Project Title: Real-time Online Decision Support System for Intermodal Passenger Travel

Principal Investigators:
Mengqi Hu, Ph.D.                        Yao-Jan Wu, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor                    Assistant Professor
Department of Industrial & System Engineering Department of Civil Engineering
Mississippi State University            Saint Louis University
Email: mhu@ise.msstate.edu, Phone: 662-325-7623 Email: yaojan@slu.edu, Phone: 314-977-8249

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Project Summary:

In the United States, transportation modes and their respective industries have evolved independently over time, but the public transportation is underutilized compared to other developed countries. Also, development of intermodal transportation for passengers lags behind the freight transportation system. An information-management system that can handle overabundant travel information and track the changes in transportation schedules in real-time is lacking.

The research objective of this two years project is to improve the efficiency of intermodal-passenger transportation, improve the utilization of public transportation modes, and reduce transportation cost and travel time for passengers by developing a decision support system for intermodal passenger travel that’s available in real time online. The following research tasks will achieve this objective: 1) design an “all-in-one” database to store travel information for multiple modes; 2) develop an automatic data collection strategy to collect real-time travel data; 3) propose an intelligent decision support method to determine the best itinerary based on passenger’s preferences; 4) develop a web-based travel search system and real-time notification mechanism for unexpected plan changes; and 5) system verification and validation. The project should benefit U.S. transportation by building a coherent and efficient intermodal passenger transportation system that improves travelers’ scheduling, increases the utilization of public transportation, and improves the overall efficiency of the U.S. transportation system.