TRANSPORTATION IN RURAL AMERICA:
Challenges and Opportunities

Monday, March 15, 2004
1:00–4:30 p.m.

Weber Music Hall
University of Minnesota Duluth
1151 University Drive
Duluth, Minnesota
The James L. Oberstar Forum, hosted by the University of Minnesota’s Center for Transportation Studies, was created to examine and improve national transportation policy by facilitating an open exchange of ideas and experiences among state, national, and international leaders in transportation and academia.

The forum is named after Minnesota Congressman James L. Oberstar, a long-time leader in creating national transportation policy and establishing research and education programs in transportation technology.

This year’s forum will be held on the University of Minnesota Duluth campus and co-hosted by the Northland Advanced Transportation Systems Research Laboratories (NATSRL).

FORUM OVERVIEW

Purpose
The University of Minnesota has established an ongoing forum to address national issues related to transportation policy and technology. The Oberstar Forum explores how transportation in the United States is changing—given the political, economic, social, and technological forces affecting society. Participants re-examine current assumptions and develop potential new directions for national transportation policy. The forum also develops ways to strengthen the transfer and application of academic research to transportation policy and technology development.

Participants
State, national, and international leaders in transportation are invited to participate with faculty leaders from the University of Minnesota and other academic institutions. These invited leaders react to brief presentations on trends and together develop alternative visions and policy directions for transportation. The forum concludes with a keynote address and discussions that are open to the public.

2004 OBERSTAR FORUM

Transportation in Rural America: Challenges and Opportunities
The third Oberstar Forum will explore how rural America is being transformed and the resulting challenges for transportation. It will also examine the potential opportunities and new policy directions for transportation in rural and small urban areas. Topics to be discussed include:

- urbanization of the countryside
- diversification of the rural economy
- changing role of transportation in economic development
- low-density issues of accessibility, separation, and isolation
- opportunities for technology in rural transportation
- the government’s role and public policy implications

The Oberstar Forum is free and open to the public, but attendees are encouraged to fill out the enclosed registration form as space is limited.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

1:00 p.m. Registration
1:30 p.m. Welcome
   Herb Bergson, Mayor, City of Duluth
1:45 p.m. Keynote Remarks
   Introduction by Congressman James Oberstar
   Norman Mineta, Secretary, USDOT (invited)
2:30 p.m. Implications for Minnesota and the Nation—A Panel Discussion
   Congressman James Oberstar
   James M. Foote, Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Canadian National Railroad
   Paul Foley, Chief Executive Officer, MAIR Holdings, Incorporated (including Mesaba Airlines)
   Anthony Giancola, Executive Director, National Association of County Engineers (invited)
   Richard Killingsworth, Director, Active Living By Design Program, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina (invited)
4:00 p.m. Concluding Remarks
   Congressman James Oberstar
4:30 p.m. Adjourn