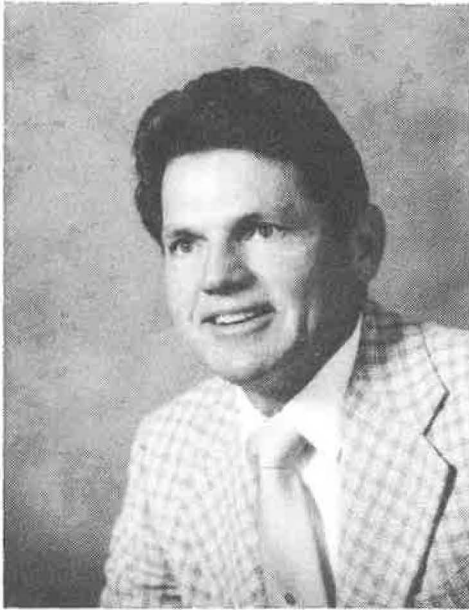


Transit and Traffic Operations Technologies



James P. Reichert
Orange County Transportation Authority

Thank you. It is great to see the excellent turnout for this conference. Mahatma Gandhi once wrote that there were seven sins in the world. These were wealth without work, pleasure without concern, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, and politics without principle. I would like to add an eighth sin to this list—public transit without advanced technologies.

The combination of people and technology is critical for the future of public transit. The policies and programs of the ISTEA, the Clean Air Act Amendments, and other legislation are placing increasing expectations on transit. At the same time, transit is being asked to meet these increased needs with fewer resources. The question is how transit will meet these expectations.

I just returned from a trip to China. The Chinese are solving their tremendous mobility problems through the use of bicycles, packing

people into articulated buses without air conditioning, and limiting the movement of people within the country. I do not think these are viable solutions for this country.

The workshops on traffic and traffic operations technologies will focus on how these two elements can be better integrated into a coordinated system. The common element of the five workshop sessions is to think creatively in addressing the integration of transit and traffic system components. We must expand our thinking to be able to respond to the mobility issues and problems facing our urban areas. It is important to take a broad systems approach in examining the issues and identifying solutions. The workshops in this track will provide you with the opportunity to expand your thinking and perspectives relating to integrating transit and traffic operations technologies.

Maximizing emerging technologies is especially important given limited budgets and other constraints. The use of advanced technologies can assist in meeting current and future demand with fewer resources. Further, existing technologies can help set the stage for future developments and innovations.

I urge you to attend the workshops and to take advantage of the opportunities to learn about current and planned projects. Further, I challenge you to expand your thinking on how you might address problems and issues in your area, especially those relating to traffic and transit operations technologies.