

TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING SEMINAR

Freight Transportation in Mega Regions

Friday, February 6, 2015

3:00pm to 4:30pm

Please join us in Schwada Building (SCOB) room 101 **Bethany Marie Stich, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, Associate Director of the Merritt C. Becker Transportation Institute (UNOTI) at the University of New Orleans

As Jane Jacobs famously wrote, “The economic foundation of cities is trade.” Increased global connectivity and expanding domestic markets around major metropolitan hubs have led to a spatial reorganization of regional economies towards a higher level of scale referred to as the mega region. These regions’ trade networks rely on a complex mix of freight and telecommunications infrastructure, low trade barriers, as well as international business and social networks. Policymakers have a responsibility to recognize the vital relationship between economies and freight, and it is imperative that national policies reflect the domestic and global environments in which mega regions must now compete. These issues are particularly relevant as the United States lacks a national freight strategy and as local entities across mega regions may have disparate strategies for economic development. Dr. Bethany Stich will discuss these challenges as they relate to freight planning and mega region economies.



Dr. Stich is an Associate Professor of Transportation Studies and the Associate Director of the Merritt C. Becker Transportation Institute (UNOTI) at the University of New Orleans. She serves as the Co-Principal Investigator of UNOTI’s two University Transportation Centers and the Principal Investigator for the Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence for Maritime Resiliency housed at Louisiana State University. Dr. Stich’s research has included transportation topics such as the importance of retaining and revitalizing rail; deep sea ports and inland waterway infrastructure; airports as economic drivers; globalization and international trade; freight based economic development; intermodal development and planning; community development; industry recruitment and retention; sprawl; and citizen involvement.



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