CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION BIENNIAL REPORT 2008-2009

ACCELERATING DEPLOYMENT
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**CCIT 2008-2009 Biennial Report**

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**COVER:** Transportation professionals and the media gather as the 2008 Mobile Century field test deploys 100 cars onto I-80.  
Photo: Paul Kirchner Studios

**PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT:** Thomas West, Manju Kumar, Kayvan Nowrouzi, Saneesh Apte, Daniel Edwards, Jed Arnold, JD Margulici, Erin Collins, Shaharyar Muzaffar, Ali Mortazavi, Ryan Herring, Aude Hofleitner, Krute Singa, Joe Butler, Dipti Desai, Tom Kuhn, Wei Shen, Joos-Hendrik Boese, Zhen Sun, Christopher Long, and Stephen Andrews  
Photo: Jay Sullivan

**PAGE 3:** Members of the UC Berkeley-Nokia team manage the Mobile Century field test from the command center.  
Photo: Paul Kirchner Studios
ABOUT CCIT

The California Center for Innovative Transportation is an affiliate of the UC Berkeley Institute of Transportation Studies. CCIT’s mission is to accelerate the implementation of research results and the deployment of technical solutions to enable a safer, cleaner, and more efficient surface transportation system. We fulfill our mission with a robust set of services addressing technical challenges, systems integration, institutional issues, business models, and change management.

FIVE KEY SERVICES

Our five key services address deployment-focused needs across the technology spectrum. To prevent any potential conflict of interest, we limit private funding to pre-competitive activities or projects that display clear public interest goals.

Partnership & Commercialization: We identify partners to commercialize innovation and we facilitate researcher-industry and interagency partnerships.

Technical & Implementation Support: We support R&D and deployment through activities that include data collection and evaluation, field testing, modeling and simulation, specification writing, procurement, systems integration, and training.

Business Cases & “Evangelism”: We develop business cases and cost-benefit analyses. We promote innovative new technologies to practitioners through marketing and communications.

Technology Assessments: We monitor industry trends and assess products or services in their early stages.

Innovation Portfolio Management: We employ best practices in the management of research and innovation, including portfolio optimization, deployment roadmaps, and technology transfer.

OUR VISION

CCIT envisions
• A vibrant and competitive private sector vying to provide public agencies with innovative transportation products and services;
• Publicly funded research efficiently disseminated to build the transportation industry’s body of knowledge;
• Innovations—with benefits proven through field-testing and trials—readily procured and broadly deployed by practitioners in a timely manner.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

The past two years—my first two complete years at CCIT—have brought breakthroughs, challenges, milestones, and growth for this young organization.

Our Mobile Century and Mobile Millennium projects broke new ground in research on traffic data collection and the development of location-based services. Our Traveler Information on Changeable Message Signs project quantified and analyzed ways that public agencies can provide the most valuable and timely information to motorists already en route. EDAPTS developed comprehensive resources to help rural transit districts benefit from intelligent transport systems (ITS), including technical assistance and procurement guidance. Our CalFrance project created a framework for collaboration between California researchers or practitioners and our international counterparts. From traffic information to ITS solutions to collaborations, browse our Project Highlights, starting on the facing page.

At this writing, projects for 2010 and 2011 are already well underway. CCIT is engaged in traveler-information enhancements, transit improvements, and, most notably, a data-fusion initiative for traffic monitoring and forecasting that will ensure California’s leadership in the use of sophisticated real-time traffic information to manage its roadways. Read more about what’s ahead on page 15.

As we go forward, we understand that the future holds technology yet to be invented, paradigms yet to be changed. But people’s quest for improved information—and improved access to it—is at the heart of contemporary society. CCIT is committed to accelerating innovations in information and technology that support this quest, and to deploy those innovations into the real world to improve the lives of the traveling public.

