



School of Public Policy



# Transportation Policy, Operations, and Logistics

*Be Part of the Story...*

**D**ynamic. Rigorous. Respected. These are dominant characteristics of the Mason School of Public Policy, where students develop the skills to achieve and lead in their chosen professional fields and help change the world. ♦ The School of Public Policy is fully engaged in real-time research, dialogue, and problem solving with policymakers at the global, federal, state, regional, and local levels. Our faculty includes leading scholars and practitioners with expertise in such areas as complex networks, transportation planning and modeling, and critical infrastructures. Our students emerge from the school with a comprehensive skill set sought by employers in government and the private and nonprofit sectors. ♦ The school supports a full complement of disciplines, offering six different master's degrees and the nation's largest PhD program. It provides myriad opportunities for hands-on research. All of this is located at our convenient campus in Arlington, Virginia, on Metro's Orange Line, just a 15-minute ride from the White House. ♦ At the Mason School of Public Policy, the combination of access and acumen gives you a unique opportunity to make your mark on the world. Think big.

### **TRANSPORTATION FACULTY FORGE NEW PATHS FOR PUBLIC POLICIES**

Rising fuel prices, congested roads, and crowded skies are placing new demands on governments to respond in ways that keep people moving and economies growing as efficiently and safely as possible. The faculty of the Mason School of Public Policy's Transportation Policy, Operations, and Logistics (TPOL) master's degree are on the leading edge, helping policy makers forge new paths and improve existing ones.

Program Director Jonathan Gifford is working on a new model for public-private partnerships that will attract investment in transportation infrastructure and help public agencies manage financial risks. Professor Kenneth Button routinely advises lawmakers and corporate executives on the economics of road pricing and recently completed a project for the World Bank on the best way for cities to position themselves as a gateway to larger regions. He also has researched the aviation industry, including the economics of airlines that have helped frame regulatory policies in the United States and Europe.

These are just two examples of how the program's faculty members directly consult with policymakers around the world when they're not teaching in the classroom. As Congress appropriated money to rescue the economy in early 2009, for example, Gifford led a panel discussion, in Washington, D.C., titled "How to Spend a Trillion Dollars," that focused on the best way to invest in transportation infrastructure.

The faculty includes School of Public Policy Dean Kingsley Haynes, who serves as a chief investigator of a national research center that works in conjunction with the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech to implement information technology effectively across modes of transportation.

The program's research capabilities are enhanced by a center founded by the U.S. Department of Transportation, where a team of five core researchers work with additional scholars and graduate students in conjunction with federal and state transportation officials on projects that range from improving driver safety to aviation security.



*Professor Kenneth Button is one of the Transportation Policy, Operations, and Logistics program's leading scholars, expounding both in the classroom and in consultations with decision-makers around the world. This diversity of influence is typical of the faculty, which is directly engaged with finding real-world solutions while instructing the next generation of leaders in the field.*



## **STUDENTS ATTRACTED TO BLEND OF THEORY, PRACTICUM**

When Mike Bousliman of Montana decided he wanted to get a master's degree in transportation policy, he chose the School of Public Policy's TPOL program. The program's reputation urged him to attend class via videoteleconference from 2,000 miles away through a unique application of distance learning.

"The main reason I chose to pursue this program was the opportunity to participate with my peers at the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), to learn more about transportation policy, and to be able to gain the knowledge of a program that was directly tied to the practical application of policy," says Bousliman, now Chief Administrative Officer for MDT.

The program provides a unique blend of theoretical classroom discussion with hands-on opportunities for students to apply those concepts by working on real projects funded by groups ranging from the U.S. Department of Transportation to the American Astronautical Society.

This practical experience translates into jobs and students advance quickly

to leadership positions. Bousliman says he's been promoted twice since earning his degree. Other graduates hold senior-level positions at the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Railway Express, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Maritime Administration, Booz Allen Hamilton consulting firm, and the American Association of Port Authorities, among others.

Heather Hamilton, who is due to graduate in 2010, says she has already interned in a U.S. senator's office, in a U.S. attorney's office, and at the Department of the Secretary of State in Maine. These experiences, she says, have helped to secure her a job in the U.S. Department of Justice after she graduates.

"The program has helped me land interviews just about every place I apply," she says. "I have used my professors for references in order to get scholarships or internships. They are wonderfully accessible. I can go into their office during office hours whenever I need to discuss something or get clarification. I am not only viewed as a student, but as a peer that will one day have a career in this industry."

*Students in the TPOL program are immersed in the theory and practice of managing complex systems across modes, from air traffic control to waterways to highways. Graduates typically assume leadership positions in top agencies and use their skills to quickly advance.*



*Artist rendering of Founder's Hall, the new home of the School of Public Policy, scheduled to open in late 2010.*

### **ADMISSIONS**

For information about application requirements and admissions deadlines, to request an information packet, or to download an application, please visit our web site at

*[policy.gmu.edu/admissions](http://policy.gmu.edu/admissions)*

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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