



URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

Assessing the Economic Development Impact of Wal-Mart

UIC provides field space for a youth soccer program sponsored by the office of 25th ward alderman Danny Solis. The program runs from mid-June through late October each year, and begins with a large community fair.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Rockefeller Foundation

United Food and Commercial Workers Union
(UFCW), Local 881

Contacts:

Michael A. Pagano

Interim Dean, College of Urban
Planning and Public Affairs

Phone: 312.413.3375

Email: mapagano@uic.edu

Center for Economic Education

The mission of the Center for Economic Education in the Department of Economics, University of Illinois at Chicago, is to promote high quality teaching of Economics and Consumer Economics at all levels of schooling (K 12) in the State of Illinois. It does this through the provision of training in Economic Education for current and prospective teachers of Economics and Consumer Economics, and through research in this field.

The Center offers teachers and school districts the curriculum resources and training to teach K 12 students the fundamental economic concepts and skills needed to understand and succeed in our market economy.

Partners:

UIC Business Administration

Contacts:

Barry Chiswick

Director, Center for
Economic Education

Phone: 312.996.2683

Email: brchis@uic.edu

(see also *Business and Entrepreneurial
Development, Education Innovation*)

Center for Research in Information Management

The Center for Research in Information Management (CRIM) was established to promote linkages and coalition-building among the university, the business community, and governmental and not-for-profit agencies in the theory and practice of state-of-the-art information management. CRIM's activities include:

RESEARCH in the significance and management of information resources, emphasizing the strategic application of knowledge, approaches, and techniques to serve as a foundation for improved implementation in the business, government, and not-for-profit sectors.

SERVICE to the metropolitan Chicago community through dissemination of current knowledge about information management by means of seminars, workshops, roundtable discussions, informal executive briefings, technical papers and reports, corporate continuing education, and other appropriate methods.

COLLABORATION with local leaders in information management and/or technology and College of Business Administration faculty to identify emerging critical issues, undertake joint activities, and provide input for continuous improvement of the College's academic program.

STIMULATING the intellectual growth of College of Business Administration students in the theory and practice of information management through their direct participation in Center activities and through internships at CRIM partner firms, as well as by encouraging the exchange of executives-in-the-classroom and professors in the workplace.

Partners:

UIC Business Administration
AT&T Inc.
University Affiliates Fund

Contacts:

Arkalgud Ramaprasad
Director, Center for Research
in Information Management
Phone: 312.996.9260
Email: prasad@uic.edu

Dates Active:

1998—present

(see also Industry Partnerships)

Center for Urban Economic Development

CUED is a research center focused on urban economic unevenness and its implications for low-income and minority communities. CUED's mission is to address the economic needs of urban areas, emphasizing the retention and expansion of the economic base and improving conditions for low- and moderate-income communities. CUED pursues this mission by translating its research into practice on a wide range of economic and public policy issues involving access to and the quality of jobs, business strategies and outcomes, and the impact of development on neighborhoods. CUED also provides technical assistance to community-based organizations and public and private sector entities engaged in economic development planning.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Chicago Metropolis 2020
Illinois Department of Commerce and
Economic Opportunity
Illinois Department of Human Services
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur
Foundation
Rockefeller Foundation
United States Department of Commerce

Contacts:

Michael A. Pagano
Interim Dean, College of Urban
Planning and Public Affairs
Phone: 312.413.3375
Email: mapagano@uic.edu

Dates Active:

1978—present

*(see also Services for the
Disadvantaged)*

Chicago Area Geographic Information Study

CAGIS members use their expertise in Geographic Information Systems to predict future school enrollments and to plan school site location. In 2004, CAGIS provided technical services to support Illinois House Bill 430, which changed the criteria used to calculate school district poverty grant funding.

Partners:

UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences
Chicago Public Schools
Illinois State Data Center Cooperative (ISDCC)
Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission
United States Census Bureau

Contacts:

Dwight A. McBride
Dean, College of Liberal
Arts and Sciences

Phone: 312.413.7329

Email: dmcbride@uic.edu

(see also *Education Innovation*)

Chicago City Council Project

Provides the only complete database on Chicago City Council voting records, 2000—current. Data is published on the Political Science Department and Great Cities Institute web sites.

