

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Committee Triennial Strategic Plan (TSP)

Committee Name and Number: AP025, Public Transportation Planning and Development

Committee Chairperson: Ed Beimborn, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (April 2005 – April 2011)
Brendon Hemily, Hemily and Associates (April 2011 - present)

TSP Three-Year Period: April 2010 to April 2012

Date Prepared: December 2011

Committee Future Outlook Statement:

Current Committee Scope

The committee's scope is to examine, discuss and disseminate public transportation ideas and issues from the planning, development, operational and project implementation perspectives. It strives to foster topics for future research, promote widespread dissemination of findings and recommendations, with operational implications where possible. The committee considers emerging trends, new ideas and innovations as they influence public transportation planning and development and assists in defining public transportation's roles, contribution, and future direction as it relates to the larger intermodal environment and the overall fields of community development, transportation, and infrastructure systems. The committee considers impact of factors such as land use, technologies, market and patronage, pricing, service innovations, public policy, tools and techniques for product planning, and changes in the planning environment, including employment, activity patterns and related factors.

Factors and influences that will shape the committees activities

As a result of its broad scope, the Committee addresses a wide range of topic areas, including for example:

- Travel behavior, human factors, demographic, land use and mobility patterns that affect the attractiveness of, or demand for, public transportation
- External factors, such as the volatility in gas prices which affects travel behavior and mode split.
- Sustainable development and mobility societal goals, and the role of public transportation in pursuing these goals
- Federal policies and regulations related to public transportation infrastructure investment, planning, operations, and management; coordinated land use and transportation planning, or policies affecting the competition between different modes.
- Best practices related to integrated approaches to land use planning, transportation planning, and transit planning.
- Analytic methodologies used for planning networks, new public transportation infrastructure, or the planning and development of individual services, as well as scheduling of multimodal services.

- Best practices and emerging developments related to public transportation service monitoring, planning, deployment, and the encouraging of innovation.
- Methodologies, or empirical research, used to explore the impacts of public transportation policies or services on mobility patterns, community development, or societal goals related to sustainability and equity.
- Methodologies, or empirical research, used to explore the benefits and challenges related to the choice of public transportation modes for specific corridors, such as LRT vs. BRT.
- Transit Oriented Development and Livable Cities and their various relationships to public transportation demand and planning

As a result of this broad scope, there are many ongoing trends and policy developments that are of interest to the Committee. In the shorter term, the ongoing efforts related to re-authorization, and the policies that may emerge from this effort are of particular concern.

Specific Challenges

The Committee faces some specific challenges in the shorter term.

- Diversity of membership: The committee represents a wide diversity of interests, as stated above. This represents one of the fascinating aspects of the Committee, but also represents one of its greatest challenges. The committee membership must represent a wide diversity of interests, topic areas, and skill sets in order to enable quality reviews of the wide diversity of paper topic areas the committees receive. This is particularly a challenge with respect to analytic papers, which seem to be increasing in number, and it remains a significant challenge to identify candidate committee members that can review analytic papers, while at the same time trying to maintain a balance in the committee membership between academics/consultants and transit agency/government agency staff.
- Increase in research papers from Asia: The Committee experienced in 2011 a huge increase in submitted papers from Asia, and in particular China, and this is likely to continue. The quality of the writing of these papers is often poor, and the topics are often analytic, making the reviews of these papers difficult. It is not clear whether the subject of this increased area of research is unique to the developing country context, or not. The Committee will need to discuss whether this merits the creation of a new topic area sub-committee, or how to address this increase in papers.

Committee Future Outlook

The committee has five major goals for the future:

- Foster topics for future research, promote widespread dissemination of findings and recommendations, with operational applications where possible;

- Identify, articulate, and stimulate follow-up activities on emerging trends, new ideas and innovations;
- Assist in defining public transportation's roles, contribution and future direction within the overall fields of community development, transportation and infrastructure systems;
- Coordinate and partner with other TRB committees, organizations and governmental entities (both nationally and internationally) to accomplish the Committee's overall mission;
- Promote fellowship and mentoring among the Committee's Members and Friends through research, conferences, newsletters and web site information

The committee plan below contains specific actions to achieve these goals.

Committee Plan:

Emerging issues inside and outside the committee scope

There are many emerging issues that are important to the Public Transportation Planning and Development Committee. The most critical transportation issues with the most direct connection to the committee's work follow:

- Congestion: Increasingly congested facilities across all modes;
- Energy and Environment: Extraordinary energy and environmental challenges;
- Equity - Burdens on the disadvantaged;
- Finance: Inadequate revenues;
- Infrastructure: Enormous aging capital stock to maintain; and
- Institutions: 20th century institutions facing 21st century challenges.
- Human and Intellectual Capital: Inadequate investment in innovation

Projects and Activities

The projects listed below will be used in the coming years to accomplish the five major goals identified by the committee. Most of these projects move the committee forward on more than one goal.

