



## Data Section Leadership Changes

In April 2010, the Section chair will change. Reg Souleyrette, current co-chair of ABJ60 - Spatial Data and Information Science has accepted this responsibility. In the meantime, he will work with Johanna on drafting a strategic plan for the Section. Also Peter Keen, president of Digital Traffic Systems, has been nominated and has accepted chair of ABJ35 -- Highway Traffic Monitoring as Ralph Gillman the current chair will step down. Additional changes in leadership will come for ABJ50 - Information Systems and Technology and ABJ20 -- National Transportation Data Requirements and Programs as their chairs, Doug Couto and Pat Hu, complete their second 3-year terms. New chair recommendations are forthcoming.

### Group Cross-Cutting Sessions for 2010

At the Technical Activities Council (TAC) meeting in mid-June, TAC selected six Cross-Cutting sessions for the 2010 TRB Annual Meeting. This is fewer sessions than in the past because the Hilton will be undergoing reconstruction and there will be fewer session rooms available. *Something for committee chairs to note.*

Below is the list of six sessions selected, in rank order according to most votes. Our Policy and Organization Group (POG) is the lead on "Evolving Needs in Sources of Traffic Data." In addition, there are three others for which POG would be a co-sponsor (the underlined ones Cindy Burbank's name).

TAC wants Group Chairs to be engaged in shaping the session, which is why the relevant Group Chairs are listed above. But Committee Chairs are integral to success of the sessions. Thus, Chairs who are interested in working on these sessions that have POG involvement should let Johanna know

1. Transportation in Mega-Regions: Katie Turnbull (lead) w/Thera Black; Cindy Burbank
2. Evolving Needs in Sources of Traffic Data: Cindy Burbank (lead), w/Katie Turnbull and Dan Turner
3. Transportation's Role in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA): Ed Kussy (lead), Mary Lou Ralls, Karla Karash
4. Highways for Life, Mary Lou Ralls (lead), Dan Turner, Cindy Burbank
5. Bold Ideas and Big Challenges of Transportation and Development in China: Karla Karash (lead), Cindy Burbank
6. Freight Day Part 3 - Freight Planning: Paul Bingham and Jeannie Beckett (co-leaders)

## Triennial Strategic Plans

Strategic planning is an integral part of effective committee operations. Virtually all committees had submitted a TSP as of June 28. A value of TSPs is for Section committees to identify cross-cutting issues. The following is a listing of the issues that various committees are tracking as noted in their TSPs.



- ✓ **ABJ10 - National Data Programs:** Building a business case for data programs, Sustainable data infrastructure, Data quality, Data integration and fusion, Data sharing, privacy, and security, Climate change mitigation and carbon cap-and-trade, Energy and transportation, Land border crossing, global trade, and transportation operation, Transportation Surety and Resilience, System Performance, Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (VII).
- ✓ **ABJ20 - Statewide Transportation Data:** Analytical tools, Climate change, Cost Benefit & Return on Investment, Data quality and data collection, Data governance, Highway safety, Performance based data systems, Standards, Sustainable data system infrastructure, Risk assessment, Visualization.
- ✓ **ABJ30 - Urban Transportation Data:** Census data, Monitoring traffic and transit systems, ITS-generated data, Traveler characteristics and metropolitan travel patterns, Combining data sources, Standards for meta-data and meta-analysis, Continuous surveys, Archiving IT Data, GPS and other technologies, Small Area Land Use and Socioeconomic Data, Privacy and Data Ownership Concerns.
- ✓ **ABJ35 - Highway Traffic Monitoring:** Traffic requirements for the Mechanistic-Empirical Pavement Design Guide, Accurate counting and classification of vehicles, Algorithms for vehicle classification, Non-intrusive data collection technologies.
- ✓ **ABJ40 -- Travel Survey Methods:** Physical activity studies, Improving response rates and data quality, Freight transportation surveys, Truck movements, Improving transit trip collection, Survey design for activity-based and tour-based model calibration, Improved sampling techniques, Stated preference surveys, Longitudinal surveys, passively collected data.
- ✓ **ABJ60 -- Spatial Data:** Planning and equity, Energy and environment, Infrastructure, Operations, Safety, Emergency and emergency management.
- ✓ **ABJ70 -- Artificial Intelligence:** Data validation, Treatment of missing data, Knowledge extraction, model validation, Impacts of changes in fuel, Development of walk-aids device, Community sharing of cars and bikes, Intermodal integration, Application and roles of robots in transportation.

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## Recommendations for a Program of Research on Reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG)

At the request of TRB's executive committee, Cindy Burbank, POG chair, drafted recommendations for research on GHS and energy mitigation. The paper included a section on data, models, and other tools. She will discuss these recommendations at the Section meeting in Seattle (see p. 4). *Email Johanna at [jzmud@nustats.com](mailto:jzmud@nustats.com) if you'd like to receive this paper.* Recommendations included:

- Robust data on personal travel behavior at lower levels of geography, including longitudinal data on the linkage between travel behavior and land use;
- Better data on freight transportation to support freight policies, investments, and logistics changes that reduce GHG;
- Travel model improvements to account for the effects of pricing, operations strategies, land use, life-style factors, time of day, nonmotorized transportation, and other factors;
- Improved modeling capabilities within MPOs and other organizations, to deal with complex GHG policy issues;
- Multi-year monitoring of travel behavior changes that occur in response to new GHG policies, land use changes, and transportation investments.

