

NEWS



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

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News Release

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PAPER EVALUATING THE HAWK PEDESTRIAN-ACTIVATED BEACON WINS 2009 PATRICIA F. WALLER AWARD

The recipients of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 2009 Patricia F. Waller Award for the outstanding paper in the field of safety and system users are Kay Fitzpatrick and Eun Sug Park both with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI). This award, which was established in 2004 in memory of Waller, may be conferred annually. Waller, a former Technical Activities Group Council chair and member of the Technical Activities Council, was a clinical psychologist, researcher, and advocate for policy reform in transportation safety and injury control. A winner of TRB's Roy Crum Award, she served for 20 years as Associate Director of the University of North Carolina's School of Public Health, was founding Director of the UNC Injury Prevention Research Center, and concluded her career as Director of the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute. The award will be presented on January 11, 2010, at the Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lecture and Presentation of Outstanding Paper Awards during the TRB 89th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The award-winning paper, "*Safety Effectiveness of HAWK Pedestrian Treatment*," will be published in the *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, No. 2140.

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The HAWK beacon device, created in Tucson, Arizona, is a pedestrian-activated beacon located on the roadside and on mast arms over major approaches to an intersection. When activated, motorists see a red indication that creates gaps for pedestrians to use to cross major roadways. The award-winning paper evaluates the safety performance of the HAWK. The results indicate significant intersection-related reductions in crashes at locations where the HAWK beacon was installed. There was a 28 percent reduction in all crashes and a 58 percent reduction in pedestrian crashes.

Eun Sug Park is an Associate Research Scientist at TTI. Prior to joining TTI in 2001, she was a Research Associate at the University of Washington's National Research Center for Statistics and the Environment. Park's areas of research include transportation statistics, safety analysis, experimental design, generalized linear and nonlinear models, multivariate analysis, Bayesian analysis, and environmental statistics. A publisher and co-author, she was honored with the TRB Pedestrian Committee Outstanding Paper Award in 2006 and 2009. She holds a Ph.D. in statistics from Texas A&M University, an M.S. in statistics and a B.S. in computer science and statistics, both from Seoul National University.

Kay Fitzpatrick is a Senior Research Engineer at TTI, where she has worked for the past 20 years. Her primary research interest is the effect of roadway features on traffic operations and safety. Fitzpatrick has served as the principal investigator for numerous research projects for the Texas Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and TRB. She recently authored a Cooperative Research Program report on *Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Roadway Crossings* that explored selected engineering treatments to improve safety for pedestrians. Active in TRB, Fitzpatrick was honored in 1994 with the TRB Fred Burggraf Award. She has co-chaired the TRB Urban Street Design Symposia for 2003 and 2007. An author or co-author of numerous papers and research reports and guides, Fitzpatrick was TTI's Trinity Researcher in 1995 and 2004. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas A&M University and a doctoral degree in philosophy from the Pennsylvania State University. Fitzpatrick is a registered professional engineer in Texas and Pennsylvania.

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) 89th Annual Meeting, in Washington, DC, January 10-14, 2010. The meeting, held at the Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Hilton Washington hotels, includes more than 3,000 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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