

# DRAFT 2006 Activities

## Data and Information Systems Section (ABJ00)

Updated 12/18/06

### ***Section Critical and Cross-cutting Issues***

#### **Transportation Information Assets and Impacts**

Reacting the SAFETEA-LU provision on Transportation Information Needs Assessment, the Data Section solicited TRB's standing committees for information unmet or poorly met transportation needs at the 2006 TRB Annual Meeting. A total of 2006, 144 TRB committees and their members, representing all modes and all eleven Technical Activity Groups offered over 650 transportation information needs. The project team developed a classification scheme to encompass the responses and convey them in an understandable structure. An overview of these results and the data needs framework were presented to a workshop with more than 40 TRB committee chairs at the TRB Summer Conference in July 2006. The value of information in specific decisions was illustrated with a series of real examples and further elucidated through the results of decision maker interviews. The information gathered is summarized in a TRB circular *Transportation Information Assets and Impacts* and will be the focus of a session at the TRB annual meeting. Next steps include the *Information Assets to Support Transportation Decision Making: A Peer Exchange of State Transportation Organizations* described below being developed cooperatively with AASHTO's Standing Committee on Planning. The topic will be one of six sessions at the TRB Summer Conference and has been selected as one of the eight Critical and Cross-cutting Issues for the TRB Policy and Organization Group.

#### ***Meetings and Conferences***

May 3-4, 2006

Environmental Geospatial Information for Transportation: A Multidisciplinary Examination of Noteworthy Practices

Washington, DC

[www.TRB.org/Conferences/EnvGIS](http://www.TRB.org/Conferences/EnvGIS)

June 4-7, 2006

North American Travel Monitoring Exposition and Conference (NATMEC)

Minneapolis, MN

[www.natmec.org](http://www.natmec.org)

June 19-22, 2006

North American Transportation Statistics Interchange\*

Washington, DC

July 8, 2006

Challenges of Data for Performance Measures

La Jolla, CA

October 17-18, 2006

Research Opportunities in Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Transportation Applications Conference

Washington, DC

<http://www.trb.org/Conferences/RFID/>

October 23-26, 2006  
International Visualization in Transportation Symposium and Workshop--"The Spectrum of Benefit"  
Denver, CO  
<http://www.trb.org/Conferences/Visualization/>

November 1-2, 2006  
Integrating Roadway, Traffic and Crash Data Peer Exchange  
Washington, DC

## **Committees**

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Task Force on Visualization in Transportation (ABJ95T) became a full committee.

### **Leadership Developments**

Alan Pisarski is ending his term as chair of the Data and Information Systems Section (ABJ00). Johanna Zmud of NuStats will assume that role in April.

Thomas Bolle will be beginning his second term as an at large member of the Data and Information Systems Section (ABJ00).

Pat Hu will be starting a second term as chair of the National Transportation Data Requirements and Programs Committee (ABJ10).

Dave Gardner of Ohio DOT is the chair of the NATMEC Planning Task Force (ABJ25T), taking over after the successful 2006 conference chaired by Jonette Kreideweis of Minnesota DOT.

Kara Kockelman of the University of Texas will become chair of Travel Survey Methods Committee (ABJ40) as Johanna Zmud moves on to be Section Chair.

Doug Couto of the State of Michigan will begin his second term as chair of the Information Systems and Technology (ABJ50). His Co-Chair Ben Nelson of Kansas DOT is ending his term.

Shinya Kikuchi of Virginia Tech will succeed Gary Spring of Merrimack College as chair of the Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Computing Applications (ABJ70).

Scott Drumm of the Port of Portland has joined Ben Ritchey of Battelle as Co-Chair of the Freight Data Committee (ABJ90).

### **Subcommittees**

#### **Research**

**Mission:** Coordinate the development, submittal and promotion of research needs within the ABJ00 Section of Data and Information Technology

**Members:** James Hall, Chair, ABJ20, Kitty Hancock ABJ10, Cath Lawson ABJ30, Jean Wolf ABJ40, Doug Couto & Ben Nelson ABJ50, Harvey Miller & Val Noronha ABJ60, Ghassan Abu-Lebdeh ABJ70, Mike Griffith & John Ivan ABJ80, David Hunt ABJ90, Ron Hughes ABJ95T, Alavi Sirous & Mark Gardner AFD30, Tom Bolle

#### **2006 Activities**

- Subcommittee Members participated in developing portions of the forthcoming Electronic Circular resulting from the October 2005 Data Requirements in Transportation Reauthorization Legislation Conference including the impacts and challenges of new SAFETEA-LU data requirements and the identification of emerging strategy directions for the data programs.