1. Assemble a committee of diverse, interested individuals who are willing to continually seek out and use a network of other professionals and academics across the country (and in other countries) to keep us current on innovations in public transportation options and institutional arrangements. Specific efforts will include:
 - A targeted effort to recruit transit agency staff that can participate in TRB activities and are comfortable in reviewing analytic papers, as well as meet TRB's overall policy of increasing diversity and the involvement of Young Members.
 - Exploring approaches for addressing the issues related to public transportation planning research emerging from Asia.
2. Develop an on-going set of research ideas and topics for investigation, which will lend

themselves to development into calls for papers, conference sessions, TCRP problem statements, special conferences and publications. Specific objectives would include:

- Complete a set of updated Committee research statements through a specific subcommittee on research and maintain research statements in the TRB electronic research database.
 - Develop at least one or two TCRP problem statements each year for submittal to TRB.
 - Collaborate with US DOT to identify developments and research needs, and dovetail our respective activities.
 - Consider the development of a Call for Papers each year (which could be co-sponsored with other committees) and orient TRB staff to our committee's interests so that we receive and review papers that lend themselves to cohesive sessions.
3. Increase inter-group liaison by:
- Committee member organizational involvement in APTA, APA, ITE, WSTLR, and other groups and activities related to Committee interests (for example, public transportation and land use, transit mitigation measurement, pricing strategies and multi-modal decision-making).
 - Seek to have committee members and friends provide updates at committee meetings on activities of other organizations such as FTA and APTA, as well as activities in other countries
 - Committee member involvement as "Friends" of related TRB committees (for example, Bus Transit, Planning Methods, Paratransit, Ridesharing, Statewide Multimodal Planning and Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Processes) for potential joint topics and investigations, as well as preventing overlaps or gaps in topics.
4. Increase Committee communications throughout the year by using/expanding technology – committee web page, email updates, conference calls, teleconferencing, and explore potential for organizing TRB Webinars on committee topics.

Membership

- Update Committee and Subcommittee membership to maintain balanced representation of both established and emerging applications of transportation pricing, across modes, different types of pricing applications, and different points of view. As mentioned above, special target areas include practitioners with analytic review skills, and approaches for addressing emerging research from Asia.
- Ensure that Committee membership reflects a balanced composition with regard to geography, gender, race, ethnicity, organizational affiliation, and skill sets.

Proposed changes in scope

No changes in the scope or title are needed now.

Appendix A - Committee History

Committee website

<http://www4.uwm.edu/cuts/trb/>

Membership gender and racial diversity

The committee currently has 29 members (including recent recruits and 3 active Emeritus Members). The breakdown is as follows:

Gender: 23 males 6 females (including Emeritus members)

Young: 3

Geographic distribution of membership

Eastern: 14 Central: 5 Western: 2 International: 8

Canada (North America): 5

Europe: 1

Asia: 2

Professional affiliation distribution of membership

Public Transportation Agencies: 7

Regional / Local Agencies: 2

Education: 9

Private Sector: 6

Federal / State Government: 2

Activity Areas and their chairs

Research: Committee Research Coordinator, Joana Conklin, Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning

Communications: Communications Coordinator, Ed Beimborn, formerly University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Paper Review

2009: 29 papers reviewed (8 recommended for publication)

2010: 35 papers reviewed (9 recommended for publication)

2011: 35 papers reviewed (9 recommended for publication)

2012: 50 papers reviewed (representing a 43% increase)

Other committee relationships

AP025 maintains formal and informal relationships with many different committees. They include, but are not limited to:

AP010	Transit Management and Performance
AP015	Transit Capacity and Quality of Service
AP020	Emerging and Innovative Public Transport and Technologies
AP025	Public Transportation Planning and Development
AP030	Public Transportation Marketing and Fare Policy
AP040	Major Activity Center Circulation Systems
AP045	Intermodal Transfer Facilities
AP050	Bus Transit Systems
AP060	Paratransit
AP065	Rail Transit Systems
AP070	Commuter Rail Transportation
AP075	Light Rail Transit
ADA20	Metropolitan Policy, Planning, and Processes
ADA60	Public Involvement in Transportation
ADB30	Transportation Network Modeling
ADB40	Transportation Demand Forecasting
ADD40	Transportation and Sustainability
AR010	Intercity Passenger Rail
AR055	Rail Transit Infrastructure
A0030T	Special Task Force on Data for Decisions and Performance Measures