of URI’s College of Engineering, CVS Corporation and the intermodel train station bridge construction project at T.F. Green State Airport in Warwick.
Construction Academy
A one-week Construction Academy for 13 high school juniors and seniors took place July 20 – 24.

The curriculum included:
• OSHA 10-hour certification
• flag person certification
• work zone safety
• hands-on activities at the Operating Engineers Center
• tour of RIDOT construction project
• blueprint reading
• estimating
• construction math
• surveying and layout
• a talk on “Starting your own Construction Business”
• preparing for a job interview

The Construction Academy gave the students a much better understanding of the careers available in the construction industry, the benefits these careers offer, the steps required to pursue these careers, and an expanded circle of friends.

Business Academy
The Business Academy was attended by 16 high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors from July 27 – 31. The participants learned about all aspects of a company’s supply chain. Classroom instruction, guest speakers, field trips and hands-on training were key components of the program.

Activities included:
• Ropes Confidence Course Team Building Exercise
• Supply Chain Improvement Group Exercise
• Tour of a CVS Distribution Center
• Tour of the Quonset Point Business Park and Port
• Develop an efficient transportation system for an actual product