Institute for Multimodal Transportation (IMTRANS) at Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi

Created in 2006, the Institute for Multimodal Transportation (IMTrans) at Jackson State University is one of the sixty SAFETEA-LU University Transportation Centers. The theme of the center is managing metropolitan mobility. The long-term objective of IMTrans is to establish a national resource for multi-disciplinary research and education that integrates multiple modes of transportation. In the past few years, IMTrans has conducted several education, research, and technology transfer projects in transportation to serve the community and Mississippi.

In 2009, IMTrans started to fund the Summer Transportation Institute (STI) project to recruit 20 minority high school students to a 2-week summer camp program on JSU’s campus. In the program students witnessed different transportation modes, transportation related jobs and workplaces in numerous field trips, and attended rigorous lectures by JSU’s Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty and transportation professionals from various industry and government agencies. Since 2011, Mississippi DOT (MDOT) started to co-fund the STI program, and in 2013 JSU was officially selected by FHWA as the 3rd institution in Mississippi to receive full STI funding from both MDOT and FHWA.

Every year IMTrans is invited by MDOT to co-sponsor the state’s annual public transportation summit. In 2012, IMTrans supported the local transit company JATRAN in a volunteer project which involved JSU students and faculty in the development of GIS maps for the bus routes. In the past two years, IMTrans has co-funded and conducted research projects “State-of-Practice Approaches and Technologies for Inventory Data Collection of Mississippi’s Public Road System” and “Emergency Evacuation Study for the Greater Jackson Area”. The projects have supported four graduate research assistants. In past two years, four TRB papers and three journal papers based on the research were coauthored by students and faculty and accepted for publications.
Figure 1 Mississippi Summer Transportation Institute (MSTI) classroom
Photographer: Imelda Simeon
Figure 2 JSU’s football stadium and connecting networks considered in emergency evacuation study
Photographer: Feng Wang
Figure 3 Aerial imagery data analyzed in inventory data collection study
Photographer: Mina Zhou