CALENNDAR

February 13  Faculty meeting will be held from 11:30 – 1:00 in B5 JH

February 13  Kohn Colloquium at 3:30 pm in 219 JH

Speaker:  Steven Spears, Assistant Professor, School of Urban and Regional Planning, The University of Iowa

Topic:  Can Public Transportation Investment Change Minds as Well as Behavior?  A Look at LA’s Expo Line Light Rail

Refreshments will be provided by the Geography department at 3:00 pm in the third floor GSS atrium.

ABSTRACT
Research into the relationship between land use and travel has identified numerous characteristics of the built environment that encourage the use of transit, walking, and bicycling. However, few travel behavior studies account for psychosocial factors (such as attitudes, perceptions, and social norms) that have been shown to influence travel. Fewer still have examined how these factors affect travel behavior change over time. This talk will focus on results obtained from longitudinal data collected before and after the opening of a new light rail line in Los Angeles. An experimental-control research design was used to compare changes in travel behavior, attitudes and perceptions among residents close to the new line to those in similar neighborhoods further away. Results indicate significant decrease in distance driven among households within 1 kilometer of new stations after the opening of the line. Psychosocial factors, particularly attitudes toward transit, appear to be robust predictors of daily transit use, car trips, walking and bicycling, and evidence points to a causal pathway from transit attitude to the choice of travel mode.

Reminder: Please email any recently received awards, notable presentations or exciting news to angela-bellew@uiowa.edu by Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. to be included in the weekly newsletter.