Partners:

UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences
Citizens Information Service
Crossroads Fund
Independent Voters of Illinois—
Independent Precinct Organization (IVI-IPO)
League of Women Voters
WBEZ 91.5 FM

Contacts:

Dwight A. McBride
Dean, College of Liberal
Arts and Sciences

Phone: 312.413.7329

Email: dmcbride@uic.edu

Dates Active:

2000—present

The Chicago Greystone in Historic North Lawndale

Greystone residential buildings are one of North Lawndale's most significant historical and architectural assets. Most Greystones in North Lawndale are more than eighty years old and in need of rehabilitation. As part of the Chicago Historic Greystone Initiative®, a program launched by the Neighborhood Housing Services to preserve Greystones in North Lawndale, the City Design Center is publishing a guidebook for the preservation and renovation of Greystone residential buildings in North Lawndale. With the aid of this guidebook, Greystone owners will be able to restore and maintain the architectural integrity of their homes, and thus help preserve the historical character of their neighborhoods. According to Charles Leeks, Executive Director of the North Lawndale branch of Neighborhood Housing Services, the guidebook will help “enhance a sense of ‘pride of place’ for North Lawndale residents.”

The guidebook is being published in two volumes: Part 1 in the summer of 2006, Part 2 in the summer of 2007. The first volume, *The Chicago Greystone in Historic North Lawndale*, includes articles on Greystones and their historical contexts, profiles of Greystone owners, and a guide to researching the history of individual homes. The second volume, *Renovating the Historic North Lawndale Greystone*, will focus on the technical aspects of inspecting, maintaining and restoring Greystones. It will include guidelines for exterior and interior renovations to preserve historic character and support energy conservation, while meeting the needs of today's families.

Partners:

Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago

Contacts:

Roberta M. Feldman

Director, City Design Center

Phone: 312.996.4717

Email: rmf@uic.edu

Dates Active:

November 2005–August 2007

(see also *Neighborhood Revitalization*)

Chicago Rehab Network Partnership to Study Rental Housing Market

Voorhees Center partnered with Chicago Rehab Network to assess Chicago rental housing market using 2000 data.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Chicago Rehabilitation Network, Inc.

Contacts:

Michael A. Pagano

Interim Dean, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Phone: 312.413.3375

Email: mapagano@uic.edu

(see also *Neighborhood Revitalization*)

City Design Center

The City Design Center is a multi-disciplinary design, research, education and service program in the College of Architecture and the Arts. Its mission is to advocate for and apply the principle of 'quality design for all.' The Center was founded on the conviction that high quality design and planning at all scales of the built environment are meaningful and necessary components of an equitable and sustainable society. Simply put, good design should be a part of every citizen's daily life. The Center's work, in all its forms, therefore seeks to advance the availability of design knowledge, especially in communities where such expertise has traditionally been inaccessible.

As a public university-based program, the Center is in a unique position to support democratic design. Universities are critical resources for evidence-based design information—ideas that are grounded in research and evaluated practices. Universities also are in a position to be 'fair brokers' of design ideas in the hotly contested debate about metropolitan spatial change.

To achieve its objectives, the Center engages in a diverse range of activities, especially focused on affordable housing, community design and planning, and business district revitalization.

Partners:

UIC Architecture and the Arts	Erie Neighborhood House	Northeastern Illinois University,
UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs	Fannie Mae Foundation	Chicago Teachers' Center
Agency Metropolitan Program Services (AMPS)	Field Museum of Natural History	Openlands Project
Argonne National Laboratory	Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts	Pulaski Eisenhower Arthington Commercial Enterprise (PEACE)
Association House of Chicago	Greater North Pulaski Development Corporation	Resurrection Project
Bethel New Life, Inc.	HICA Corporation of North Lawndale	Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA)	Humboldt Park Economic Development Corporation	Shenyang Urban Construction Committee
Cabrini Green Homes Local Advisory Council	Humboldt Park Empowerment Partnership	Skidmore Owings and Merrill, LLP
Casa Central Corporation	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity	Steans Family Foundation
Center for Neighborhood Technology	Lake/Kinzie Industrial Leadership Council	Telpochcalli Community Education Project
Chicago Community Development Corporation	Landon Bone Baker Architects	US Department of Agriculture, Forest Services, North Central Research Station
Chicago Department of Housing	Lawndale Business and Local Development Corporation (LBLDC)	Urban Planning Society of China
Chicago Department of Planning and Development	Lawndale Christian Development Corporation (LCDC)	Urban Resources Partnership
Chicago Housing Authority	Lawndale Heritage Lincoln Institute of Land Policy	Village of Burnham, Illinois
Chicago Public Schools	M. Arthur Gensler Jr. & Associates, Inc.	Village of Wilmette, Illinois
Chicago Rehabilitation Network Inc.	Malcolm X College	Village of Worth, Illinois
Chinese American Development Corporation	Marcy Newberry Association	Washington University in St. Louis
Chinese American Service League (CASL)	Metropolitan Planning Council	West Side 2000 Development Corporation
City of Chicago	National Endowment for the Arts	West Side Consortium
City of Shenyang (China) Bureau of Urban Planning and Land Management	Near Northwest Neighborhoods Network	West Town Leadership United
City of Whiting, Indiana	Near Westside Community Development Corporation (NWS CDC)	Wilmette Historic Preservation Commission
DevCorp North	Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, Inc.	Windows of Opportunity
Edbrooke Block Club	Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission	Woods Fund of Chicago
Eighteenth Street Development Corporation (ESDC)		Youth Services Project, Inc.

