Advising Our Nation

The Transportation Research Board (TRB), part of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, provides advice on public policy issues affecting all aspects of U.S. transportation. Since 1982, TRB has conducted more than 125 transportation policy studies at the request of Congress, federal agencies, states, and other organizations covering many complex and often controversial topics.

Select Current Studies

- The Future of the Interstate Highway System
- Shared Mobility Services and Public Transit
- Truck Size and Weight Research Road Map
- Offshore Oil and Gas Safety Enforcement
- Harmonizing Ship Stability Regulations
- Ensuring the Nation's Naval Engineering Capacity
- Biennial Review of Federal Railroad Administration R&D

Major topics addressed:

- Funding the Inland Waterways
- Funding Options for Freight Transportation
- Alternatives to the Fuel Tax for Infrastructure
- Safety Benefits and Challenges of Automotive Electronics
- Safe Transportation of Crude Oil by Rail
- Transmission Pipelines & Landuse
- App-enabled Transportation Services
- Intercity Passenger Options by Auto, Air, Bus, and Rail
- Freight Capacity for the 21st Century
- Stimulus Effects of Infrastructure Investment
- Building the Road Safety Profession
- Recruiting, Training, and Retaining Transportation Workers
- Designing Regulations for High Hazardous Industries
- Modernizing Freight Rail Regulations
- Regulating Truck Size and Weight
Ensuring Independence and Objectivity

Defining the Study

Academies leadership and staff work with study sponsors to determine a specific set of questions to be answered.

Committee Selection and Approval

Committee members are carefully selected for expertise, balance of perspective, and lack of financial conflicts.

Committee Meetings, Information Gathering, Deliberations, and Drafting the Report

Evidence is obtained from briefings in open meetings, reviews of databases and scientific literature, and investigations by members and staff.

The committee deliberates over its findings and recommendations in private, free from outside influences and with the goal of producing a consensus report.

Report Review

As a final check on its quality and objectivity, the report is subjected to an independent external review by experts in the field.

After the institution is satisfied that all review comments have been properly considered, the report is finalized for public release.

Moving America Forward

Studies are covered by multi-disciplinary committees whose members are drawn from across the country and abroad. They serve pro bono and are screened to avoid conflicts of interest. Studies are conducted in accordance with rigorous procedures established by the Academies to produce reports that are:

- Independent
- Objective
- Evidence-based
- Thorough
- Non-partisan
- Compliant with the Federal Advisory Committee Act

Staff Contact

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