

Transportation@MIT

In 2009, MIT researchers launched [Transportation@MIT](#), an initiative involving the School of Engineering, the MIT Sloan School of Management, and the School of Architecture and Planning. The initiative's purpose is urgent and impactful: to mobilize MIT's resources to transform global transportation systems and to meet the needs of mobility and the environment in the 21st century. Representing 15 departments, Transportation@MIT's team of more than 240 faculty members engages in transportation-related research and pursues new multidisciplinary projects.

In AY2011, Transportation@MIT continued its efforts in three main areas: research, education, and community.

This year marked the official beginning of a five-year project, led by professor Amedeo Odoni, in which 30 MIT faculty members and the National Research Foundation of Singapore will address challenges of future urban mobility. Transportation@MIT also began a comprehensive multi-year project on the productivity of United States transportation systems with faculty and researchers from several departments. To cultivate external relationships, the initiative engaged a myriad of academic, industry, and government leaders from domestic and international organizations to identify potential research projects for the future.

As a result of recommendations from the initiative's Transportation Education Committee, two new multidisciplinary undergraduate subjects serving 50 students from five departments were offered in spring 2011: transportation systems, and transportation technology. These courses contribute to concentrations in transportation for students pursuing flexible engineering undergraduate degrees. The initiative is currently evaluating other curriculum development requirements for these innovative degree options, which allow students to address major global challenges of an interdisciplinary nature.

In AY2011, the Transportation@MIT community expanded and was energized by the formation of the Institute-wide MIT Transportation Club. With seed funding from the initiative, the club now includes over 400 active students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The club hosted the inaugural Transportation Showcase, featuring student research, industry recruiters, and over 250 attendees. Cosponsoring with the MIT Transportation Club, Transportation@MIT hosted 14 seminars on current transportation research and industry activity. Additionally, it hosted John Tracy, the chief technology officer of the Boeing Company, as part of the initiative's Transportation Seminar Series.

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