Workforce Development:

Best Practices from University Transportation Centers (UTCs)

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Date: Mar 25, 2025 12:00pm-1:00pm CST

Panelist: Constantine Tarawneh

Panelist: Larry Rilett

Panelist: Mansoureh Jeihani

Panelist: Joe Zietsman

Description

UTCs are a key pipeline into the transportation workforce, generating skilled graduates with transportation experience and degrees in diverse fields. This workshop will provide an overview of activities supported by the **Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC)** and its members and highlight the research and programmatic contributions of the UTCs in advancing workforce development initiatives. The panel features winners of the **CUTC Workforce Development Leadership Awards** who will provide their perspectives on this topic.

In support of the:

Webinar Recording: *Everyone who registers for the webinar will receive a link with access to the audio recording and the presentation.*

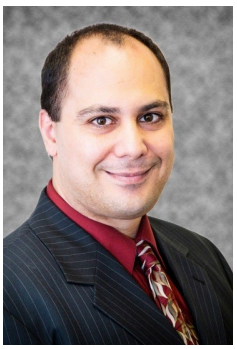
Technology Requirements: *The webinar is being held on Zoom.*

SPEAKERS

Constantine Tarawneh

Director, University Transportation Center for Railway Safety, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Dr. Constantine Tarawneh is a Mechanical Engineering professor at UTRGV, founding director of UTCRS and NSF MECIS centers, and Sr. Associate Dean. With $43.4M+ in funding and 22 years of railroad research experience, he specializes in bearing condition monitoring. He has won 36 awards, was inducted into the UTRGV Academy of Distinguished Teachers, and has mentored 1,200+ students.



Larry Rilett

Director, Auburn University Transportation Research Institute, Auburn University

Dr. Laurence R. Rilett is the Ginn Distinguished Professor and Director of AUTRI and Alabama LTAP. Previously, he led the Mid-America Transportation Center for 17 years. He has secured $60M+ in funding, published 100+ papers, and won awards including ASCE's Frank M. Masters Award (2021) and ARTBA's S.S. Steinberg Award (2022).

Mansoureh Jeihani

Director, National Transportation Center, Morgan State University

Dr. Mansoureh Jeihani is a professor at Morgan State University and director of its National Transportation and SMARTER Centers. With 20+ years of research in transportation systems, AI, and equity, she has published 150+ works and secured $30M+ in funding. She holds leadership roles in multiple national committees and served on the White House ARPA-I Summit Safety Panel in 2023.

Joe Zietsman

Director, Center for Advancing Research in Transportation Efficiency, Energy, and Health, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Dr. Joe Zietsman is the Deputy Agency Director of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, overseeing its research portfolio. A national expert in emissions, air quality, and sustainable transportation, he directs the USDOT-funded CARTEEH center. A former TRB Committee Chair, he is a registered professional engineer and a Texas A&M University Graduate Faculty member. He holds a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M.