Contacts:

Roberta M. Feldman
Director, City Design Center

Phone: 312.996.4717

Email: rmf@uic.edu

Dates active:

1995—present

(see also *Arts and Culture*,
Neighborhood Revitalization)

City Revenue Structures, Constraints, and Challenges

City revenue structures matter in the life and vibrancy of America's cities, affecting the cycle of recipients, investments, and the abilities of city governments to meet the needs of their residents. In order to understand cities' current and future fiscal position approach, this project examines the cities' set of constrained choices and opportunities, framed by (1) state and federal legal, statutory, and regulatory control of city revenue structures and the conditions of aid associated with federal and state grants; (2) the dynamic economic base of the city and its alignment with the city revenue system; (3) the city-controlled legal and political constraints and decision space within which city officials ultimately design the revenue structure; (4) the demand for services, which varies across the political landscape and influences the mix of services, tax burden, and revenue structure; and (5) political culture and politically acceptable revenue structures and levels of service delivery which vary within regions and across states.

The purpose of identifying the determinants of city revenue structure is to establish the extent to which cities' fiscal conditions confront different degrees of constraints.

Partners:

UIC Public Administration
UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
UIC Great Cities Institute
National League of Cities
Pew Center on the States
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Contacts:

Michael A. Pagano
Interim Dean, College of Urban
Planning and Public Affairs
Phone: 312.413.3375
Email: mapagano@uic.edu

Dates Active:

October 2006–June 2007

Community Futures Networking System

Facilitate community involvement in planning through the implementation of digital technologies, including mobile collaborative planning tools, interactive multimedia kiosks and information repository.

Contacts:

Michael A. Pagano
Interim Dean, College of Urban
Planning and Public Affairs
Phone: 312.413.3375
Email: mapagano@uic.edu
(see also Neighborhood Revitalization)

Concentration in Urban Politics

The Department of Political Science offers a Concentration in Urban Politics that is satisfied by completing the regular requirements for the major in political science, and completing, among the required number of electives in the major, three courses in urban politics, including:

- * Pols 210—Introduction to Urban Politics, or Pols 211—Chicago's Future;
- * Pols 301- Field Experience in Political Science; and
- * One additional course at the 300 level other than Pols 303.

At the discretion of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, students may substitute a course from another department for one of their three courses in urban politics.

Partners:

UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences

Contacts:

Dwight A. McBride
Dean, College of Liberal
Arts and Sciences
Phone: 312.413.7329
Email: dmcbride@uic.edu
(see also Undergraduate Support)

Continued Collaboration Among the CTA, UIC, and MIT

Begun in 2001, the multi-year collaboration between the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is aimed at making CTA more competitive in the new millennium. The common research agenda will focus on the development of new knowledge to support efficient, equitable and appropriate capital investment, policy and operating decisions for both bus and rail. The collaboration focuses on six areas of research: transit operations, transit facility design and construction processes, decision support for service development, future transit funding strategies and opportunities, transportation planning, and infrastructure renewal and replacement. A typical topic will be driven by student interest, the commitment of a faculty member to serve as advisor, and the identification of appropriate and interested staff members at CTA.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Chicago Transit Authority
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Contacts:

Piyushimita (Vonu) Thakuriah
Interim Director,
Urban Transportation Center

Phone: 312.355.0447

Email: vonu-pt@uic.edu

Dates Active:

January 2001–July 2007

(see also *Transportation Innovations*)