- Participated in the July 2006 Challenges of Data for Performance Measures Workshop in La Jolla, California which developed four distinct research project proposals in time for the 2008 Cooperative Research Program process.
- Participated in the November 2006 Integrating Roadway, Traffic and Crash Data Peer Exchange in Washington, DC which developed seven distinct research project proposals to pursue in the 2009 Cooperative Research Program process

## **Metadata**

**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.

**Members:** Frances Harrison-chair (Information Systems and Technology), Jack Stickel (Statewide Data), James Hall (GIS & Apps), Ralph Gillman (Highway Traffic Monitoring), Scott Dahl (National Data), Guy Rousseau (Travel Survey Methods), Xiaoduan Sun (Statistics), Kuo-Ann Chiao (Urban Transportation), Marcus Wigan (Freight Data). In addition, Joyce Koeneman is a subcommittee member representing the Library & Information Science Committee (LIST).

### **Activities in 2006:**

- Bi-monthly conference calls to share information, coordinate activities, and update the metadata research agenda.
- Developed Call for Papers: "Semantic Transportation Data Models", received five responses, coordinated their review and organized paper session for TRB 2007 including the three top papers. These papers cover applications in asset management, bridge management, and traveler information.
- Organized session for TRB 2007: "Agile Standards Development: Pipe Dream or Possibility" – with updates on the TMDD and ADUS efforts, and NCHRP 8-37, standardizing questions on household travel surveys.
- Worked with LIST to develop synthesis proposal for NCHRP: "Best Practices in Metadata Application" (not selected).
- Worked with LIST to initiate a new Research Problem Statement to update the Transportation Research Thesaurus to include definitions and scope notes for terms.

## ***Publications***

*Commodity Flow Survey Conference*, E-C088,  
<http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/circulars/ec088.pdf>

*6<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Asset Management*, E-C093  
<http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/circulars/ec093.pdf>

*Environmental Geospatial Information for Transportation*, E-C16  
<http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/circulars/ec106.pdf>

*Spatial Information Technologies for Asset Management Peer Exchange*, E-C10  
<http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/circulars/ec108.pdf>

*Transportation Information Assets and Impacts*, E-C109  
<http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/circulars/ec109.pdf>

## **Forthcoming**

*Artificial Intelligence in Transportation: Guidelines for Application*

*Challenges of Data for Performance Measures Workshop*

*Research Opportunities in Transportation Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Applications Conference*

*Data Requirements in Transportation Reauthorization Legislation Conference*

## **Key Relationships and Interests**

The section nurtures relationships with data users by means of the Freight Data Users Forum and the Passenger Data Users Forum.

The Data Section maintains a close working relationship with AASHTO's Standing Committee on Planning's (SCOP) Data Task Force and their Census Working Group.

## **Cooperative Research Projects**

NCHRP 8-37, Standards for Household Travel Surveys: The project has been completed. The revised draft final reports have been submitted and a publication decision is pending. Pending publication, the agency's revised draft final report is available on a loan basis. The Phase 1 results are summarized in **NCHRP Research Results Digest 261**.

NCHRP 08-48 Using the American Community Survey for Transportation Planning: Active project; the guidebook and final research report are still under development.

TCRP B-29, Transit Market Research: Leveraging ITS and Transit ITS Data: The preliminary draft of the final report is expected in February 2007.

## **Future Events**

Spring 2007

Information Assets to Support Transportation Decision Making: A Peer Exchange of State Transportation Organizations (by invitation)  
Kansas City, Kansas

Representatives from TRB and from AASHTO Standing Committee on Planning will conduct a peer exchange to examine case studies in the use of information in transportation decision making. Participants will explore the value of data and information sources as assets, identify key information resources for states and suggest useful strategies for maintaining and improving those resources.