Thomas West
Director

PAGE 5, TOP: A message sign on U.S. 101 in Millbrae shows drivers how much time they can save by taking Caltrain. Photo: Jay Sullivan

PAGE 5, BOTTOM: Estimated time of arrival for the next bus is provided at this San Luis Obispo bus stop as part of EDAPTS implementation.
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Our projects speak volumes about CCIT’s capabilities to bring innovations to the transportation network. In 2008 and 2009, we put more than $7 million dollars of research funds to work. Because we can’t possibly show you all of our work on a few short pages, we’ve included summaries from several different key service areas. More details on these and on all of our recent and active projects are available at www.calccit.org, on the “Projects” tab.

TRAVELER INFORMATION ON CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

Displaying accurate travel times and transit alternatives on Changeable Message Signs (CMS) helps commuters assess traffic, alleviates driver stress, and allows drivers to make better decisions. In 2006, CCIT implemented a system that provides travelers with highway driving times in real time, using data from the Bay Area 511 system. After a year of delivering messages to more than 20 signs in the Bay Area, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and CCIT enhanced the system to be more easily configurable and operable. And, in cooperation with Caltrain, the system now displays transit information along with freeway travel times, comparing driving times with riding Caltrain along the U.S. 101 corridor. Knowing the driving times to popular destinations, travelers may choose a less-congested route or a different form of transportation. In addition, displaying transit information on CMS is a winning proposition, providing valuable traveler information to the public and encouraging modal shift to reduce traffic congestion on highways.

EFFICIENT DEPLOYMENT OF ADVANCED PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEMS

Efficient Deployment of Advanced Public Transit Systems, or EDAPTS, is a project aimed at enabling small urban and rural transit agencies in California to provide better services using Advanced Public Transportation Systems (APTS) at a lower life-cycle cost. The recently completed CCIT effort turned research and development into a readily available set of resources to help public transit agencies across California. CCIT focused on formulating and enhancing existing knowledge and expertise in a form that is understandable and readily usable by managers at small urban and rural transit agencies. The resources developed by CCIT include tools to conduct APTS needs and cost/benefit analyses, a user-friendly specifications generator that helps transit agencies procure transportation technology, and EDAPTS Operations Guidelines.

THE CALFRANCE PARTNERSHIP: LEVERAGING INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION INNOVATIONS

For decades, California and France have benefited from a regular exchange of information on selected research topics and technologies. A 2007 Administrative Agreement between Caltrans and MEEDAT, the French transport organization, furthered the partnership, known as CalFrance, with a focus on practices and technologies that can improve transportation safety, efficiency, security, and impact to the environment. Five joint projects were selected, with California and French teams each working on the same topic:

- Highway traffic flow reconstruction using mobile phone data
- Collaborative vehicle-infrastructure systems
- Assessment of a technology and policy action plan for a paradigm shift towards transit solutions in light of global warming and fossil energy dependence
- Application of cognitive human factors to transportation safety and design of intelligent transportation system
- Nighttime visibility and headlight glare

Based on the success of this work, 2009 closed with the organization of the next round of collaborative topics.
MOBILE CENTURY

On February 8, 2008, CCIT, Caltrans, Nokia, and UC Berkeley’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering collaborated to conduct an unprecedented proof-of-concept experiment in the area of traffic monitoring. The goal of this controlled field experiment was to test traffic-data collection from cell phones equipped with a global positional system (GPS) that were driving on a stretch of highway in the San Francisco Bay Area. One hundred vehicles carrying the GPS-enabled Nokia N95 phones drove along a 10-mile stretch of I-880 from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The principal objectives for this experiment were to feature 1) Online, real-time data assimilation; 2) Privacy preservation; 3) Data efficiency, i.e. not requiring excessive smartphone measurements. The success of this large-scale event, both technically and logistically, led to a broader public-private partnership in support of the next research step, named the Mobile Millennium Project. In January 2010, data from Mobile Century was released to the transportation researcher community for further study.

