

Strategic Plan for
Transportation Research Board Committee A5017
Library and Information Science in Transportation (LIST)
Draft for Discussion August 2002

1. Vision Statement *What We're Committed To*

To provide leadership for the transportation community in efforts to gather, organize, and disseminate information, utilizing current technology, for the improvement of transportation systems worldwide.

2.0 Values or Guiding Principles *What We Believe*

- 2.1 Access to the right information is vital in promoting advancements in transportation technology and improvements in transportation policy.
- 2.2 Adoption of standards for information presentation, storage and retrieval promotes exchange of, access to, and use of information.
- 2.3 Information developed in the public sector should be readily available to all.
- 2.4 Collaboration in the generation and transmission of transportation information promotes access and makes best use of scarce resources.
- 2.5 Continuing education for information professionals and information users facilitates use of the right information and the best information technologies.
- 2.6 Transportation information resources from around the world should be readily available in the U.S
- 2.7 Information has value over time and should be preserved.
- 2.8 Librarians have a responsibility to be knowledgeable about the activities of the organizations in which and with which they work.

3.0 Mission Statement *What's Our Business*

- 3.1. To serve as a forum for the transportation community, including policy makers, the general public, transportation librarians, and transportation researchers, to monitor developments in information science and their applicability to transportation.
- 3.2. To advocate and facilitate the development and implementation of information innovations, resources, and tools throughout the transportation community.
- 3.3. To promote and support education for information users and information professionals in the transportation community.
- 3.4. To define critical research issues in library and information science, especially in the area of transportation.
- 3.5. To promote coordination among transportation libraries in the U.S. and abroad.

4.0 History and Organizational Profile of the LIST Committee

The transportation community is experiencing dramatic changes place in information technology and library science. The TEA-21 legislation of 1998 created the National Transportation Library (NTL) within the U.S. Department of Transportation's (U.S. DOT) Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). The mission of the NTL is to improve the transportation community's access to information needed for transportation decision makers at national, state, and local levels. The NTL hosts a digital collection and provides reference services.

In 1999 the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and BTS signed a Memorandum of Understanding that has led to a fully searchable, public-domain, web-based version of the Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS) hosted by the National Transportation Library. One of the goals is to link the full text of most government publications to the TRIS records.

Within U.S. DOT alone several separate libraries exist. Approximately two-thirds of the state DOTs have libraries, as do many metropolitan planning organizations and transportation research centers at universities. Much needs to be done to utilize these resources more efficiently.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that known publications in the field of transportation are difficult to obtain. Most state DOT libraries have small staffs, and many do not participate in national or regional consortia that link disparate resources and provide training and other resources. Transportation lags behind other sectors in investing in library services.

In addition, the transportation community is truly a multi-disciplinary one. The environment, safety, and the role of transportation in economic growth are major pillars of the current surface-transportation legislation, TEA-21. Transportation professionals need access to a wider scope of information resources.

State DOTs, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, and the Federal Highway Administration acknowledged the need for a committee to promote a broad range of information science capabilities throughout the entire transportation community. They proposed establishing LIST to complement the TRB Information Services Committee, which focuses on issues related to TRIS and TRB library services.

The TRB Executive Committee approved the proposal in spring 1999. The LIST Committee held its first meeting in June 1999 in conjunction with the Annual Conference of the Special Libraries Association (SLA).

5.0 Goals and Strategies

- 5.1. Inform transportation professionals of new resources and tools. [Done, continue]
- 5.1.1. Conduct workshops and demonstrations and provide information booths at U. S. and international transportation conferences and regional meetings of the

