

# LEHMAN CENTER FOR TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH

## 2000-2001 ACCOUNTABILITY AND PLANNING REPORT

### A. MISSION AND AREAS OF FOCUS

#### **Mission Statement:**

The center's vision is to become a strong "state-of-the-art" transportation research and training facility. LCTR is committed to serve and benefit our society by conducting research to improve mobility, hence the quality of life issues, develop partnerships in the transportation industry, and educate a multidisciplinary workforce to plan, manage and implement transportation systems.

#### **Areas of Focus:**

Transportation, Intermodal System, Highway, Airport, Mass Transit System, Urban Development

### B. ORGANIZATION, EXTERNAL TRENDS AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

#### 1. Organizational Issues

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CHART** (effective 07/2000)

##### **GIS/Public Transit Program Manager**

Dr. Fang Zhao, P.E.

##### **International and ITS Program Manager**

Dr. Sylvan Jolibois

##### **Air Pollution Program Manager**

Dr. Wolfgang Rogge

##### **LCTR Director**

Dr. L. David Shen, P.E.

##### **Construction Management Program Manager**

Dr. Irtishad Ahmad, P.E.

##### **Environmental Impact Program Manager**

Dr. Walter Tang, P.E.

##### **Transportation Economics Program Manager**

Dr. Kenneth Lipner

##### **Highway and Airport Program Manager**

Dr. L. David Shen, P.E., T.E.

##### **Systems Engineering & Modeling Program Manager**

Dr. Albert Gan

The LCTR is located within the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering and Design (CED). Presently, the Chairman of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is also the LCTR Director. Otherwise, the LCTR Director would report to the Department Chair.

#### 2) Advisory Board Members

a) List of members

1. Eugene Bechamps, P.E., President  
E. N. Bechamps & Associates, Inc.  
5200 Blue Lagoon Drive, Suite 150  
Miami, FL 33126-2050
2. Roger A. Wingerter, President  
Wingerter Laboratories  
1820 N. E. 144th Street  
North Miami, FL 33181
3. Stanley M. Cann, P.E.  
Carr Smith Associates  
4055 N. W. 97th Avenue  
Miami, FL 33178
4. Mr. Manuel Then, P.E.  
District Director of Production  
FDOT District IV  
3400 W. Commercial Blvd  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309-3421
5. Ms. Lundy Clarke, P.E.  
President, CRA Clarke, Inc.  
7400 N. Kendall Dr., Suite 415  
Miami, FL 33156
6. Dr. Ben Chen, P.E.  
Chen & Associates  
1854 NW 97 Avenue  
Plantation, FL 33322

b) Enhanced Program

The board meets annually and all board members are constantly in touch with via e-mail and correspondences. Comments are suggestions are used to improve the effectiveness of the center.

3) External Trends

What external trends may influence your programs or operations over the next five years?

- a) Shrinking federal research budgets
- b) Shrinking state research budgets
- c) Lack of indirect cost return

How do you intend on adjusting to these?

Work closely with federal, state and local agencies. In addition, FIU must give a portion of the indirect cost return to LCTR if it is to become successful. At the present tome, LCTR is 100% self supported and does not get any of the indirect cost return. This situation must be corrected immediately.

4) Strategic Directions and Areas of Emphasis

The LCTR's vision for the next five years is to become one of the best transportation research centers in the State.

## C. 2000-2001 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Goal 1:** *We wish to stay within the established parameters of the data collection timelines for each of our two current studies and begin the data analysis portion of the Transitions study.*

**Assessment Criteria (Measurable Outcome):** *The amount of interviews conducted should fall within projections*

**Accomplishment:** *The amount of interviews for the Disability study has proceeded apace, however finishing the last of the Transitions study interviews has been complicated by an increasing refusal on the part of the participants. Consequently, the timetable has been adjusted to correspond to this trend.*

**Use of Results for Program Improvement:** *The possibility for increasing number of participant refusals in the late part of the study has been incorporated into planning for future studies.*

**Goal 2:** *Begin the data analysis portion of the Transitions Study*

**Assessment Criteria (Measurable Outcome):** *There should be an increase in the production of scholarly papers.*

**Accomplishment:** *Over a dozen scholarly papers have already been completed as of 9/21/2001, and several others are in the process of being completed.*

**Use of Results for Program Improvement:** *N/A*

## D. 2001-2002 ANNUAL GOALS

**2001-2002 Goal 1:** *We wish to stay within the timetable for the Disability Study and the revised timetable for the completion of the Transitions study*

**Measurable Outcome:** *The completion of data gathering for the Transitions study and the accomplishment of approximately 900 interviews for the Disability Study*

