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Research and Events February 2020



When Growth Outpaces Infrastructure: Access to Opportunities in Suburban Boomtowns

In Collin County, Texas, the population has increased over 100% since 2000. When enough people flock to an area to call it a boomtown, the population tends to grow much faster than the infrastructure to support it. Researchers from the University of Texas at Arlington's School of Social Work and College of Engineering have partnered with the Collin County Homeless Coalition (CCHC) to investigate gaps in transportation services and infrastructure for lower-income individuals, particularly those experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. The goal? To assess the impact of those gaps on access to opportunities for environmental justice populations within North Central Texas.

[READ ABOUT THE RESEARCH](#)

[REGISTER FOR THE MAR 17 WEBINAR](#)



NITC Research at TRB 2020: Link Roundup!

NITC made quite a showing at this year's annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board. 82 researchers and 50 students from NITC-funded universities contributed to the TRB program. For a look at how our consortium contributed to the national conversation this year, we've collected posters and presentations of NITC research at TRB. Explore the links below to see what NITC researchers brought to D.C. this year—the below projects have a connection to NITC funding, but are not necessarily representative of the full body of work that researchers at these institutions brought to the annual meeting. And of course, get a peak at this year's TRB 2020 through our photos of NITC-funded faculty, staff and students.

[CHECK OUT THE POSTERS AND TRB PHOTOS](#)

[SEE PHOTOS FROM TRB](#)

Student Spotlight: Gabby Abou-Zeid, Portland State University

A 2019 Eisenhower Fellow, Gabby is a civil engineering



MEET GABBY ABOU-ZEID

graduate student at PSU working with Dr. Kelly Clifton's SUPERLab. At the University of Arizona she received her BS in sustainable built environments, and plans on pursuing a PhD in transportation after her master's program. Prior to coming to PSU, she conducted research with Dr. Clifton through PSU's annual Transportation Undergraduate Research Fellow (TURF) program. Gabby will present her work with PBOT on freight demand, alongside fellow graduate student Katherine Keeling on e-home grocery delivery, in a [PSU online seminar on February 14](#).

WATCH AN INTERVIEW WITH GABBY



NITC Invites Submissions for 2020 General Research RFP

The National Institute for Transportation and Communities (NITC) program has released its 2020 general research request for proposals. Faculty at NITC's partner universities are invited to submit abstracts by March 23, 2020. We're looking for projects that advance NITC's theme of "improving the mobility of people and goods to build strong communities," which includes a few key topics:

- * Increasing access to opportunities;
- * Improving multimodal planning & shared use of infrastructure;
- * Advancing innovation and smart cities;
- * Developing data, models, and tools.

DOWNLOAD THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NITC Research and Partner Updates

- [Dissertation Fellowships Applications Due February 12](#): Current Ph.D. Candidates at NITC universities may apply by February 12 for a fellowship of up to \$15,000 to cover expenses while working on a dissertation consistent with NITC's theme
- [Four NITC Students Win WTS Scholarships](#): Four NITC students were awarded WTS Portland scholarships for the 2019/2020 academic year: Briana Orr, Huijun Tan and Lynn Tran of Portland State, and Corrie Parrish of University of Oregon.
- [NITC Students Visit National Park Service](#): Ten students from U of Arizona, U of Utah, Oregon Tech, PSU and UC Berkeley attended a tour and presentation by NPS staff and learned about the Public Lands Transportation Fellows program.
- [PSU Alum Featured in Forbes](#): Former NITC fellow Patrick Singleton, now at Utah State, had his research on the positive utility of travel featured in the Forbes article "Bicycle Commuters Experience Joy But Motorists Would Much Rather Teleport."
- [Sustainability and Emerging Transportation Technology \(SETT\) 2020](#): Submit your abstract to this year's SETT - due February 15th. The event will be held in Irvine, CA from Aug 31 - Sept 2.

NITC University Partners



UPCOMING EVENTS

NITC RESEARCH DATABASE

The **National Institute for Transportation and Communities (NITC)**, is a program of the **Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC)** at Portland State University. NITC is one of seven U.S. Department of Transportation national university transportation centers. The NITC program is a **Portland State**-led partnership with the **Oregon Institute of Technology**, **University of Arizona**, **University of Oregon**, **University of Texas at Arlington** and **University of Utah**. We pursue our theme—improving mobility of people and goods to build strong communities—through research, education and technology transfer.



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