Development Models and Logic of Socio-Economic Organization in Space

This project explores alternative paths of socio-economic development in industrialized countries. Using methods of comparative and historical research, project partners will conduct grounded case studies of institutional change at the urban, regional, and national scales that consider changing state-civil society relations, patterns of state regulation, growth strategies, and socio-cultural dynamics. These case studies will inform theoretical work on development models and paths of urban economic restructuring.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs	Lancaster University (United Kingdom)
European Commission	Oxford University
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Università degli Studi Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria (Italy)
Institut Fédératif de Recherche sur les Économies et les Sociétés Industrielles (IFRESI-CNRS)	Università degli Studi Roma Tre
	University of Newcastle upon Tyne
	Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien (Austria)

Contacts:

Nik Theodore
Director, Center for
Urban Economic Development

Phone: 312.355.1340

Email: theodore@uic.edu

East Garfield Park Comprehensive Retail + Urban Design Plan

Forty years of disinvestment and deterioration have left the shopping areas of the East Garfield Park neighborhood of Chicago without the stores and structures that would serve the community with goods, services and jobs. In 2005, this West Side community completed a quality of life plan as a part of LISC Chicago's New Communities Program. One of the chief strategies of this plan was to "re-establish Madison Street as the community's 'Main Street.'"

In January of 2006, the two chambers of commerce that serve East Garfield Park partnered together to commission the City Design Center to prepare a Comprehensive Retail and Urban Design Plan to revitalize Madison Street and the other shopping areas of the community. This planning initiative seeks to identify specific redevelopment strategies and incorporate community participation into the process.

To guide the process and ensure that the needs and perspectives of the community were represented, the chambers of commerce convened a steering committee of neighborhood ministers, block club captains, business owners, city and elected officials and other stakeholders. This committee, called ROADMAP (Retail Opportunities And Design, the Madison Advisory Partnership) worked to organize and facilitate three public meetings, and design and carry out several early action projects. This steering committee's work served to ground the City Design Center's research and recommendations in local community experience. The ultimate result of this collaboration will be a plan that provides strategies to achieve a community-based vision for future retail opportunity.

Partners:

The New Communities Program of the
Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance

Contacts:

Roberta M. Feldman
Director, City Design Center

Phone: 312.996.4717

Email: rmf@uic.edu

Dates Active:

January 2006 – July 2007

(see also *Neighborhood Revitalization*)

Evaluation of Intensive Technical Assistance in Support of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Outreach

Formative evaluation of technical assistance provided to community organizations and coalitions in four cities in Florida, Missouri, and Delaware.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Center for Economic Progress

Gateway EITC Community Coalition

Human Services Coalition of Dade County, Inc.

National Community Tax Coalition

Nehemiah (DE) Gateway Community
Development Corporation

Opa-Locka (FL) Community Development
Corporation

Contacts:

Michael A. Pagano
Interim Dean, College of Urban
Planning and Public Affairs

Phone: 312.413.3375

Email: mapagano@uic.edu

(see also *Neighborhood Revitalization*)

Financing the 21st Century City

Financing the 21st Century is an exploration of the changing finances of municipalities in historical and contemporary perspectives, and an examination of the implications for city financing in the 21st Century.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
UIC Great Cities Institute
CEOs for Cities

Contacts:

Michael A. Pagano

Interim Dean, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Phone: 312.413.3375

Email: mapagano@uic.edu

David C. Perry

Director, Great Cities Institute

Phone: 312.355.3926

Email: dperry@uic.edu

Dates Active:

October 2005–May 2006

Future of Chicago Lecture Series

This program offers a weekly lecture series of speakers addressing the social, economic, political, and governmental conditions of the Chicago metropolitan region. The lectures promote public debate between national experts and UIC students, with a focus on governmental issues. Fifteen speakers including public officials and scholars participate in the series each year.

Partners:

UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences

Contacts:

Dwight A. McBride

Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Phone: 312.413.7329

Email: dmcbride@uic.edu

Dates Active:

1976–present

Government Performance Project Part II

The purpose of the project is to collect and analyze states' data and develop the grades for the "infrastructure" component of the 2008 Government Performance Project report, to develop supplemental papers of the Pew Center on the States based on that research, and to participate in the project's outreach activities aimed at helping states use all of the information to improve how they manage their infrastructure.

