Associate director Susan Handy describes ULTRANS research.

Under California’s Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act (SB 375), major cities must reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with vehicle use by about 7% per person in 2020 and 15% in 2035.

Other states and the U.S. Congress are exploring similar laws and programs, and the U.S. Department of Transportation has made “livability” a top priority.

ULTRANS researchers are developing the knowledge, policy expertise and tools to support these initiatives.

We are:

- World leaders in producing comprehensive computerized forecasting models that take into account land use, transportation and economic activity.
- Writing and disseminating policy briefs summarizing previous and ongoing research results, to make this important information more accessible and useful.
- Creating a spreadsheet tool to give local policymakers immediate access to findings relevant to their community.
- Conducting case studies of voluntary climate initiatives underway in eight California cities.

**Urban Land Use and Transportation Center** focuses on relationships between land use, transportation, and government policy, and choices that people make about where to live, work, and play, and how and when to travel.

We study the key factors that impact these choices, as well as the ways that choices of households and businesses influence development.

We examine the interaction of federal and regional policies, including incentives for climate-friendly and physically active communities.

We teach graduate students, train professionals how to use modeling, and give technical assistance to those working in policy development and implementation.
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A green ‘living lab’

In summer 2012, we move to new offices in the nation’s largest zero net energy (ZNE) community, designed to generate as much energy as it consumes.

When done in 2014, the 130-acre UC Davis West Village will be home to 3,000 students, faculty and staff in 662 apartments and 343 single-family houses.

ITS-Davis will use West Village as a “living laboratory,” testing new sustainability strategies — such as EV charging in high-efficiency homes using renewable energy, car-sharing, and mode shifting from cars to transit and bike.

World’s top university research center on sustainable transportation

Focus on vehicles, fuels, mobility & land use

60 researchers
130 graduate students
$12 million budget

Key roles:
• Taking Charge guide for California’s PEV rollout
• California EV infrastructure design
• 54 mpg CAFE standards
• Low carbon fuel standards
• Regional land-use models for California SB 375 implementation

Funding:
• All California and US environmental and transport agencies
• 40 auto and energy companies
• 10 foundations

15 miles from Sacramento, we advise California’s agency and legislative leaders on sustainable transportation.

ITS-Davis Director and Professor
Dan Sperling

• Leading international expert on low-carbon transportation
• Author: Two Billion Cars
• Key author of climate-change report by United Nations panel that received the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize
• Given 2010 Heinz Award for extraordinary achievements in transportation research and policy
• Leads many initiatives that promote science informing public policy
• Calif. Air Resources Board member

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