MOBILE MILLENNIUM

Mobile Millennium is a pilot traffic-monitoring system that uses the GPS in cellular phones to gather traffic information, process it, and distribute it back to the phones in real time. The public-private research collaboration (CCIT, UC Berkeley Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Caltrans, Nokia Research Center, and NAVTEQ) launched the pilot from the Berkeley campus on November 10, 2008. It ran for exactly 12 months. During that time, more than 5,000 users downloaded the experimental traffic software onto their phones. As a key focus of the project, the team built in high levels of privacy that separated position data from information about individual phone users. These included collecting the data using “virtual trip lines”—data collection points that yield only traffic information and do not detect a user’s personal information—and transmitting the data using banking-grade encryption. The project advanced the field of location-based services, and remains operational at UC Berkeley, integrating numerous feeds into traffic models, include data obtained from GPS-enabled mobile phones, all of San Francisco’s taxis (through GPS), plus radar, loop detectors, and historical databases. The Mobile Millennium team is currently working to provide the same high-quality, real-time travel information on arterials.

TOP: Nokia staffer Dave Sutter does an equipment check to prepare a car for deployment onto the Mobile Century field test. Photo: Paul Kirchner Studios

BOTTOM: [LEFT TO RIGHT] UC Berkeley Civil Engineering Professor Adib Kanafani, Parking Carma CEO Rick Warner, and then-Caltrans Chief Deputy Director Randell Iwasaki view GPS-driven traffic information delivered to their cell phones at the launch of the Mobile Millennium pilot. Photo: Peg Skorpinski

PAGE 7: A portable ATIS installation on a roadway provides information for passing travelers.
HOMELAND SECURITY WEB PORTAL
With the world’s focus on terrorism, homeland security has undergone dramatic changes in the last few years. More and more advanced transportation systems that are controlled by or rely on information systems are deployed around the world. Caltrans understands that staying up-to-date with the latest security technologies and best practices is paramount to protecting California’s infrastructure, economy, and traveling public. Toward that end, CCIT completed a Homeland Security project to identify critical security technologies and best practices that mitigate potential transportation security risks. A Web server was created to host documents and synthesized reports on transportation security technologies, tools, and security best practices. The server also hosted security knowledge-base forums with various categories for security professional to share and evaluate experiences by using and deploying security technologies/tools and best practices. CCIT worked with Caltrans to present the research results to members of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Western States Departments of Transportation, and at the 2008 World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems and other transportation security related conferences.

PORTABLE ADVANCED TRAVELER INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Large delays caused by non-recurring highway incidents such as work zones, severe accidents, and other short-term lane closures cause travelers stress and increase hazards from unpredictable traffic flow. Timely information on traffic conditions helps commuters adjust and complete their trips on time and enhances safety by keeping travelers apprised of roadway conditions. But, without any fixed ITS infrastructure (e.g., changeable message signs, highway advisory radios, etc.) near the incident location, reliable real-time delay information is not available to drivers en-route. Portable Advanced Traveler Information Systems (ATIS) fill this information gap. CCIT is addressing the need for systematic use of Portable ATIS to inform travelers of non-recurring delays in real-time in the absence of fixed ITS elements. Portable ATIS typically consist of four components: mobile traffic detection devices; portable changeable message signs (CMS); a data processing and control unit; and communication devices. In early 2009, CCIT developed a Concept of Operations for Portable ATIS and conducted a demonstration of Portable ATIS; the final report will be released in 2010.

EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS FIELD ELEMENTS
CCIT studied the effectiveness of various Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) freeway information and control field elements meant to better manage traffic, alleviate severe congestion, and improve safety. More and more ITS field elements—such as Changeable Message Signs (CMS), Highway Advisory Radio (HAR), 511, and ramp meters—are being deployed. How commuters react to the field elements, including the general feeling of their usefulness and propensity to alter departure times or divert routes, defines the effectiveness of the deployment. This project addressed the problem by employing two parallel approaches, to appraise both tangible and intangible benefits, by conducting traveler surveys as well as modeling and simulation. The outcome of the project will help practitioners justify funding for the deployment of additional field elements and will expose operators to progressive ways to maximize existing and future investments.
Documentation is at the core of engineering. As part of one of the world’s leading public research institutions, CCIT’s graduate students, faculty, principal investigators, and staff engineers regularly advance the field through journal publications, academic papers, and technical reports. Below is a sample of publications from 2008 and 2009.

