

Data Section Report

Committee Planning and Reports

This year is the first of the Policy and Organization Group (POG) new procedures for more future oriented triennial plans, thinking about critical and cross-cutting issues. Those triennial reports are due from all POG committees on April 15, 2006. Guideline for the reports are available on the POG web site, <http://www.trb.org/Committees/AB000/>. Those committees submitting TSEs in April, 2005 won't need to do reports until the next three year cycle. Those exempted are ABJ10, ABJ20, ABJ30, ABJ40, ABJ70.

Meetings and Conference

Census Data for Transportation Planning: Preparing for the Future, May 11-13, 2005, Irvine, CA, examined the use of the decennial census data for transportation and explored the implications of the Census Bureau's transition to the American Community annual survey to replace the Census long form.

Commodity Flow Survey Conference. July 8-9, Boston, looked at the use of this critical survey for freight planning and discussed potential improvements for the 2007 survey.

Peer Exchange on Freight Data for State Departments of Transportation, July 10, Boston.

Representatives from 13 states prepared reports on current practices and sources for providing data for their freight programs.

Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey (VIUS) Workshop, September 28, Washington, DC provided an opportunity for experienced VIUS users to discuss improvements for the 2007 Census Bureau survey.

Using Geospatial Technologies for Asset Management: A Peer Exchange on Current Practice and Key New Initiatives, October 30-31, Kansas City was an opportunity for teams from five states to better understand how geospatial technologies can enhance transportation asset management initiatives.

Data Requirements in Transportation Reauthorization Legislation Conference, December 8-9, Washington, DC identified and refined the data issues associated with surface transportation reauthorization legislative programmatic proposals. Participants suggested efficient data strategies for transportation organizations.

Future Events

Environmental Geospatial Information for Transportation (by invitation), May 3-4, 2006 will convene a multidisciplinary group to present their applications of environmental geospatial information for transportation, discuss common approaches and issues, and consider methods to facilitate adoption by other organizations. Participants will represent expertise in information technology, geospatial information technologies and environmental applications in transportation.

Preparations are underway for the **North American Travel Monitoring Exposition and Conference**, June 4-7, 2006, Minneapolis, www.natmec.org, a forum for exchange and dissemination of information related to the collection, management, and use of monitored traffic data. In order to provide the most relevant information, a web-based dialogue with the traffic data community developed a set of session topics. Then experienced professionals were invited propose their relevant knowledge and experience on those topics. The Early Bird Registration deadline is February 15.

Challenges of Data for Performance Measures Workshop, July 8, 2006 is a workshop for representatives from public sector transportation organizations to share experiences and discuss

key issues relating to the data sources used to support performance measures. The workshop will serve as a forum for dialog between the data and performance measurement communities to better understand both how data is developed and how they are used, and to suggest possible improvements in data and measures.

The **TRB Summer Conference** will be in San Diego, July 9-11, 2006. The program content will address TRB's critical issues. See www.trb.org/conferences/jointsummer/2006. The Freight Data Committee (ABJ90) is the only committee I staff planning to participate.

A **Research Initiatives in Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Conference** is planned for the fall, 2006 in Washington, DC. It will increase communication and collaboration among researchers involved in RFID technology applications for transportation, create opportunities for synergy among researcher, and identify opportunities for these technologies to enhance the mobility of freight and people.

Initiatives

Metadata

The Data and Information Systems Section defined important elements and challenges of Transportation Metadata – information about data or datasets – across the diverse transportation research communities. This work resulted in a section subcommittee, chaired by Frances Harrison to further the use of metadata in order to expand the use of data resources and allow better integration of data.

Transportation Information Needs Assessment

The Working Group for Technical Activities Division will coordinate and synthesize relevant information from the standing committee for this forthcoming policy study. The working group results will also be used to set directions for the data committee activities.

Publications

Commodity Flow Survey Conference, E-C088, due early 2006

Freight Data for State Transportation Agencies, E-C080

Enhancing the Value of Data Programs, E-C077

In process

Using Geospatial Technologies for Asset Management Electronic Circular

Data Requirements in Transportation Reauthorization Legislation Conference, Electronic Circular

Census for Transportation Planning: Preparing for the Future, Conference Proceedings

Leadership Developments

Harvey Miller of Utah State and Reg Souleyrette of Iowa State took over as co-chairs for Spatial Data and Information Science Committee (ABJ60).

Ben Ritchey of Battelle became Freight Data Committee (ABJ90) chair.

Frances Harrison was appointed as the first chair of the Section Metadata Subcommittee.

Key Relationships & 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.

Future Strategy for Transportation Information Management, which will provide advice to the federal government and the states on meeting the information services needs of the transportation sector.

NCHRP Project 8-48, Using *American Community Survey Data for Transportation Planning*

NCHRP Synthesis of Highway Practice 37-02, *Preservation and Use of Institutional Memory*
This synthesis study will be conducted to identify the practices followed by state DOTs for the effective organization, management, and transmission of documents and other forms of knowledge to current employees and the next generation of leadership.

Midyear Meetings

ABJ10	NATMEC	Minneapolis	June 4-7, 2006
ABJ20	NATMEC	Minneapolis	June 4-7, 2006
ABJ25T	NATMEC	Minneapolis	June 4-7, 2006
ABJ30	NATMEC	Minneapolis	June 4-7, 2006
ABJ40	NATMEC	Minneapolis	June 4-7, 2006
ABJ50	AASHTO Info Systems Cf	Ft Worth	June 4-7, 2006
ABJ90	TRB Summer Conference	San Diego	July 9-11, 2006
ABJ95T	Visualization in the Changing Transportation World	Denver	April 25-28, 2006