



Bittner

By Patricia Ball

BITTNER NAMED CUTR DIRECTOR

TAMPA, Fla. (November 23, 2011) - After an extensive search, USF and CUTR are pleased to announce that Jason Bittner has accepted the position of Director of CUTR.

Bittner currently is Deputy Director of the National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He also holds a research appointment with a focus on freight transportation in the College of Engineering’s Wisconsin Transportation Center. During his previous 12 years in university-based transportation research and education, he has held progressively responsible positions including tenure as Acting Director. He also is a lecturer in transportation management and policy at UW–Madison and was instrumental in establishing a multidisciplinary graduate certificate program in transportation at the institution. Previously, he was an adjunct professor of political science and public affairs at Edgewood College in Madison, held an administrative management position with the Municipality of New Lebanon, Ohio, and worked for U.S. Senator Howard Metzenbaum.

As a researcher, Bittner generated over \$1.2 million in total research funding as either a PI or Co-PI in the last three years. He has managed large-scale, regional, and national transportation programs and initiatives, analyzed trends in intermodal freight transportation, and built traditional and non-traditional collaborative partnerships. He was program chair or part of the planning and development of national peer exchanges and conferences on freight, transportation asset management, and maintenance quality assurance and has completed state level assessments of mobility programs for older residents.

Bittner co-chairs the Transportation Research Board Committee on Conduct of Research and serves as a lead member of the committee on transportation asset management. He also is actively involved in the Council of University Transportation Centers and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Research Advisory Committee.

“CUTR is well-positioned nationally and regionally to be the ‘go-to’ resource for high-quality transportation research, education, and training,” said Bittner. “The university’s dedication to expanding its research endeavors, the talent and quality of the research staff and faculty in place, and the opportunities to leverage and facilitate collaborative partnerships within the College, across the campus,

and with other leading institutions highlight the potential for growing CUTR's footprint. It is the right opportunity at the right time for my family and me.”

Bittner will take the helm at CUTR in January 2012, shortly before the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. He will be CUTR’s third director since its establishment in 1988, following Gary Brosch, the organization’s founding director, and Ed Mierzejewski, who ended his term in December 2010. Steve Reich, who has been Acting Director since Mierzejewski’s departure, will resume his responsibilities as Director of CUTR’s Transportation Program Evaluation and Economic Analysis Program.

“I believe that Jason’s dynamic, visionary leadership style will be essential for growing an already outstanding program at CUTR,” said John Wiencek, dean of the USF College of Engineering. “We are confident he will build bigger bridges to all of the academic programs at the University of South Florida.”

“My vision will push CUTR to become a preeminent, internationally-recognized catalyst for transportation innovation through research, education, training, and outreach,” said Bittner. “While simple on paper, it is incredibly important to me that this vision be shared and adopted fully by the entire CUTR family, including faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders. It is centered on actionable and measurable tenets, requires empowered, entrepreneurial influences, and depends on enhanced strategic partnerships and collaborations.” He went on to say that believes that USF’s broader mission to build a community of learners across the Tampa Bay region, state, and nation will influence what is done at CUTR and will also serve as a platform to ensure that the nation’s transportation systems remain safe, encourage economic competitiveness, enhance livability, protect the environment, and maintain a state of good repair.

He holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the American University in Washington, D.C.

-USF-

The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities. The Carnegie Foundation also classifies USF as a community engaged university. It is ranked 44th in total research expenditures and 34th in federal research expenditures for public universities by the National Science Foundation. The USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion, an annual economic impact of \$3.7 billion, and serves 47,000 students in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland.

Janet Gillis
Communications Officer
USF College of Engineering

813-974-3485

janetgillis@usf.edu