



Transportation Choices for Sustainable Communities Research and Policy Institute (Transportation Choices) 2014 Annual Report

IRS 501(c) (3) Application Approved!

On August 17th the IRS awarded Transportation Choices 501(c) (3) status retroactive to our application date of April 17, 2012.

New Board Member

Prof. Reid Ewing, a distinguished scholar in smart growth, urban design, traffic calming, public transportation, and other topics related to sustainable cities and regions joined the Transportation Choices Board of Directors. Dr. Ewing is Professor of City and Metropolitan Planning at the University of Utah and associate editor of *the Journal of the American Planning Association*.

New Principals and Research Affiliates

Transportation Choices added Dr. Richard (Rick) Lee as a Principal and James Daisa, PE as a Research Affiliate. Dr. Lee is a certified urban planner, transportation consultant and academic with a longstanding and wide-ranging interest in sustainable transport and human-scale cities. He has over 30 years of diverse experience in transportation and urban planning. Jim Daisa is a highly experienced transportation planner and traffic engineer. He is one of the nation's leading experts in planning and engineering context-sensitive streets.

Project for Public Spaces (PPS), Placemaking Leadership Council, and Research on Pedestrian-Oriented Streets

The New York City-based PPS has agreed to team with Transportation Choices to obtain grant funding for applied research on the topic of success factors for pedestrian-oriented streets. Transportation Choices Principals are working with PPS staff on grant applications.

Transportation Choices Principal Michelle DeRobertis was appointed to the PPS Placemaking Leadership Council, joining fellow Principal Dr. Joe Kott on the Council. Michelle attended the Leadership Council's second annual meeting, held in Pittsburgh on September 8th and 9th.

Journal of World Transport Policy and Practice

In November, Transportation Choices was awarded a grant from the Helen and William Mazer Foundation in the amount of \$7,851, the equivalent of £5,000, per year for three years to support of the respected, UK-based *Journal of World Transport Policy and Practice*. The funding will pay for the Journal's desktop publishing expenses. Transportation Choices retains 5% of the grant funds for any administrative expenses incurred, as well as received acknowledgment in each issue of the publication and free space to promote any Transportation Choices conferences, workshops, and publications.

Presentations

Transportation Choices Principal Dr. Joe Kott gave the transportation keynote talk as a TCSC Principal on the topic of *Transforming Streets, Transforming Freeways: The Emerging Transportation System in America's Communities and Metro Areas* at the 11th Annual North Carolina State University Urban Design Conference on March 7th in Raleigh. During his presentation Dr. Kott described the movement to create sustainable, multi-modal, context sensitive freeways "the next new frontier for sustainable cities and sustainable transportation."

Joe also gave a panel presentation as a TCSC Principal in February on the topic of *Focusing Freeways on Moving People, Not Just Cars: The Case of San Mateo County's Highway 101* at Let's Get Moving - 2014 Silicon Valley Summit - Transportation Choices and Healthy Communities in Palo Alto. This conference was sponsored by the Bay Area transportation and land use reform group, Transform.

Michelle DeRobertis convened a panel for the Pro Walk Pro Bike Pro Place Conference in Pittsburgh PA in September on the theme of *Transportation Studies in the 21st Century: Incorporating All Modes*. She recruited speakers from the City of Boulder (with the help of

Transportation Choices Board Member Sue Prant), the City of San Francisco and a consultant who spoke about the policies of Bellingham WA. Michelle's part of the presentation covered the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Committee that Michelle started to prepare State of the Practice Report on the issue of *Public Transit in Traffic Impact Studies*.

Joe Kott gave a guest lecture on September 23rd to the San Jose State University Department of Environmental Studies students and faculty on *The Emergence of Sustainable Transportation in America's Communities*.

In July, Michelle DeRobertis spoke at the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) meeting in San Francisco on *Public Transit Coordination*, outlining how European metropolitan areas have many transit providers, all overseen by an overarching transit coordination agency.

On September 18th Michelle spoke at the ITE San Francisco Luncheon on the topic of *The Future of Transportation*. She incorporated themes from the ITE Journal article and the ProWalk /ProBike presentation for her talk titled, *Leveling the Playing Field for Sustainable Transportation: Reforming Traffic Impact Analysis to Support Mode Choice and Environmental Quality*.

Joe Kott gave a guest lecture on September 23rd to the San Jose State Department of Environmental Studies on *The Emergence of Sustainable Transportation in America's Communities*.

Transportation Choices Principal Joe Kott moderated and Richard Lee presented on the *Life Beyond Privately Owned Cars: Exploring Alternative Transportation Options to Create Multi-Generational Communities* panel at San Jose State's Urban Planning Coalition Fall Symposium on October 18th.

On December 5th, Transportation Choices and the Bay Area transportation and land use reform group, Transform, co-sponsored the initial *Sandwich Symposium* a series of lunch hour presentations on sustainable transportation topics. Transportation Choices Principal Michelle DeRobertis, PE, gave the first talk, *Leveling the Playing Field for Sustainable Transportation: Reforming Traffic Impact Analysis to Support Mode Choice and Environmental Quality*.

Transportation Choices Internet Presence and Branding

Transportation Choices adopted a logo and went “live” with a Web site, along with Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter pages.

Correspondence

TCSC sent a comment letter to the California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) regarding potential reforms in level of service (LOS) and other aspects of traffic analysis requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. Our comments strongly encouraged an approach to transportation analysis under CEQA that fostered a more sustainable transportation system, addressed the urgent issue of carbon emissions and attendant global warming and climate change effects, and provided a wider array of practical travel choices for all Californians. Michelle DeRobertis was invited by OPR to attend a workshop on this issue to provide further feedback.

Funded Research

Due to Research Affiliate James Daisa initiative, Transportation Choices was part of a team awarded a research grant from Jim’s consulting firm, Stantec, to fund applied research in transportation demand management best practices nationwide. Transportation Choices will team with Stanford’s Parking and Transportation Services Department in this research effort.

Publications

Transportation Choices Principal Michelle DeRobertis was lead author and Transportation Choices Principals John Eells, Richard Lee, and Joe Kott were contributing authors of an article entitled *Changing the Paradigm: How Typical Traffic Studies Inhibit Sustainable Transportation*, which was published in the May 2014 issue of the *Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Journal*.

Transportation Choices Principal Richard Lee wrote two articles on *Parking Demand* and *Parking Payment Technology* in the *Encyclopedia of Transportation*, published in August by SAGE, a leading publisher in the social sciences. Transportation Choices Research Associate Doug Kolozsvari also has an article in the *Encyclopedia* on *Parking Enforcement*.

Transportation Choices was engaged by a San Francisco public transit advocacy organization to research and write the *San Francisco Modal Equity Study*, a research report on the importance of public transit, walking, and bicycling in San Francisco and the need for equity in transportation funding.

The November 3rd issue of *SF Streets Blog* featured the SF Transit Equity Study by Transportation Choices:

<http://sf.streetsblog.org/2014/11/03/study-quantifies-how-unbalanced-sfs-car-centric-streets-are/>

Other News and Updates

See News & Updates on our website for more information: <http://transportchoice.org/>