Partners:

UIC Public Administration
UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Pew Charitable Trusts
Pew Center on the States

Contacts:

Michael A. Pagano

Interim Dean, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Phone: 312.413.3375

Email: mapagano@uic.edu

Dates Active:

August 2006–June 2008

A Great City Online: A Study of the Internet's Impact on Chicago's Neighborhoods

Examination of the economic development impacts of proposed Wal-Mart stores in Chicago.

Partners:

UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences

Pew Internet & American Life Project

Contacts:

Dwight A. McBride

Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Phone: 312.413.7329

Email: dmcbride@uic.edu

Dates Active:

2002–2003

(see also Neighborhood Revitalization)

Great Cities Urban Data Visualization Lab

The goal of the Great Cities Urban Data Visualization Program is to establish a high-tech urban/regional data retrieval and computer visualization capacity that will serve UIC faculty, students, and external public and community agencies.

The program will 1) assemble, maintain, and arrange for access to a large number of databases relating to community and economic development and housing; 2) provide a range of pro-active and demand-responsive information services, focusing on disaggregated community and regional data; and 3) support and conduct research and teaching advancing the state of the art in the field of urban and regional data visualization and data access. The project will benefit public and not-for-profit agencies in the Chicago region and the state by enhancing their ability to access and use data related to economic and community development.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Contacts:

Albert Schorsch

Interim Director, Great Cities Urban Data Visualization Lab

Phone: 312.996.2177

Email: schorsch@uic.edu

Dates Active:

1998–present

(see also Neighborhood Revitalization)

Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center (GLATTC)

GLATTC is a collaborative multi-state center that promotes: 1) state-of-the-art addiction science and the infusion of that science into professional practice, using on-going needs-assessment processes to remain responsive to the fields; and 2) effective partnership between addiction treatment and criminal justice professionals, healthcare, academia, and state and local governments.

GLATTC's mission is to make effective, culturally competent research-based treatment services available to people with substance abuse disorders, through research to practice activities for the professionals, trainers, and educators who serve them. GLATTC is based in the Jane Addams College of Social Work.

Partners:

UIC Social Work	Michigan Department of Community Health
A Safe Haven	Office of Drug Control Policy
Administrative Office of Illinois Courts	Nietzsche Center
City of Detroit, MI	Northern Illinois Chemical Dependency Services
Compass House	Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services
Cuyahoga County (OH) Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Agency	Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Genesee County (Michigan) Behavioral Health Network	Pilsen-Little Village Community Mental Health Center, Inc.
Healthcare Alternative Services, Inc.	Specialized Assistance Services NFP
Human Resources Development Institute, Inc. (HRDI)	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Illinois Department of Corrections	Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC)
Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse	Wisconsin Bureau of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Department of Mental Health and Addictions	Wisconsin Department of Corrections
Maryhaven, Inc.	

Contacts:

Lonnetta Albright

Director, Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center

Phone: 312.996.4450

Email: lalbrigh@uic.edu

Dates Active:

1998—present

(see also *Healthcare for At-Risk Populations*)

Greystone Renovation in North Lawndale

The City Design Center, in partnership with Landon Bone Baker Architects, provided research and architectural services to the Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago for their renovation a model Greystone in North Lawndale. The model Greystone is a two-flat located to be deconverted into a single family home.

The Center researched appropriate renovation and preservation techniques and materials, and prepared presentation and construction documents for the project. The project demonstrated the value added by involving architects in Greystone renovations. The project also provided two architecture graduate students with a unique service educational experience: they had the opportunity to work on an affordable housing renovation from “start to finish,” and thoroughly document the entire process.

Partners:

Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago

Contacts:

Roberta M. Feldman

Director, City Design Center

Phone: 312.996.4717

Email: rmf@uic.edu

Dates Active:

May 2006—May 2007

(see also *Neighborhood Revitalization*)

Illinois Assisted Housing Action Research Project (IHARP)

IHARP is the first comprehensive database of assisted and public housing units in the city of Chicago and the entire state of Illinois, including housing owned and managed by private and non-profit developers. The database contains information about number of units, income levels of residents, location, rent levels, sponsoring agency, developer, management companies, and funding sources. Originally a development partner, UIC now provides database maintenance.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Latinos United

Polk Bros. Foundation

Statewide Housing Action Coalition

Contacts:

Yittayih Zelalem

Co-Director, Nathalie P. Voorhees
Center for Neighborhood and
Community Improvement

Phone: 312.996.6674

Email: yittazel@uic.edu

(see also *Neighborhood Revitalization*)

Impact Analysis for Freight Operation Improvements

Project objective is to develop a benefit evaluation framework using the outputs from state-of-the-art simulation programs developed by the team from Northwestern University. Strategy is to facilitate coordinated planning and operations among stakeholders, a process that evaluates broad impacts of proposed projects will be needed. Such process should not only quantify both positive and negative impacts, but also determine the incidence of impacts for various parties including shippers, transporters, general public, and residents around the terminals and along the freight routes.

