

CCNet

Transportation Discussion Group

7/28/10

Location: M2 on Neil, 4<sup>th</sup> floor

Attendees: 5

#### Discussion on Roundabouts

- Discussion of the intersection at Springfield and Main in Urbana where a pedestrian was killed in May
- With a roundabout, pedestrians would only have to cross one lane of traffic at a time instead of 4.
- Scott Batson from Portland, Oregon, used aerial photography to show what a roundabout would look like at Springfield and Main
- Is there enough room to put one in there with so many buildings around?
- Need a demonstration in our community. 4<sup>th</sup> and St. Mary's might be a good trial.
- What is the effect of roundabouts near an athletic facility?
- It's been done at FSU and other large universities and it has worked well.
- Comprehensive information about roundabouts is at [www.k-state.edu/roundabouts/](http://www.k-state.edu/roundabouts/)

#### Discussion of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG)

- LNG used as in power plants when they need more energy.
- Integrys Group, based in Chicago, has a location in CU
- Integrys site: <http://www.integrysgroup.com/>
- They need more capacity to store LNG
- When using LNG as your energy source, the best case is a route where that begins and ends at the same point. The second best case is a fixed route where you know where the fueling stations are. The worst scenario is an unplanned route where you don't know where to get fuel.
- LNG runs cleaner but hotter than diesel and because of the heat, the LNG engine's life is shorter
- Diesels are getting cleaner, however
- Diesel Class A semi-trucks get about 700-800 miles on diesel, whereas LNG get about 500.
- Natural gas is about one-third the price of a barrel of oil in BTU equivalents
- Suggestion to watch "Fuel" available here:  
<http://www.hulu.com/watch/158468/fuel>

#### Discussion of Electric Vehicles

- The Automotive X Prize competition is going on in Michigan. The TW4XXP Alternative team is still in the running, one of 14 teams left.
- The Electrification Coalition gives free books called The Electrification Roadmap here: <http://www.electrificationcoalition.org/index.php>
- Many benefits of plug-in vehicles discussed: The grid is cleaner than the internal combustion engine.
- Regulated Pricing. Electric Utilities are organized for public benefit as well as profit. Public utilities commissions regulate them. As a result, the price of electricity is extremely stable.
- Efficiency. Electric vehicles put a huge amount of their stored energy into moving the car forward. Internal combustion engines put a lot of their energy into making waste heat and are therefore not as efficient.

- Air Quality. Internal combustion engines emit a raft of compounds that are unhealthy, plain and simple. The more electric miles we can drive, the cleaner our air.
- Lower maintenance costs and less landfill waste. Electric vehicles require almost no maintenance and have no air cleaners, oil filters, spark plugs, engine oil, fan belts, radiators, fuel filters, etc.
- Resource suggested for more information about electric vehicles: Gizmag. The site has a video called "Why SAIC's Yez Concept Car is a landmark automobile"
- The video shows the car and the Shanghai 2010 Expo, which is 20 times larger than the previous Expo and twice as large as the Olympic extravaganza.
- Video available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pObxCXhf9-E>
- Discussion of China's economy and the vision it has for the auto industry, as well as how they move half a million people daily, many with electric vehicles.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

8 a.m.

Location: M2 Building, 301 N. Neil, Champaign, Floor 4