

TRB Metadata Subcommittee - ABJ00(2)

Mission, Roles and Products

Last Updated: January 18, 2006

Mission:

Facilitate and guide the coordinated development, adoption, and long-term implementation of stable metadata standards for describing, finding, and using the datasets that underlie much of transportation research, planning, modeling and policymaking.

Roles:

- Facilitate information sharing about current metadata standards, practices and applications, and work towards coordination across metadata-related efforts within (and outside of) the TRB community,
- Work towards a common understanding of metadata and its value and applications within the TRB community – work with both data producers and data users to demonstrate the advantages of using standardized metadata (adoption by producers of data will be key for metadata initiatives to succeed),
- Promote best practices in the use of standardized metadata among data producers, data users, and data archives – encourage papers, presentations, and publications to stimulate interest in metadata and enhance credibility of metadata issues,
- Serve as a focal point for furthering development of transportation metadata standards, through identification of priority needs, promoting research projects to lay the technical groundwork for standards, supporting and participating in continuing work within standards development organizations and promoting consistency across efforts, and
- Ensure wide usability of standardized metadata by promoting training and tools development opportunities.

Products

1. Metadata research agenda
2. Proposal for Metadata Task Force – mission, goals, objectives and activities

Content of Proposed Strategic Plan for Transportation Metadata (recommended Task Force activity)

- Establish the need for the development of metadata standards and their potential benefits to transportation practice;
- Determine the general types of standards that are required and ascertain the policy implications of instituting metadata standards, especially barriers to acceptance;
- Identify other ongoing efforts that have an impact on the development of metadata standards for transportation data, and recommend how coordination may be achieved;
- Propose a schedule and recommend organizations (and other participants) that should develop and maintain metadata standards; and
- Identify methods to promote the use of completed metadata standards within the transportation community