To answer such needs, a tool to evaluate the distributions of the impacts under alternative scenarios will be developed as a post-processor to the models developed by the teams from the Northwestern University. This tool will use the traffic data provided by the simulation model to quantify both positive and negative impacts including; travel time savings for both freight and passenger vehicles, miles of empty operation, truck and rolling stock operating costs, effect on environment (through noise, air pollution, and vibration), capital and maintenance costs for roadway and rail infrastructures, change in property values near terminals and freight routes, and accidents. The information can be used not only for outreach activities but also for long range planning at the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) level to bring the freight into the mainstream of public sector transportation planning.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

National Science Foundation

Northwestern University

Contacts:

Michael A. Pagano

Interim Dean, College of Urban
Planning and Public Affairs

Phone: 312.413.3375

Email: mapagano@uic.edu

Dates Active:

September 2002–August 2004

(see also *Transportation Innovations*)

Investigation of Delays in the Cook County Elections

Professor V.N. Venkatakrisnan is participating in a technical review team that is examining why results tabulated in many precincts were unable to be received and processed in a more timely manner by the central tally system during the Nov. 7, 2006 general election. After studying these problems, the panel will write an investigative report that will be released to the public. The report will contain recommendations to address these problems.

More details and a press release can be found at http://www.voterinfonet.com/sub/news_view.asp?NEWS_ID=168

Partners:

UIC Engineering
Cook County (IL) Clerk's Office
DePaul University
Illinois Institute of Technology

Contacts:

V.N. Venkatakrisnan
Co-Director, Center for Research and Instruction in Technologies for Electronic Security (RITES)

Phone: 312.996.4860

Email: venkat@uic.edu

Dates Active:

November 2006—ongoing

MANAGING THE FISCAL METROPOLIS: The Financial Policies, Practices and Health of Suburban Municipalities

This is a book-length manuscript is about the financial governance of suburban municipal governments. More fundamentally, it focuses on the subjects of financial management, governance, and the financing of local government, with a focus suburbs rather than central cities or nonmetropolitan and rural regions. As of 2000, 50 percent of the US population lived in suburban rather than central city or nonmetropolitan areas (compared to 45 percent in 1980 and 31 percent in 1960 respectively) indicating that suburban residential existence is becoming the norm for most individuals in this country. Moreover, more metropolitan residents are living their entire life outside of the central city as, increasingly, suburbs become the final and only destination for shopping, work, and entertainment. As such, suburban municipalities are becoming the primary local service providers to the public. Although there is extensive research on metropolitan regions and the financial affairs of larger and central cities, we know very little about the fiscal health, structure, and operations of these smaller governments within the larger metropolitan context.

This study attempts to address this gap in our knowledge of suburban financial governance through an in-depth analysis of the fiscal health of Chicago suburban municipalities, and documentation of how these governments manage and govern their finances within the constraints established or opportunities presented by the fiscal, regional, and institutional environment. This manuscript will identify the major fiscal problems faced by these governments, the solutions they pursue, and the fiscal outcomes that result from the interplay of decisions and environment. Its primary aim is to improve our understanding of local governance and financial management within a regional context, which is relevant to the fields of public administration, urban studies, and political science. However, the manuscript also will have relevance for those who practice financial and municipal management and politics in local government. Although this is not a "how to" book, the in-depth study will offer lessons to local practitioners and state policy maker who have oversight over local government affairs.

Partners:

UIC Public Administration
UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Contacts:

Michael A. Pagano
Interim Dean, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Phone: 312.413.3375

Email: mapagano@uic.edu

Dates Active:

2006—present

Measuring the Benefits of Implementing Asset Management Systems and Tools

Transportation agencies have identified asset management (AM) as a concept to support cost-effective maintenance and rehabilitation decisions related to physical assets. Asset Management Systems (AMS) and tools are required to implement these AM concepts. However, agencies seem to hesitate to move forward in implementing AMS and tools because it is difficult to document whether the benefits produced by AMS or tools exceed the costs for implementation and operation. Indeed, six of seven research needs studies conducted since 2000 have identified “Measuring Benefits” as an important area of research to develop the base of support for asset management. This project will document evidence of benefits and develop a procedure for quantifying the benefits derived from implementing asset management systems and tools.