**2001-2002 Goal 2:** *We wish to begin planning for the Disability Wave 2 study and begin hiring relevant personnel.*

**Measurable Outcome:** *The completion of the study instruments for the Disability Wave 2 study, and the hiring of key administrative and research personnel in preparation of data collection the following year.*

## E. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1. Major Activities - Prior Year

During the prior year, we continued the data collection phase of the wave 2 portion of the study. This involved continued interviewing activities as well as revision of our initial time table. Due to the increasing number of refusals from study participants entering the late period of data collection, we needed to refocus our efforts on tracking methods that had proved effective in the past. In particular, the value of the Autotrack tracking system from ChoicePoint Public records has proved invaluable in locating previously unreachable participants. Furthermore, our interviewers have been refocused on their attempts to successfully contact and solicit interviews from those participants whose whereabouts are known. A stronger emphasis has been placed on conversion of refusals and accommodating participants' needs. An incentive program was also instituted for the Transitions Study where all participants being interviewed on any given month will stand the chance to win a gift certificate from Best Buy in a random drawing. We have also doubled the amount of the participant payments from \$25 to \$50 in cases where it is necessary. Such cases have increased dramatically.

We have also begun the data analysis portion of the study in earnest. Although some scholarly papers based on Wave 1 data had already been produced and submitted, the number of such papers has dramatically increased this year. Counting papers in print and presented at conferences, over a dozen scholarly papers based on the Transitions Study data have been completed as of 9/21/2001, with several others in the works. By the end of this year, we hope to have produced over two dozen papers, which is on par with some of the most prestigious research centers nationwide.

At the beginning of this year, we also began work on the data collection phase of the Disability Study. We had to begin with the requisite training of study interviewers. In this endeavor we had the aid of some of our most experienced interviewers who were able to share from their hands on experience. We were fortunate to have a large pool of screeners to chose from who had demonstrated competence in specific areas that would be needed for interviewing. Once training was complete, we finalized the study instrument through the use of pilot interviews, which were also used to help finalize the skills of the interviewers. From that point on, data collection settled into a stable pattern. We have been staying within our timetable for interviewing and hope to have the study completed within the parameters set out in our revised timeline (revised due to cuts in the initial budget).

We also completed an application for a second grant to continue with a second wave for the Disability Study. Completion of this grant application was extremely time consuming and required the effort of the Director, our graduate assistants, our senior researchers, and members of our administrative staff. The completed application with all copies included was composed of the equivalent of approximately 8 reams of paper. The application itself had to be carefully completed to ensure its accuracy and had to be checked and rechecked by many different parties including the Dean's office and the office of Sponsored Research and Training.

## 2. Major Activities - Coming Year

During the coming year, we plan to complete the data collection phase of the Transitions Study, probably within the first months of 2002. We will continue with the data analysis phase of the study, and plan to produce several more scholarly papers based on the data collected. Data analysis will continue for at least a year after the data collection is completed, and probably longer. This will mean an increase in production of scholarly papers even beyond the high level we achieved he prior year. This will also mean a dramatic increase in travel to conferences to present papers, and an increase in production costs as we endeavor to prepare presentation materials.

We wish to complete, or bring near completion, the data collection phase of the Disability study. This will mean the continuation of the interviewing process within the currently established timetable. Completion of the data collection will be aided by the infusion of new interviewers who will be reassigned from the Transitions Study once data collection for that study is complete. If the data collection can be completed ahead of schedule, we will begin with the data analysis portion of the Disability study, perhaps even producing some scholarly papers from the collected data.

## 3. Supporting Documentation

Please visit the following web sites:

<http://www.eng.fiu.edu/ce/ictpa/index1.htm>

<http://www.eng.fiu.edu/LCTR/>

[http://www.eng.fiu.edu/LCTR/faculty/shen/rapid\\_rail\\_transit\\_on\\_the\\_world.htm](http://www.eng.fiu.edu/LCTR/faculty/shen/rapid_rail_transit_on_the_world.htm)

[http://www.eng.fiu.edu/ce/Newsletter/department\\_newsletters.htm](http://www.eng.fiu.edu/ce/Newsletter/department_newsletters.htm)

[http://www.jrtr.net/jrtr22/contents\\_index.html](http://www.jrtr.net/jrtr22/contents_index.html)

[http://www.jrtr.net/jrtr22/JRTR22\\_PDF/F18\\_Shen.pdf](http://www.jrtr.net/jrtr22/JRTR22_PDF/F18_Shen.pdf)

<http://www.fta.dot.gov/library/technology/apm/apmrev.html>

<http://www.eng.fiu.edu/ce/ictpa/index1.htm>

<http://www.ictpaweb.org/>

<http://www.asce.org/conferences/apm8/program.html>