

# UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

## CULLEN COLLEGE of ENGINEERING

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

### *Distinguished Lecture Series*

**Dennis L. Christiansen, Ph.D., P.E.**

Agency Director  
Texas A&M Transportation Institute

### **Implementation of University Transportation Research**

**Friday, October 19, 2012**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Seminar  
Room L2D2, Engineering Lecture Hall, UH

#### **Abstract**

Due to the sources of funding, university transportation research tends to be applied in nature. That can result in meaningful implementation of the results of university research studies, and it also allows quantification of benefits. Over its 60+ year history, the Texas Transportation Institute has conducted substantial research that has been implemented in Texas and elsewhere around the world. The breadth of this research is extensive.

The presentation will highlight a number of projects that have been implemented and are the results of research funded at universities. Many of these research results are now common practice in the Houston region.

#### About the speaker:



**Dennis L. Christiansen** is the agency director of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI), a state agency and the largest higher education-affiliated transportation research center in the United States. TTI was formed by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents in 1950 to conduct research for the Texas Highway Department—now the Texas Department of Transportation. Today, TTI research projects total \$50 million annually for about 200 sponsors at all levels of government and the private sector. The technologies and strategies developed at the Institute have saved the state and nation thousands of lives and billions of dollars. With extensive research experience in traffic operations, transportation planning, and transit planning, Dr. Christiansen is an international expert in high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes. He was one of the pioneers of the HOV lane concept in Houston and had significant involvement in its development and implementation. His research in HOV lanes has been utilized throughout the country and has made a significant impact on the effectiveness of the transportation system in Texas and elsewhere.

A member of the TTI staff for 40 years, he has received numerous awards in the field of transportation, most recently honorary membership in the Institute of Transportation Engineers. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Intelligent Transportation Society of America. He was selected as a Regents Fellow by the A&M System Board of Regents in 2004. Dr. Christiansen received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Northwestern University, and master's and Ph.D. degrees, also in civil engineering, from Texas A&M University.