Partners:

University of Wisconsin-Madison

US Department of Transportation

Contacts:

Piyushimita (Vonu) Thakuriah
Interim Director,
Urban Transportation Center

Phone: 312.355.0447

Email: vonu-pt@uic.edu

Dates Active:

June 2005–December 2006

(see also *Transportation Innovations*)

Mega Scale Urban Development: Transferring Urban Policy and Technical Knowledge Through World-Wide Partnerships

This project intends to foster exchanging experiences about current mega scale urban development. Cities in China and the Middle East, for example, are witnessing rapid urbanization with numerous urban development projects being carried out on a mega scale. The project intends to increase the quality and scope of international exchange of large-scale urban development experiences as a way for planners to avoid pitfalls and to more quickly adopt success factors.

Cross-national policy transfer can spur good planning practice and may lead to improvements in planning practice. Planners operate in an increasingly multi-cultural world and therefore, exchanging experiences can enhance the “cultural competence” of both politicians and professionals. Formal cross-national learning will enrich the technical, policy, and institutional experiences.

Partners:

UIC Great Cities Institute

UIC City Design Center

UIC School of Architecture and Design

American University of Sharjah

Contacts:

Kheir Al-Kodmany
Director of Graduate Studies,
Urban Planning and Policy Program

Phone: 312.413.3884

Email: kheir@uic.edu

Dates Active:

February 1, 2007

Metropolitan Transportation Support Initiative (METSI)

The objective of the METSI project is to provide transportation research, education and technical support on urban problems specific to the Chicago region and the state of Illinois. In order to achieve its objective, the UTC has the assistance of an Advisory Board that is comprised of the top executives of transportation and planning agencies of the Chicago metropolitan region and the state of Illinois. METSI addresses the research, technical assistance, education and training within the following general categories: intelligent transportation systems; transportation safety; geographic information systems; infrastructure, database, and asset management; transportation, land use, and economic development; transit operations, planning, and demand management; regional planning; highway operations and planning; job access and reverse commute; transit and traffic planning models; and freight and intermodal transportation analysis.

METSI funds provide an avenue for technical assistance in all areas of transportation to the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS), IDOT departments, and other planning and transportation agencies. The educational component of the METSI program will be comprised of workshops, conferences, training courses, presentations, and seminars in addition to student education, internships, and development. The METSI project also includes provisions for the administration and information dissemination outreach efforts to public and private sector organizations.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Illinois Department of Transportation,
Office of Planning and Programming

Contacts:

Joseph DiJohn
Director, Metropolitan
Transportation Support Initiative
Phone: 312.996.1458
Email: joedi@uic.edu

Dates Active:

September 1999—present

(see also Transportation Innovations)

Project Access

Market research for the planning and design of Project Access, a workforce development initiative aimed at preparing workers from disadvantaged communities to enter jobs in high-demand industries and occupations identified by Illinois's Critical Skill Shortage Initiative.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Illinois Department of Employment Security
Kennedy King College
United States Department of Commerce

Contacts:

Michael A. Pagano
Interim Dean, College of Urban
Planning and Public Affairs
Phone: 312.413.3375
Email: mapagano@uic.edu

(see also Workforce Development)

Ramp High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Project

The objective of this study is to determine the effectiveness in terms of: reduced travel delay, value of travel time saved, fuel volume savings, fuel cost savings, reduced vehicle emissions, increased person throughput and traffic safety if this transportation demand and system improvement strategy were to be applied in the Northwest Study Area, defined as IL Route 53 and I-290 between Lake Cook Road and Austin Avenue. The study will address the potential of ramp metering and the combination of ramp metering with parallel HOV by-pass lanes and associated support strategies. The study will be conducted for both inbound and outbound traffic flows for both the AM and PM peak periods.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
(CMAP)
Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

Contacts:

Kazuya Kawamura
Associate Professor,
Urban Transportation Center
Phone: 312.413.1269
Email: kazuya@uic.edu

Dates Active:

December 2006–December 2007

(see also Transportation Innovations)

