

# 2011 Distinguished Lecture Kirlin Distinguished Seminar Series

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## Highway Transportation Trends and Challenges for the Engineer



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**C**ars, trucks and the Interstate Highway System have shaped the American landscape. Virtually everything in our homes, offices and classrooms has been transported over our roads. Civil engineers have been at the heart of enabling our high standard of living that depends so heavily on mobility. However, a perfect storm has been forming over the past decade as traffic growth has continued unabated. Civil engineers will once again have a key role to play to ensure people and goods continue to move over our roads, albeit in a much broadened scope and dimensions we may not have fully appreciated before.

We will examine how the nation's highways have developed, what trends are apparent and what opportunities lay before the next generation of civil engineers. Current realities demand much more of civil engineers than the traditional classroom subjects of strength of materials, statics, structural design, etc. To be successful, engineers must be capable of understanding the larger societal context.

2011

**Wednesday, April 20 2011**

12:00pm Lecture

1179 Glenn Martin Hall