



Interdisciplinary Transportation Group(ITG) Presents*

Speaker Series for Fall 2016



September 15 2016
11:00 AM to 12:00 AM
Location: Hubert A 111

Dr.Kofi Obeng, Professor of Transportation, North Carolina A&T State University

Title: Understanding Overall Output Efficiency in Public Transit: The Roles of Regulations, Subsidies and Perceived Budget

Prof. Obeng earned B.Sc. degree in Planning from the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi and worked briefly at the Head Office of the Town and Country Planning in Accra, Ghana and the Building and Road Research Institute and the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi Ghana. He became a Canadian Commonwealth Scholar and pursued graduate studies in Planning at McGill University. After completion of his PhD degree, he worked briefly at the Delaware River Port Authority in Camden, New Jersey and then took a teaching position as Assistant Professor at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro NC in 1982. He is currently a Full Professor and for 13 years was the U.P.S. Distinguished Professor of Transportation in the College of Business and Economics at North Carolina A&T State University.

Since starting his teaching career, Prof. Obeng has performed funded research of more than \$2 million in value, and has authored more than 80 publications and reports. Added to these Prof. Obeng has co-authored two books on public transit economics, was the *Co-General Editor of the Journal of the Transportation Research Forum* from 2005 to 2015, has been on the *Editorial Board of Transportation Research Part E: The Logistics and Transportation Review* for more than 10 years, and is on the *Editorial Board of OPEN Transportation Journal*.

Also, Prof. Obeng has been recognized many times by his employer, *North Carolina A&T State University*, for his contributions to teaching and research.



October 19 2016
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM
Location: Torian Auditorium

Thomas L Thomson, Executive director of Chatham County

Title: Freight Transportation and Land Use

Thomson is currently the executive director of the chatham county – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and executive director of the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO). Thomson leads a MPC staff that serves seven other policy boards that cover historic reviews, zoning appeals, historic preservation, resource protection, geographic information systems, and the CORE MPO.

Thomson has 40 years of experience in planning, management and engineering. He has directed programs and projects in roadway planning, public transportation, marketing, policy, engineering and community consensus building.

Prior to his current position, he was director of the transportation division for the Hillsborough county planning and Growth Management Department in Tampa, Florida. He has also held senior positions at the Florida Department of Transportation in both Miami and Tampa and he was the assistant director of the Hillsborough county city- county planning commission as well as the executive director of the Hillsborough county6 MPO.

In addition to these public service jobs he was the regional manager and statewide practice lead for local offices of two national consulting firms.

*** Funded by National Science Foundation**

Department of Engineering Technology
 College of Sciences and Technology

College of Business Administration
 College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences



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Dr. Maranda McBride, Director of Transportation Institute and Associate Professor of Management at North Carolina North Carolina A&T State University

Title: the Impact of Individual Differences on Teenager Texting While Driving Behavior



Dr. Maranda McBride is the Director of the Transportation Institute and Associate Professor of Management at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Dr. McBride obtained her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NCAT). Her graduate degree concentration was in Human-Machine Systems Engineering. Dr. McBride also holds an MBA from Wake Forest University and a Certification in Production and Inventory Management (CPIM) from the Association for Operations Management (APICS).

Dr. McBride's work history includes positions as a Process Engineer at Lucent Technologies, an Assistant Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering at NCAT, an Assistant Professor of Human Factors and Systems at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU), and Founder/Director of the ERAU McNair Scholars Program. In addition to her faculty positions, Dr. McBride has held multiple Summer Faculty Researcher positions at the Army Research Lab in Aberdeen, Maryland.

October 24 2016
11:00 AM to 12:00 AM
Location: Torian Auditorium

Mr.Grady Smith, Transportation Systems Director

Title: Public Transportation



Grady leads the Atlanta operation, Metro Planning & Engineering, a division of VHB and has 20 years of transportation planning and traffic engineering experience. He has worked in the public and private sector serving as project manager on numerous transportation planning studies. Grady began his professional career working as an MPO staff member in Pinellas County and expanded his transit-related experience in Atlanta working for clients such as MARTA and the Atlanta Beltline.

November 4 2016
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Torian Auditorium

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