## News Items from the TAC

### Addressing Critical and Cross-Cutting Issues

The Technical Activities Council requests that TRB Committees, Sections, and Groups give increased emphasis to the TAC "Critical and Cross Cutting Issues," by spending at least one hour each year discussing the Critical and Cross Cutting Issues and/or your own list of critical issues. A link to the 2009 Update of the Critical Issues can be found on p. 4 of this newsletter

### TRB Dropping State-of-the-Art Reports

TRB has reduced the number of types of reports it publishes by dropping the seldom used state-of-the-art reports by standing committees. The last state-of-the-art report was published in 2004 (number 9). Future publications developed by standing committees containing state-of-the-art information will be incorporated into our e-circular series.

### Revisions to Emeritus Program

TAC is considering a set of revisions to the Emeritus Member program. TAC has recently evaluated the program to preserve the stature of Emeritus appointments, to clarify the criteria for nomination and appointment, and to keep the program sustainable. More information will be provided to committee Chairs soon.

### 2010 TRB Annual Meeting Planning Underway

Annual Meeting Planning is being predicated on the expectation that travel budgets will continue to be tight, especially for public agency employees. 2009 Annual Meeting attendance was just over 10,000, a drop of only 500 from the 2008 record. Figures show a drop of about 35 percent in state DOT employee attendance from the preceding year. To counteract this, TRB is looking at investing in options that would bring more of the Annual Meeting to state DOT employees who cannot travel. TRB will keep committee Chairs informed of our progress in this area.

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## Annual Meeting Paper Review Check List

During the six months beginning August 1, we will all be involved in paper reviews, re-reviews and publication decisions. We realize it is easy to let a deadline or two slip, because there are always so many other things that need to be done leading up to the TRB Annual Meeting. To help you keep up with the various paper review deadlines, attached is a check-list for you to use, to act proactively rather than reactively. This is similar to what is found in the paper review system, but provides another format to assist you in keeping up with all the tasks. It is suggested that you print it out and post it in a location that will help to remind you.

Date	Task	Notes
By Aug 14	Verify that all papers are appropriate for your committee	Let Tom know if a paper is not a good fit for your committee.
By Aug 17	Assign reviewers to each paper	Assign at least 3 reviewers to each paper,
By Sept 15	Monitor completion of reviews	Send reminders to reviewers by Sept. 10
By Oct 1	All session and workshop details due to TRB -- Save presentation / publication recommendations	The number of papers that can be presented and published is limited to 25% so confirm your committee's thresholds with Tom
By Oct 16	Send review results to corresponding authors	Check with Tom per above prior to sending results
By Nov 20	View resubmitted papers (and assign re-reviews if necessary)	Paper authors may submit new versions of papers for re-review; use "assign reviewers" tab on webpage
By Jan 31	Final publication recommendations due	It is appropriate to make final publication decision in October -- but you may extend until this date

## Section Meeting in Seattle in July

The Section meets Tuesday, July 21 from 12 to 1:45pm. Box lunches will be provided. The agenda includes a presentation by Cindy Burbank, POG chair on a recommended research program for GHG and energy mitigation; a discussion with Daniela Bremmer, chair of performance measurement committee (ABC30) on collaboration opportunities on data issues; reports by committee chairs on new activities and priorities; and Lori Sundstrom, NCHRP staff will report on changes in research to support SCOP Program (08-36). Call in number for this meeting is (877)339-0018, access \*870-9080\*. If you are planning to call in -- please drop me an email so we can prepare -- [jzmud@nustats.com](mailto:jzmud@nustats.com).



## Publications of Interest



### **Critical Issues in Transportation: 2009 Update** [http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs\\_detail.asp?id=10526](http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=10526)

TRB's Executive Committee periodically identifies a set of critical issues in transportation to focus attention on their likely impact on the nation's economy and quality of life. The discussion of the critical issues identified in this document is intended to facilitate debate and to encourage research leading to their resolution



### **Communicating the Value of Transportation Research** [http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs\\_detail.asp?id=10534](http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=10534)

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 610: Communicating the Value of Transportation Research explores integrating communications throughout the research process and introduces new ways to think about communicating the value of research. The report examines the signs of good communications practices, the communication process, planning and evaluating communications efforts, communicating for specific audiences, and case studies on good communication practices within and outside of the transportation community.



### **CERTU Standards for Household Travel Surveys** [http://www.certu.fr/catalogue/p2283/HOUSEHOLD\\_TRAVEL\\_SURVEY\\_%22CERTU\\_STANDARD%22\\_\(EMD\)/product\\_info.html?language=en](http://www.certu.fr/catalogue/p2283/HOUSEHOLD_TRAVEL_SURVEY_%22CERTU_STANDARD%22_(EMD)/product_info.html?language=en)

A new methodological guide has just been published by CERTU, the Centre for the Study of Urban Planning, Transportation and Public Facilities. It is a French technical services agency under the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Housing. This guide presents a standardized method that has been used to collect data on travel behavior in 60 urban areas in France. The application of the method is strictly managed and controlled to obtain objective and reliable data that can be used to make comparisons over time and between geographical areas.