

NEWS



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

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For Immediate Release
News Release

Date: January 9, 2009
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PAPER EVALUATING SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF FOUR TREATMENT TYPES AT URBAN SIGNALIZED INTERSECTIONS WINS TRB'S MICKLE AWARD

"Safety-Effectiveness of Selected Treatments at Urban Signalized Intersections" is the winner of the Transportation Research Board's (TRB's) 2008 D. Grant Mickle Award for the outstanding paper in the field of operation, safety, and maintenance of transportation facilities. The award, named for the Board's Executive Director from 1964 to 1966, will be presented on January 13, 2009, at the Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lecture and Presentation of Outstanding Paper Awards during the Board's 88th Annual Meeting. The authors are Raghavan Srinivasan and Forrest M. Council, of the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center (UNC HSRC); Frank Gross, and Nancy X. Lefler, of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., North Carolina; and Craig Lyon and Bhagwant Persaud, of Ryerson University, Ontario, Canada. The award-winning paper has been published in the *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, No. 2056.

Using the empirical Bayes methodology, a before-and-after evaluation of four types of treatments at signalized intersections was conducted in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The results indicated that changing to protected left-turn phasing from permissive or permissive-

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protected phasing could lead to a virtual elimination of left-turn crashes but other crashes, which were likely to be less severe, could increase.

Raghavan Srinivasan is a Senior Transportation Research Engineer at the UNC HSRC. Prior to that, he was an Assistant Professor of Transportation at Dowling College in Long Island, New York. Srinivasan has extensive experience in statistical modeling and in the analysis of crash data. He has led and managed projects for many state and federal agencies and has served as the private investigator (PI) or co-PI for a number of TRB highway research projects. Srinivasan holds a Ph.D. in transportation engineering with a minor in probability and statistics, from the University of California at Davis.

Forrest Council is a Senior Research Scientist at the UNC HSRC. He served as Director of the center from 1993 until his retirement in 1999. Council's training is in accident research methodologies. He received master's and doctoral degrees in civil engineering, with a traffic engineering specialty and a statistical minor, from the North Carolina State University. Council was a co-recipient of both the 1994 and 1995 TRB D. Grant Mickle Awards. The author of more than 100 articles and reports, he currently chairs TRB's Strategic Highway Safety Program (SHRP 2) Safety Technical Coordinating Committee.

Craig Lyon is a Principal at Persaud and Lyon Inc., Ontario, Canada. As a Research Associate at Ryerson University, he has been involved in various projects in the traffic safety area, in both the United States and Canada. Lyon holds a master's degree in transportation engineering. He is also a registered professional engineer in the Province of Ontario.

Frank Gross is a Highway Safety Engineer at Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., Raleigh, North Carolina. He holds a Ph.D. in civil engineering, with a specialty in transportation safety and a minor in statistics, from the Pennsylvania State University.

Nancy Lefler is a Highway Safety Researcher with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. She holds a master's degree in city and regional planning, with a concentration on transportation, from the University of North Carolina. Lefler has experience with projects on low-cost safety improvements, intersections, roadway segments, weather, traffic control devices, and pedestrians.

Bhagwant Persaud is a Professor of Civil Engineering at Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada. He is recognized for his work in developing and applying the empirical Bayes methodology for conducting safety evaluation studies and in developing safety performance functions for highway elements. Persaud has been involved in several safety-related research projects in the United States and Canada, including evaluations of traffic signal installation and removal, roundabouts, skid treatments, raised pavement markers, centerline rumble strips, red light cameras, low-cost safety treatments, and left-turn priority phasing. He was the lead author on the winning papers for the 2001 and 2003 TRB D. Grant Mickle Awards.

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More than 10,000 policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions are expected to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 88th Annual Meeting, in Washington, DC, January 11-15, 2009. The meeting, held at the Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Hilton Washington hotels, includes more than 3,500 presentations in 600 sessions and workshops covering all aspects of transportation.

The mission of the Transportation Research Board is to provide leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange, conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary, and multimodal. TRB facilitates the sharing of information on transportation practice and policy by researchers and practitioners; stimulates research and offers research management services that promote technical excellence; provides expert advice on transportation policy and programs; and disseminates research results broadly and encourages their implementation. A major focal point of TRB's activities, the Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for transportation professionals from all over the world to exchange information of common interest.

Organized in 1920, TRB is a division of the National Academies, which include the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council. The nation turns to the National Academies for independent, objective advice on issues that affect people's lives worldwide.

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