GIS Professionals Head to St. Petersburg
for Public Transportation Conference in September

A Senior Research Analyst for the Brookings Institute will deliver the keynote address, "Missed Opportunity: Transit and Jobs in Metropolitan America," a ranking of the top 100 cities.

TAMPA, Fla. (August 12, 2011) - With the lack of job growth crippling many areas of the country and mass transit rejected in the Tampa Bay Region and Florida, the National Center for Transit Research and the University of South Florida's Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) are co-sponsoring the GIS in Public Transportation Conference to be held September 13-15 at St. Petersburg's Hilton Bayfront.

Martin Catala and Amber Reep, senior research associates with CUTR are the conference co-chairs, which is also co- sponsored by the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA). The conference provides development opportunities for transportation professionals in both private and public sectors.

To register for this event, go to http://www.urisa.org/gis_transit

Two keynote speakers will be the main features of this conference.

The opening keynote address on Sept. 14, 8:30 – 9:30 is**:**

Title: *Missed Opportunity: Transit and Jobs in Metropolitan America*

Description: Against the backdrop of rising gas prices, growing suburban poverty, continued sprawl and uneven transit availability in cities and suburbs, the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution has completed a first-of-its-kind analysis that shows how transit systems link workers to jobs in metropolitan America. The analysis covers 371 transit agencies in the 100 largest U.S. metro areas, and provides information that can inform critical policy and investment decisions at a time of scarce public and private resources.

The general session keynote address on Sept. 15, 8:30-10 a.m. is

Title: *Open Trip Planner: Open Source Multimodal Trip Planner*

Description: The OpenTripPlanner (OTP) project is an international effort to create a flagship open source platform for multimodal trip planning and analysis. As free and open source software, OTP can be freely downloaded, deployed, and modified by anyone, and is optimized for use with open data sources and standards such as OpenStreetMap for base network data and the General Transit Feed

Specification (GTFS) for transit system data. OTP was established in the summer of 2009 to bring together a number of previously independent open source trip planning projects into a unified effort, and the project and its associated development community have since grown rapidly. In addition to the United States, there are now live OTP deployments in Canada, Poland, India, Spain, Ireland, and Israel. Later this fall, Portland's TriMet will formally launch a beta trip planning application built entirely on the OpenTripPlanner platform and open data sources, marking the first official deployment of a fully open source / open data trip planner by a major U.S. transit agency. This keynote session will provide an overview of OTP's history and current capabilities, including live demos, as well as a roadmap for development of the project going forward.

For more information about this event go to http://www.urisa.org/gis_transit

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The University of South Florida is one of the nation's top 63 public research universities and one of only 25 public research universities nationwide with very high research activity that is designated as community engaged by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. USF was awarded $394.1 million in research contracts and grants in FY 2009/2010. The university offers 232 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, specialist and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine. The USF System has a $1.8 billion annual budget, an annual economic impact of $3.2 billion, and serves more than 47,000 students on institutions/campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland. USF is a member of the Big East Athletic Conference.

Conference Sponsors

The National Center for Transit Research (NCTR) is located at the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida. NCTR strives to make public transportation and alternative forms of transportation, including managed lanes, safe, effective, efficient, desirable, and secure. The goals of NCTR are: to minimize traffic congestion, maximize mobility options, promote safety and security, improve the environment, and enhance community sustainability. This will be accomplished by conducting applied and advanced research, energetically disseminating the results, and expanding the workforce of transportation professionals through education and training to address the challenges and opportunities of the future. The National Transit GIS Conference is one of the many efforts by NCTR to forward its goals. For more about NCTR please visit: www.nctr.usf.edu

About the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association - URISA is a non-profit professional and educational association that promotes the effective and ethical use of spatial information and information technologies for the understanding and management of urban and regional systems. It is a multidisciplinary association where professionals from all parts of the spatial data community can come together and share concerns and ideas. Since 1963, URISA has been the professional home of choice for Public Sector GIS and IT Executives throughout the United States, Canada and other countries worldwide.

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