Journal Publications


Technical Reports

• 48th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control, Shanghai, China, Dec. 2009:
  — “Quadratic programming based data assimilation with passive drifting sensors for shallow water flows,” A. Tinka, I. Strub, Q. Wu and A. Bayen.
• “Capturing Hybrid Vehicles in HDV Lanes,” Rajagopal, Ram; Zhang; Mortazavi, Ali; Varaiya, Pravin; Kwong, Karric; and Wunder Shelton, 50th Annual Transportation Research Forum, Portland, OR, March 2009.
PEOPLE

Graduate student researchers (GSRs) are the heart and soul of the Institute of Transportation Studies, providing paid, hands-on research opportunities with Berkeley’s world-renown transportation engineering faculty. CCIT accepts an average of 15 GSRs per term; their work is critical to CCIT’s research operations and leads to papers that are published in journals and presented at conferences. Faculty Principal Investigators use the research relationship to help guide their students toward meeting their broader educational goals; the GSRs also work directly with a CCIT project manager, getting business-oriented direction on the specific tasks and deadlines related to their research.

American University-Beruit has been working with UC Berkeley to place students who want experience working in a cutting-edge research center in the U.S. Working as interns, the students spend an entire summer semester applying themselves to CCIT projects and experiencing the San Francisco Bay Area.

Undergraduate Student Assistants join the CCIT team to perform a variety of the tasks that make projects operate and bring results. From updating Web sites to processing data to answering phones, these students learn about the research process through first-hand participation while they work to support their education.

PAGE 8: CCIT engineers videotape freeway traffic from an overpass. Photo: Bill Hall, Courtesy of Caltrans

RIGHT, TOP: [LEFT TO RIGHT] GSRs Aude Hofleitner and Ryan Herring work with ITS Berkeley Information Technology Director Greg Merritt, CCIT engineer Daniel Edwards, and others to sign up users for the Mobile Millennium traffic pilot. Photo: Peg Skorpinski

RIGHT, BOTTOM: [LEFT TO RIGHT] GSRs Sebastien Blandin, Samitha Samaranayake, and Timothy Hunter discuss arterial traffic estimation methods.
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Interacting with the public is intrinsic to our work as transportation professionals. CCIT believes that researchers and agencies gain enormous benefits by explaining and promoting emerging technologies to the ultimate end-users. Sharing our work—and our enthusiasm—garners valuable support for the idea that public dollars spent on research ultimately benefit everyone.

TRAVEL CONNECTIONS

Hard data is one of the foundations of science. But what about soft data? Sometimes the best way to find out whether people found a new technology useful is to ask them. As part of its research, the Travel Times on Changeable Message Signs project team implemented a commuter survey, asking people questions to determine whether they saw the signs, understood information, and, most importantly, changed their behavior as a result. According to project manager Ali Mortazavi, “the survey responses presented a key counterbalance to the technical aspects of the study, and gave the team valuable insight into rider perceptions.”

VISUALIZE NO TRAFFIC

CCIT was proud to contribute one of the inaugural exhibits for the Technology Museum at the Center for Intelligent Technology in the Interest of Society (CITRIS). The Tech Museum is part of CITRIS’s glistening new home in Sutarja-Dai Hall, which opened in October 2009 to great fanfare. The Mobile Millennium traffic visualizer is an interactive touch-screen map showing live traffic in the Bay Area generated by data from the project’s aggregated traffic feeds.

