

UC Davis Announces Appointment of Caltrans Transportation Planning Chief as Deputy Director of ULTRANS

November 2, 2009

Continuing the UC/State of California tradition of exchanging key personnel and scholars for the sake of better integration of theory and practice, Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning Chief Joan Sollenberger has accepted a one-year appointment as Deputy Director of the Urban Land Use and Transportation Center (ULTRANS) at the UC Davis Institute of Transportation Studies (ITS-Davis) beginning November 2, 2009.

Sollenberger, a trained planner with over 25 years of public sector experience, has served as Statewide Manager and Division Chief for Transportation Planning at Caltrans since 1996. During that time, she has led the overall development and implementation of policies and programs for statewide transportation planning to improve mobility across California. Under her guidance, the division developed and implemented programs and policies to enhance community livability through better coordination of transportation and land use. Division initiatives such as the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program illustrate Sollenberger's commitment to promoting economy, environment and equity, and to raising and Native American government-to-government relations.

ULTRANS Director Mike McCoy said, "We are thrilled to have a well known and well respected leader in transportation and land use planning practice join our researchers as we work to apply the most recent breakthroughs in contemporary modeling to real world decisions."

In her new role, Sollenberger will develop strategic plans for the full funding of California's multi-scalar statewide integrated interregional model system and support the development of a statewide inter-jurisdictional data system for integrated transportation, land use, economic modeling. In addition, she will act as senior advisor to the ULTRANS model development team on the nature of model outputs needed to best inform transportation and land use policy and investment decisions throughout project lifecycles from concept to construction and monitoring.

"Joan's work at ULTRANS will help to advance the data/modeling partnership between Caltrans and UC Davis to a new level" said Martin Tuttle, Caltrans' Deputy Director for Planning and Modal Programs. "I am sure other states and universities will look at this partnership as an innovative approach to address major policy issues," he said.



Joan Sollenberger, newly appointed Deputy Director of the Urban Land Use and Transportation Center (ULTRANS), with ULTRANS Director Mike McCoy.

ULTRANS aims to support the design and implementation of new land use and transportation policies through research, education, and outreach. The Center's results-oriented research illuminates the relationship between land use, transportation, the economy, and the environment. Models and methods developed at ULTRANS will support the development of sustainable cities and regions.

Researchers and graduate students at ULTRANS are as interdisciplinary as the issues they address. They have advanced training in urban planning, transportation engineering, integrated urban modeling, urban economics, political science, and ecology. ULTRANS is administered by ITS-Davis in affiliation with the UC Davis Information Center for the Environment, and in partnership with researchers at UC Berkeley.

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