

Midwest Transportation Knowledge Network Formed

Transportation librarians from throughout the Midwest (AASHTO Region 3) met in Minneapolis on December 4-5 to create the Midwest Transportation Knowledge Network (MTKN). Attendees came from Ohio, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, and Michigan, as well as the National Transportation Library, the Universities of Minnesota and Michigan, and Purdue and Northwestern Universities. Building on progress made throughout the past year under the leadership of **Roberto Sarmiento**, director of the Transportation Library at Northwestern University, and **Nelda Bravo**, head of the National Transportation Library, the group is ready to formalize a cooperative network and to create a shared resource catalog, which should be available in the summer of 2003.

One major goal of the MTKN is to create a single point of access for the bibliographic catalog records of all member libraries, with cooperative lending of these resources among members. The MTKN will also gather and develop training products that members can use to educate their customers on topics such as finding transportation information on the Internet and how to use transportation information databases.

Participants expect the MTKN to benefit their organizations by providing transportation professionals with desktop access to a wider range of transportation information resources, and to maximize the use of these resources, which is especially important in this time of tight state budgets.

If you would like further information about Midwest Transportation Knowledge Network, please contact **Jerry Baldwin**, Mn/DOT Library Director and MTKN Executive Committee Chair, 651-297-4532, jerry.baldwin@dot.state.mn.us, or **Arlene Mathison**, CTS librarian, 612-624-3646, amathison@cts.umn.edu.