MISSION: DOWNLOADS

To recruit and retain thousands of “Early Adopters” willing to use research-grade technology in exchange for free cutting-edge traffic information, CCIT’s Mobile Millennium project waged a multimedia campaign, including a media event, a Web site, campus-news stories, student recruiters, flyers, and an e-newsletter. The exposure resulted in more than 5,000 software downloads.

AIR-POWERED CARS

The next generation of transportation engineers has already been born. To coax out those talents, CCIT assembled a team of volunteers for UC Berkeley’s Cal Day, when more than 40,000 neighbors, friends, alumni, and potential students descend on the campus’s biggest open house of the year. In both 2008 and 2009, our balloon-car building station was one of the hottest family activities of the day. Not only did we put smiles on the faces of both kids and parents, but our hands-on interactions with the public promoted an understanding of the value of research, and planted seeds to encourage the transportation leaders of the future.

TOP: Against a backdrop of the Mobile Millennium live-traffic visualizer in the CITRIS Technology Museum, Ph.D. student Christian Claudel demonstrates the project’s traffic software to Valérie Pécresse, France’s Minister for Higher Education and Research. Photo: Coralie Claudel

BOTTOM: A young transportation engineer shows off his achievement at Cal Day 2009. Photo: Beth Muramoto
WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

WORKSHOP SERIES

Together with ITS California’s Northern Section and in association with the San Francisco Bay Area Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), CCIT introduced a lunchtime workshop series that focuses on the Deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems in California.

The free workshops were sponsored by Caltrans and attracted a broad audience of transportation professionals at public agencies, private firms, and research centers. Each workshop featured introductions to a selected topic from an expert panel, followed by a question and answer section with the audience. The workshops were also broadcast live over the Web for those unable to attend in person.

More information on these workshops, including related links, can be found at http://www.calccit.org; click on the “Resources” tab.

2008 Workshops
Active Traffic Management
Outsourcing ITS Systems
ITS Standards

2009 Workshops
ITS and the Environment
Performance Measures in Transportation

NOKIA DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES ON CYBER-PHYSICAL SYSTEMS

Cyber-physical systems (CPS) are systems that integrate computational and physical processes. This tight integration differentiates CPS from traditional embedded systems and is the focus of active research in numerous scientific communities around the world.

In the Fall 2008, CCIT, the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS), and Nokia co-presented a lecture series to coincide with the launch of Mobile Millennium. It gathered experts in the field of CPS, who each gave perspectives on the topic informed by their respective research.

The entire lecture series can be watched online at http://traffic.berkeley.edu/lectures.html.
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

TOTAL DOLLARS IN EXECUTED PROJECTS
CCIT is proud of the picture our numbers paint. After a steady performance over the past three years, 2009 closed with a leap in new contracts, launching fiscal year 2009-10 as our busiest year yet.

![Graph showing total dollars in executed projects from FY 2003-2010](chart.png)

**LEFT:** Aerial view of cars on I-80. Photo: Courtesy of Caltrans

**PAGE 13, RIGHT:** CCIT’s traffic management and information projects, including this U.S. 101 CMS, have been our most dominant research area for the past two years. Photo: Jay Sullivan
EXPENDITURES BY RESEARCH AREA

CCIT contracts fall into several vital research areas, with traffic information and management dominating for the past two years. To browse our projects categorized by research area, go http://www.calccit.org and click on the Projects tab.

**Fiscal Year 2007-08**

- Traffic Information and Management 71%
- Infrastructure Management 7%
- Intelligent Transportation Systems 3%
- Interdisciplinary 17%
- Rail and Public Transit 2%

**Fiscal Year 2008-09**

- Traffic Information and Management 60%
- Infrastructure Management 8%
- Intelligent Transportation Systems 16%
- Interdisciplinary 12%
- Rail and Public Transit 4%
NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