Regional Transportation Authority Technical Assistance

UTC is to provide technical assistance to the RTA for three specific tasks. Under Task 1, the RTA Strategic Plan Assessment and Gap Analysis, UIC transportation planning staff will work with RTA staff and consultants to assess the RTA Regional Transportation Plan. Assistance will be provided regarding technical, planning, and outreach gaps in the strategic plan on an as-needed basis. Under Task 2, Paratransit Assessment, UIC personnel will provide support to RTA staff regarding the new paratransit operations in Pace and advise regarding possible evaluation and impact assessment. The goal of the project is to undertake a survey of the disabled community in order to obtain their input into issues affecting service design that will be used by RTA to assist in the development of a comprehensive Service Development Plan for persons with disabilities. Task 3 is an evaluation of RTAP, which was created with the purpose of assisting local governments, municipalities, and Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) with planning, technical assistance, and consultation to meet local needs. The purpose of this project is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Local Planning sub-program of RTAP by focusing on station area plans and local transit improvement projects. The benefits and outcomes of these different types of projects, as well as the performance metrics on which outcomes should be evaluated, are likely to be very different for the different projects.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Pace
Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

Contacts:

Joseph Dijohn
Director, Metropolitan
Transportation Support Initiative
Phone: 312.996.1458
Email: joedi@uic.edu

Dates Active:

June 2008

(see also Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Transportation Innovations)

Urban Transportation Center

UTC seeks to understand and improve urban transportation through the creation, application and dissemination of transportation knowledge while also making use of the Chicago metropolitan area.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs	Illinois Department of Transportation
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)	Illinois State Toll Highway Authority
Chicago Transit Authority	Metra
City of Chicago	Pace
Federal Transit Administration	Regional Transportation Authority
	United States Department of Transportation

Contacts:

Piyushimita (Vonu) Thakuriah
Interim Director,
Urban Transportation Center

Phone: 312.355.0447

Email: vonu-pt@uic.edu

Dates Active:

1979—present

(see also *Transportation Innovations*)

US-China Housing Exchange

The City Design Center, together with partner organizations in China organized the Design Matters: US-China Affordable Housing Exchange conference in Shenyang, China in September 2004. The conference addressed cross-cultural comparisons of housing design, planning and policy in China and the United States. An exhibit and catalog of exemplary housing development from cities throughout China accompanied the conference. Following the conference, the U. S. speakers were invited by the Mayor of Shenyang to review and comment on the city's five-year master plan.

As a follow up to the conference, an eight-member delegation of architects and planners, led by Wang Jian, Commissioner of the Shenyang Planning and Land Resource Bureau visited Chicago in December 2004. The delegation participated in a seminar hosted by the City Design Center.

Partners:

UIC Architecture and the Arts
City of Shenyang (China)
Bureau of Urban Planning and Land Management
Shenyang Urban Construction Committee
Urban Planning Society of China

Contacts:

Roberta M. Feldman
Director, City Design Center

Phone: 312.996.4717

Email: rmf@uic.edu

Dates Active:

2003—2004

(see also *Neighborhood Revitalization*)

Wentworth Gardens' Buildings and Grounds Improvements

Wentworth Gardens is a low-rise, family public housing development on the South Side. Its buildings and grounds have suffered marked deterioration due to underfunding and poor management. Wentworth Gardens residents have been working since the 1960s to improve their living conditions, despite the economic and political challenges to their grassroots efforts.

The City Design Center, since its founding, has supported the Wentworth Gardens residents in their tireless work to identify, prioritize and address the pressing problems of their dilapidated physical environment. Over the past five years, the Center has assisted the Wentworth Resident Management Corporation in conducting a resident survey of needed buildings and grounds improvements, guidance on apartment renovation requirements, and an inspection checklist for use prior to occupancy of the rehabilitated apartments.

Roberta Feldman has participated in garnering recognition of the Wentworth residents' four decades of activism through a successful nomination for an American Planning Association National Award for Social Advocacy, and the publication of a book with co-author Susan Stall about their organizing efforts to resist increasing government disinvestment in public housing and the threat of demolition (*The Dignity of Resistance: Women Residents' Activism in Chicago Public Housing*, Cambridge University Press, 2004). Chicago playwrights David Barr's and Glenn Jeffers' forthcoming adaptation of the book to the stage will bring further recognition to their efforts to sustain the viability of their homes.

Partners:

Wentworth Gardens Resident Management Corporation Board

Contacts:

Roberta M. Feldman
Director, City Design Center

Phone: 312.996.4717

Email: rmf@uic.edu

Dates Active:

Fall 2001–2006

(see also Neighborhood Revitalization)