

Transportation Tidbits



Welcome to the July issue of the Transportation Tidbits Newsletter! This issue features the latest happenings within the transportation industry along with a list of upcoming transportation conferences and webinars. You can also find some of the latest news from our faculty and students! If you have any questions or comments about this month's issue, please [let us know](#). Enjoy!

Important Dates for NDSU Students

7/1: Last Day to Withdraw to Zero Credits @ 75% refund (8-week session classes only)

7/3: Last day to Withdraw to Zero Credits @ 50% refund (full 12- week session classes only) No refunds issued for withdraw to zero credits after this date.

7/4: Holiday- Independence Day (no classes, office closed)

Who Knows Better, Computers or Drivers?

Whatever we think we know about driving, we probably don't. Today, when cars that drive themselves are statistically safer than those driven human drivers, it is no surprise that computers do a better job at picking the fastest route as well.

Traditionally, transportation researchers have assumed that, when making decisions, drivers will choose the quickest path possible to minimize travel time. Traffic prediction models use this assumption when routing the quickest possible path for you. The researchers use these models in planning efforts to keep traffic flowing. To be reliable, these applications must do a good job of replicating drivers' behavior.

Unfortunately, there is little evidence that drivers choose their routes based on optimization. For that reason researchers set out to discover how drivers decide which route to take. "Better knowledge of individual routing can help improve urban infrastructure and GPS directions systems - not just for one driver, but for everyone. Beating congestion is a big goal: one estimate put the cost of traffic in 2014 at US\$160 billion in the U.S., with 42 extra hours of travel time and \$960 worth of extra fuel for every commuter," according to a recent article in

7/8: Graduate student initial Disquisition submission classes with record (W)

7/11: Last day to drop full 12-week session classes with record (W)

7/14: Last day to Withdraw to Zero Credits @ 50% refund (8-week session classes only) No refunds issues for withdraw to zero credits after this date

7/20: Last day to Drop standard 8-week classes with 'W' record

Recent News Updates

[Now at Your Fingertips: A Wealth of Transit-Oriented Development Resources](#)

[Take Action! Preventing Child Heatstroke Deaths is Up to Us All](#)

[Heatstroke: It Can Happy to Any Family](#)

[Kicking Off "The Future of Transportation"](#)

Discover magazine.

European researches set out to find patterns in driver's behavior. They collected several months of GPS data for hundreds of drivers over the course of several months and across four European cities. Their findings? People only use a few routes when moving between places. Most people have a single favorite route for trips they perform routinely and a few alternatives they take less frequently to the same destinations. So did people in fact usually choose the optimal route? Unfortunately, no. Results show that around half of the favorite routes are not the optimal routes suggested by navigational devices, and only a third overall minimize travel time. Find this interesting? Find out more at: http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/crux/2016/03/16/driving-were-doing-it-wrong/#.V3_16PkrJhE

Webinars

Check out this list of upcoming [webinars](#) offered by the Transportation Research Board. All participants must register at least 24 hours in advance of the webinar. If you missed a webinar and would like to know more about it [click here](#) for further instructions.

- **July 6, 2016** - [Value of Transportation Infrastructure: Pathways to Measure Transportation's Contribution to the Economy](#)
- **July 7 2016** - [Considerations for Airport Capacity Projects](#)
- **July 11, 2016** - [Support Project for the Future Interstate Study](#)
- **July 12, 2016**- [Using Technology for Practical Purposed in Work Zones](#)
- **July 13, 2016** - [Unmanned Aircraft Systems at Airports](#)
- **July 14, 2016** - [Management Guide to Intellectual Property for State Departments of Transportation](#)
- **July 18, 2016** - [Inverted Pavements](#)
- **July 20, 2016** - [Visualization of Geotechnical Data for Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Response, a Practical Update](#)
- **July 21, 2016**- [Use of Geothermal Energy in Snow Melting and Deicing of Transportation Infrastructure](#)

Upcoming Conferences

[New Month, New Diet
- A Road Diet of
Course!](#)

UGPTI in the Spotlight

[North Dakota Grain
Industry Data](#)

[UGPTI Activities Boost
Transportation
Awareness](#)

[New
Publication: Analysis
of Risk Factor in
Severity of Rural Truck
Crashes](#)

[Center for
Transportation Studies
Building](#)

- [Transportation-Related Environmental Analysis, Ecology and Historic and Archaeological Preservation Summer Conference](#)
 - [July 2016](#)
 - [Salt Lake City, UT](#)
- [11th National Conference on Transportation Asset Management](#)
 - [July 10-12, 2016](#)
 - [Minneapolis, MN](#)
- [International Conference on Transportation Infrastructure and Materials](#)
 - [July 16-18, 2016](#)
 - [Xi'an, China](#)
- [Transportation- Related Noise and Vibration Committee Summer Conference](#)
 - [July 24-27, 2016](#)
 - [Missoula, Montana](#)
- [GeoChina 2016 International Conference](#)
 - [July 25-27, 2016](#)
 - [Shandong, China](#)
- [Resource Conference and Recovery Summer Conference](#)
 - [July 26-29, 2016](#)
 - [Asheville, NC](#)
- [Transportation Planning and Air Quality Conference](#)
 - [August 4-5, 2016](#)
 - [Minneapolis, Minnesota](#)
- [Istanbul Bridge Conference: Early Registration Available Until June 1, 2016](#)
 - [August 8-10, 2016](#)
 - [Istanbul, Turkey](#)
- [3rd International Conference on Transportation Geotechnics](#)
 - [September 4-7, 2016](#)
 - [Guimaraes, Portugal](#)
- [15th National Tools of the Trade](#)
 - [September 12-14, 2016](#)
 - [Charleston, South Carolina](#)
- [21st Century Waterways: The Changing Tide of Harbor Safety](#)
 - [September 13-15, 2016](#)
 - [Portland, Oregon](#)
- [5th International Conference on Accelerated Pavement Testing](#)
 - [September 19-21, 2016](#)
 - [San Jose, Costa Rica](#)
- [8th World Congress on Joints, Bearings and Seismic Systems for Concrete Structures](#)
 - [September 25-29, 2016](#)
 - [Atlanta, Georgia](#)
- [International Conference on Demand Responsive Transportation](#)
 - [September 26-28, 2016](#)
 - [Breckenridge, Colorado](#)
- [22nd International Conference on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation](#)
 - [October 2-5, 2016](#)

- Barcelona, Spain

Workshops/ Meetings

- **Transportation-Related Environmental Analysis, Ecology and Historic and Archaeological Preservation Summer Conference**
 - July 17-20, 2016
 - Salt Lake City, UT
- **Resource Conservation and Recovery Summer Conference**
 - July 26-29, 2016
 - Asheville, NC

New Student Biography



Ayman Mansour of Amman, Jordan, earned his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Applied Science University in Amman. Currently Mansour is pursuing master's degree in Transportation and Urban Systems at NDSU. His research interests focus on transportation system models and urban demand modeling. Mansour became interested in transportation while working and earning his bachelor's degree. He enjoyed taking highway and traffic courses and working as a Junior Traffic Engineer in Dubai. In his spare time, Mansour enjoys listening to music, playing soccer, spending time with friends and shopping. Mansour's goals for the future are

to become more involved in the field of transportation and learn more about transportation travel demand modeling concepts, ITS strategies and GIS.

A Pep Talk for the World



NDSU UPPER GREAT PLAINS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

If you have items that you would like to submit for our next monthly Transportation Tidbits newsletter, please email Makenzie Schmidt at makenzie.lee.schmidt@ndsu.edu by the 15th of the month.