



# NEWS RELEASE



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## **CITE and PCB Now Offering Introduction to Systems Engineering Web-based Course**

Do you need to learn how to develop and deploy systems the right way while complying with Federal requirements for use of a systems engineering process? The Consortium for ITS Training and Education (CITE), in conjunction with the FHWA ITS Joint Program Office (JPO) Professional Capacity Building (PCB) Program, have introduced a new web-based course called "Introduction to Systems Engineering" that will definitely help.

As transportation professionals plan, deploy, and operate Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) nationwide, they grow ever more dependent on electronics and software. Integration of hardware and software, particularly for large-scale projects, can be very problematic. By following a systems engineering process, transportation professionals can ensure successful implementation of their ITS projects, taking their solutions step-by-step from concept through implementation, operations, and assessment.

Why is Systems Engineering so important? It is a well-established and logical project management process that provides a disciplined approach to building complex systems. It ensures that all activities in a project are conducted in a timely and economical manner. System engineering simplifies a project by merging management and technical activities within a single work process.

The United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) understands the importance and benefits of using systems engineering. Consequently, as part of the Federal Rule/Policy on Architecture Conformity, a systems engineering approach is required on all federally funded ITS projects.

This Introduction to Systems Engineering course provides an overview of systems engineering for transportation applications. The course presents system engineering tools and techniques, and covers all phases in the project life cycle from vision through development, design, operations, and maintenance. It is designed for professionals at all levels of government, and in the private sector, who are involved in advanced transportation.

CITE eliminates the inconvenience of attending courses away from the office by providing courses through an interactive web-based format. All of CITE's courses are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The courses provide student interactivity through a stimulating mix of participatory activities, such as self-study quizzes, exercises or problems, and drag-and-drop pages. These activities help support and reinforce the text-based information and keep students engaged and active in the learning process.

This course is available as both a regular web-based course and a "blended" course. A "blended" course combines the best features of both instructor-led and web-based instruction. These features include:

- Live discussions with the instructor through the use of conference calls,
- Convenient, flexible web-based learning,
- A specific time schedule in which to complete the course, and
- Interaction with other students through the use of class problems posted on a discussion board.

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The author of the course is Philip Tarnoff, Director of the Center for Advanced Transportation Technology and the Maryland Technology Transfer Center at the University of Maryland. He is also the instructor for the blended version of the course which begins on September 23, 2005.

The blended version of the Introduction to Systems Engineering course will begin on September 23, 2005. The fee for this course is partially sponsored by FHWA and is only \$100. The regular price of the course is \$200. Students can register by going to the CITE web site at <http://www.citeconsortium.org>.

The FHWA PCB program has developed a Systems Engineering series of courses, of which this Introduction to Systems Engineering is one. This course has been available as a classroom course through the National Highway Institute and has now been converted into a web-based version to be able to reach out to those students who have been unable to attend the classroom course. The content is the same, only the course presentation is different.

For more information, visit <http://www.citeconsortium.org> or contact Kathleen Frankle, CITE Program Manager at 410-414-2925 or [kfrankle@umd.edu](mailto:kfrankle@umd.edu).

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