

Title: Innovation of the Surface Transportation Sector

Organizers: Rick Geddes and Al George

Date: August 2, 2013, 12:00 to 1:00 PM – 300 Rice Hall

A team from [The Aerospace Corporation](#)¹, will present a concept for the potential partnership of industry and academia, in an effort to significantly innovate ground transportation systems.

The Aerospace Corporation is engaged in an emerging inter-disciplinary dialogue on how to support a national effort² to innovate transportation systems. Aerospace will provide a briefing on the progress of this effort, including reflections on their recent feasibility study of Automated Transit Networks (ATNs) for the City of San José, CA. A key finding of the study was: in conjunction with technological solutions (which range from guided to independent robotic vehicles), it is critical to change the institutions for development, finance, and governance of transportation systems, and to obtain general public and zoning acceptance to achieve major innovations. Innovation will require a concerted effort from many disciplines. The ultimate goal is the next generation of ground transportation systems.

The Topical Lunch is an opportunity to explore how Cornell's expertise may contribute to this concerted effort. This may include Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Computer Science, Materials Science, City and Regional Planning, Policy Analysis and Management, and others. Following the Topical Lunch, the Aerospace team will be available through the afternoon. Attendees are encouraged to stay and discuss how their specific interests could benefit from collaboration with this initiative.

To register for the lunch, please RSVP to Paula at pge3@cornell.edu and cc: TLH39@cornell.edu.

¹ The Aerospace Corporation is a nonprofit organization that operates the Aerospace Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) on behalf of the US government. While the principal obligation of the Aerospace FFRDC is to support national security space efforts, it is obligated to make available to the civil sector, as appropriate, the skills, technologies, and methods developed in the execution of its primary duties. In support of this objective, Aerospace maintains a robust Civil and Commercial Operations organization.

² A draft vision for the national effort: The next generation of surface transportation systems will use advanced technologies and innovative civic institutions to create a new paradigm of transportation that achieves significant improvements in the following areas:

- *energy efficiency, fossil fuel independence, and reduced pollution*
- *reduced congestion and improved convenience*
- *increased safety and security*
- *equitable access*
- *urban design and land use*
- *financial sustainability*