

# Introduction

ROLF R. SCHMITT

This Record is a compilation of papers on methods of collecting, organizing, and summarizing data for transportation planning and administration. The papers are divided into two parts focused, respectively, on statewide and local methods.

Part 1 of this Record underscores the increasingly close relationships between travel-monitoring programs and geographic information systems. In the first two papers, recent efforts by the Federal Highway Administration and the states to improve the accuracy and efficiency of traffic count data are described. In the next two papers, different institutional and technical approaches to organizing such data with other information on highway conditions and the surrounding environment are described. Although designed primarily for highway transportation, the methods and systems described in these papers have useful applications for all modes of transportation.

Part 2 of this Record includes four papers on collection and management of transportation data in local areas. In the first two papers, technical problems of very different methods of collecting

origin-destination data for urban transportation planning are evaluated. In the last two papers, the emphasis on data collection is shifted to data management. In one paper, an information system used to monitor performance of a transit agency is described. The last paper introduces methods of organizing data bases for estimating costs of an individual project.

Most of the papers in this Record were presented at TRB's 1985 Annual Meeting or at an earlier meeting of the Urban and Regional Information Systems (URISA). All of the papers are sponsored by the Committee on Transportation Data and Information Systems (A1C03), which is concerned with the development, use, and consequences of data requirements, collection methods, processing methods, and availability to support transportation research and decision making. The committee monitors technological and institutional changes in information resources and systems that may affect the transportation community and works with all relevant units of TRB to promote the effective use of and improvements to those information resources and systems.