TWO FOR TWO

CCIT won honors in both 2008 and 2009 from California Transportation Foundation’s annual Tranny awards. Our Commuter Travel Time Information System won the 2008 Traffic Operations Project of the Year. The US-101 corridor between San Jose and San Francisco is one of the most congested commuter routes in the Bay Area. The project, a collaboration between CCIT, Caltrans District 4, San Mateo County Transportation Authority, and Bay Area Rapid Transit, deployed a system that is capable of comparing driving times with commuter trains along the U.S. 101 corridor. The Mobile Century/Mobile Millennium Project won 2009 Traffic Operations/ITS Project of the Year for its large-scale field operational testing using GPS-enabled smartphones as traffic sensors while protecting user privacy. Project partners CCIT, Caltrans District 4, UC Berkeley College of Engineering, and Nokia accepted the award at a luncheon in Sacramento in June 2009.

In addition, Mobile Century received the Intelligent Transportation Society of America’s Best of ITSA award at the 2008 World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems, held in New York City, and Professor Alexandre Bayen received a prestigious National Science Foundation Career Award in February of 2009 for his proposed work on Mobile Millennium project.

‘A’ STUDENT

In November 2009, CCIT’s GSR Dan Work earned high honors as the University of California Research Center’s 2009-10 Student of the Year. Work is a Ph.D. student in Systems Engineering in UC Berkeley’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the lead graduate student on the Mobile Century and Mobile Millennium projects. Work’s exemplary efforts on the project also earned him Eisenhower and Eno fellowships.

CCIT IN THE NEWS

Both our Mobile Century and Mobile Millennium projects had a high public profile, earning extensive and long-lasting coverage in local, national, and international outlets; print, radio, television, and Web media; and in general, academic, and technical publications. Professor Alexandre Bayen and the project were later featured in the “Smart People” video series of CBS Interactive’s “Smart Planet” science-news Web site. To check out the coverage, go to http://traffic.berkeley.edu/newsreleases.html.
LOOKING AHEAD

As one of the top universities in the world, UC Berkeley is rich with history, achievement, and a reverence for learning from what came before us. But with more than $4 million worth of projects already in the works for 2010 and well beyond, CCIT researchers are also steeped in the present and the future.

Our key theme for the upcoming year can best be described as: data, data, data. An umbrella project we are calling the Traffic Data Management Institute is the beginning of CCIT’s large and coordinated effort to transform California’s traffic-data collection, assimilation, analysis, modeling, and forecasting capabilities. Building on work from 2008 and 2009, we will further our development of algorithms that assimilate data from a variety of sources, including mobile sensors, and we will work with new communication technologies to develop real-time, enhanced-quality information for travelers where and when they need it.

In the coming year, CCIT will continue to improve the long-successful Berkeley Highway Laboratory (BHL) test-bed program with the installation of state-of-the-art detection devices that will be beneficial to transportation researchers from around the world. BHL will also test its data-sending capabilities through a sophisticated cellular network, striving to send more data using less bandwidth.

Other key areas of focus include High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane Management in the San Francisco Bay Area, Smart Parking in San Diego in conjunction with the Coaster Commuter Train service, and the evaluation of a new Dynamic Lane Management system in the Los Angeles area. This range of projects defines CCIT—the diversity of projects we tackle, our relevance to current issues, and our statewide reach.

Most importantly, we will continue to select and propose only those projects that we believe play meaningful and significant roles in shaping a future surface-transportation network that is safe, clean, and efficient. With fiscal year 2009-2010 already marking a high point in our seven-year history, CCIT continues to demonstrate our expertise in getting technological innovations—the right ones—moved out of research labs and deployed into the transportation network.
CCIT GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES OUR SPONSORS, PARTNERS, AND COLLABORATORS:
Bay Area Rapid Transit • California Department of Transportation • Caltrain • California Polytechnic State University
French Ministry for Sustainable Development (MEEDDAT) • Metropolitan Transportation Commission • Nokia
NAVTEQ • Parking Carma • San Diego Association of Governments • U.S. Department of Transportation