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). [Done, continue]
- 5.1.2. Establish a sub-committee to serve as a reviewing mechanism for new electronic transportation resources and tools. [No action]
 - 5.1.3. Publish a Transportation Research Sources handout for conferences. [Done]
 - 5.2. Promote and provide support for the National Transportation Library and other national transportation collections. [Done, continue]
 - 5.2.1. Identify historical collections. [No action]
 - 5.2.2. Investigate and recommend funding for developing and maintaining physical international and national transportation collections. [No action]
 - 5.2.3. Work with the National Transportation Library to identify materials that should be incorporated into its electronic collection, e.g., reports of the Future Strategic Highway Research Program (F-SHRP). [No action as committee. Delete example.]
 - 5.2.4. Publish position papers on collection issues important to transportation, e.g., closing of National Technical Information Service (NTIS). [No action]
 - 5.3. Improve the exchange/flow of international information. [Sponsored conference, continue]
 - 5.3.1. Investigate and promote the practice of including information professionals at national and international transportation conferences. [?]
 - 5.3.2. Support demonstrations and workshops highlighting international resources presented by information professionals from abroad. [Done, continue]
 - 5.3.3. Support and promote the directory, *Highway Transportation Libraries, Information and Research Centers*. This directory should serve as the first step for developing an international network. [?]
 - 5.3.4. Work with FHWA to hold a second international workshop of information professionals. [Done]
 - 5.3.5. Identify those countries and publishers that produce information most important to U.S. transportation initiatives and whose material is not systematically collected in the U.S. [No action]
 - 5.3.6. Investigate and recommend a funding mechanism for obtaining foreign transportation information. [No action]
 - 5.3.7. Identify institutions that are willing to collect and maintain foreign transportation publications. [No action]
 - 5.3.8. Investigate an international document delivery strategy. [No action]
 - 5.4. Identify and develop institutional partnerships and alliances.
 - 5.4.1. Co-sponsor key events, such as the AASHTO Document Management and Workflow Conference. [?]
 - 5.4.2. Co-sponsor workshops, seminars, and other events with the SLA Transportation Division. [Done with SLA. Presentation at 2001 TRB Annual Meeting.]
 - 5.4.3. Coordinate with the FHWA Office of Professional Development on its efforts in knowledge management. [No action]
 - 5.4.4. Coordinate joint actions and events with other organizations. [Redundant]

- 5.4.5. Provide expertise on information management to leading research initiatives, such as F-SHRP. [No action]
- 5.5. Advocate and publicize effective information handling as a means to an improved business process. [Should we retain this section?]
- 5.5.1. Promote the value of information and share case studies on benefits derived from effective information handling.
- 5.5.2. Position information handling as a means to asset management, which is an important topic for FHWA and AASHTO.
- 5.5.3. Identify and develop relationships with “information hounds” and “information champions” in leading roles in various transportation organizations.

6.0 Service Levels and Success Indicators

- 6.1. The success of the LIST Committee can be measured by the extent to which it fulfills its mission and achieves the goals it sets for itself. TRB performs a triennial review of its committees. Questions to be addressed, both quantitatively and qualitatively, for this TRB review would include:
 - 6.1.1. In what ways has the Committee alerted transportation professionals of new information resources and tools?
 - 6.1.2. How has the Committee provided support for the NTL and other national transportation collections?
 - 6.1.3. What activities has the Committee engaged in to promote international networking?
 - 6.1.4. Is a mechanism in place for securing of international transportation research information?
 - 6.1.5. What institutional partnerships and alliances are in place?
 - 6.1.6. How has the Committee served as an advocate for information handling as a means to improved business processes?
- 6.2. Some general baseline service levels identified to support the Committee mission and goals are listed below:
 - 6.2.1. Present a program at TRB Annual Meetings: formal presentation, a workshop, a booth, or an online demonstration.
 - 6.2.2. Offer workshops, information booths, or online demonstrations at regional transportation meetings at least every two years.
 - 6.2.3. Hold two committee meetings per year, one at the TRB annual conference and the second at an AASHTO regional meeting or at the Annual Conference of the Special Libraries Association.
 - 6.2.4. If FHWA funding is available, coordinate a conference for transportation international information professionals in 2001.

7.0 Implementation Plan

- 7.1. Make a formal presentation on transportation information resources at the June 2000 meeting of environmental resources information professionals. [?]

- 7.2. Prepare and present a formal, one-hour session regarding transportation information resources to participants at the ASSHTO Research Advisory Committee meeting in late July 2000, St. Louis, Missouri. [Done]
- 7.3. Prepare printed handouts featuring citations to major transportation resources to be ready for the January 2001 TRB Annual Meeting. This project will be undertaken with the Transportation Division, Special Libraries Association. [Done]
- 7.4. Prepare a series of “hands-on” computer demonstrations focusing on various transportation databases. These demonstrations will be presented as the LIST Committee’s formal program for the 2001 TRB Annual Meeting. [?]
- 7.5. Participate in the planning and organization of the projected International Conference on Transportation Information Access to be held in Tampa, Florida, July 29-August 4, 2001. [Done]

Other

Presentation on metadata at January 2002 committee

Nelda Bravo made presentation on the Value of Information study at the OECD conference in?

Nelda Bravo, Barbara Post, and Sandy Tucker provided hands-on demonstrations of TRIS Online, TRB RiP, and the web site for the Transportation Pooled Fund Program at 2002 RAC meeting in Kalispell.

Collaborating with NTL and Midwest Consortium in planning and developing program for 2002 Midwest Conference on Library & Information Services for Transportation.

Planning program with TRB History Committee?

Future

Handout/workshop on using the Transportation Research Thesaurus Strategies in section 5 above.