May 2, 2007

Traffic Monitoring Data Workshop: Successful Strategies in Collection and Analysis  
Washington, DC

The workshop will serve as a dialogue among agencies within the Mid-Atlantic region on good practices for traffic data collection and on analytical uses that yield value from traffic data. The workshop would include presentations from Mid-Atlantic states and key MPOs.

May 15, 2007

North American Freight Transportation Data Workshop

Washington, DC

<http://www.trb.org/conferences/NAFD>

The workshop will bring together a diverse group of border data users and providers to discuss freight transportation data from a North American perspective, highlight recent changes in government supplied data sources, and assess user needs for today and the future. It will provide a venue to showcase recent and innovative applications of cross border and freight flow data to address important transportation, policy and development issues. Participants will include government data providers; federal, state, and local transportation officials; private industry data users; and academic researchers.

July 10, 2007

Meeting Freight Data Challenges Workshop

Chicago, IL

Recent conferences have identified adequate data as a major challenge to improved analysis and modeling of freight transportation flows. With anticipated increases in freight flows, improved decisions to mitigate projected freight transportation congestion need improved data resources. This workshop will: (a) examine ways to take better advantage of current national data sources like the Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) and the Freight Analysis Framework, (b) explore new sources such as private-public data sharing and the use of ITS data for freight applications, (c) explore the potential benefits that might be derived from improved information, and (d) define needed research to improve future key freight flow information.

November 6-8, 2007

New Directions in Asset Management and Economic Analysis: 7th National Conference on Asset Management

New Orleans, LA

<http://www.trb.org/conferences/Asset/2007/main.pdf> for the announcement

<http://www.trb.org/conferences/Asset/2007/main.pdf> for the Call for Presentations

This conference will sustain the diffusion of knowledge from the six previous conferences that served as a forum for practitioners, researchers, and others to share asset management experiences, and provide opportunities to learn about new tools and techniques. Participants will explore common asset management issues among the highways, and ports communities at all levels, strategic (executive), operational (program manager) and tactical (field staff). The following special topics will be explored:

- "Asset Management to Support Public-Private Partnerships"
- "Valuation of Assets"
- "Asset Management Partnerships Among Multiple Agencies and Owners "
- "Risk Assessment, Analysis in Decision Making."

November 28-29, 2007

Research Issues in Freight Transportation -- Congestion and System Performance

Washington, DC

This is the second University Transportation Center oriented conference organized by TRB and supported by US DOT's Research & Innovative Technology Administration. The preliminary conference objectives are:

- Improve collaboration among researchers
- Encourage synergies among universities, government and TRB committees
- Identify research opportunities of interest to academia and government
- Inform US DOT personnel about critical issues for the future

The conference will serve as a forum for the transportation research community. The planning committee will not make recommendations.

# Appendices

## *Midyear Meetings*

### 2006

<i>Cm</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Date</i>
ABJ10	NATMEC	Minneapolis	June 4-7, 2006
ABJ20	NATMEC	Minneapolis	June 4-7, 2006
ABJ25T	NATMEC	Minneapolis	June 4-7, 2006
ABJ30 #1	NATMEC	Minneapolis	June 4-7, 2006
	#2 TRB Summer Conference	La Jolla	July 9-11, 2006
ABJ40	NATMEC	Minneapolis	June 4-7, 2006
	#2 TRB Summer Conference	La Jolla	July 9-11, 2006
ABJ50	AASHTO Info Systems Cf	Ft Worth	June 4-7, 2006
ABJ90	TRB Summer Conference	San Diego	July 9-11, 2006

### 2007 Plans

<i>Cm</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Date</i>
ABJ10	TRB Summer Conference	Chicago	July 7-9, 2007
ABJ20	TRB Summer Conference	Chicago	July 7-9, 2007
ABJ30	TRB Summer Conference	Chicago	July 7-9, 2007
ABJ40 #1	TRB Summer Conference	Chicago	July 7-9, 2007
ABJ40 #2	TRB Summer Conference	Chicago	July 7-9, 2007
ABJ50	AASHTO Information Systems Cf	Pittsburgh	May 6-9, 2007
ABJ60	TRB Summer Conference	Chicago	July 7-9, 2007
ABJ90	TRB Summer Conference	Chicago	July 7-9, 2007