Instructions for Authors Submitting for TRB 2020 Presentation and TRR Publication Review

**New for 2019**

If you submitted for PUBLICATION, you will not receive your reviewer comments until the Editorial Board has completed its review. Publication submissions will now receive further review by the newly formed TRR Editorial Board. This extra service will provide authors with more time and in-depth guidance to improve the paper to its fullest potential.

To better serve our author community, full papers and/or extended abstracts will no longer be posted on AM Online. Some authors were having these postings flagged as prior publications when trying to submit elsewhere for publication.

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**JUNE 1**

TRB 2020 Submission Opens

**AUGUST 1 WORLDWIDE DEADLINE**

Support closes at 5:00 pm Eastern  
Cutoff is August 1 worldwide: UTC-11

**OCTOBER 30**

TRB 2020 Presentation decisions sent  
Committees send publication recommendations to TRR Editorial Board

**DECEMBER 31**

Publication first decisions
AUTHOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Manuscript Length

The length of each paper, including the abstract, text, references, and tables, must not exceed 7,500 words. Each table counts as 250 words. There should be no more than 6 figures. Papers not meeting this requirement may be withdrawn from the peer review process at any time.

Manuscript Format

Include a title page with title, authors, affiliations, and word count. Place tables and figures within the text, near the text that discusses the item. Pages must have line numbers and should start again on each page. The abstract should describe the work and findings and be no more than 250 words.

Language and Readability

All papers must be submitted in English. It is the author’s responsibility to ensure that the nature and conclusions of the work are easily understood. Authors are encouraged to engage editorial services prior to the paper submission.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of information or concepts from another article, website, or report without clearly attributing the source. Plagiarism is not acceptable. Phrases, sentences, or sections taken from another document, even if written by the same author(s), must appear within quotation marks and the source must be credited.

Fragmented Publication

Breaking a single piece of work into many papers dilutes the information and makes it difficult for reviewers and readers to assess the advances that may have been made. Papers submitted for review should stand on their own; papers submitted as Part I, Part II, etc., will not be accepted for review.

Authorship Disputes

The generally accepted rules for authorship credit are stated in the 2003 Annual
Report of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) are as follows: “(1) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and (3) final approval of version to be published. All three of these conditions should be met for authorship, (4) anyone credited as an author should have played a significant role in the research and in the writing of the paper (Albert & Wagner 2003).”

**Commercial or Special Interests**

Authors are responsible for ensuring that submitted papers do not advocate special interests and are of a commercial nature. Papers that fall within this category will be removed from the peer review process. A paper also may be removed from peer review if it describes the properties of a product without disclosing its composition or manufacture. Generic names of products and equipment should be used unless the author considers the trade names or manufacturer’s names essential to the purpose of the paper.

**Clearances and Copyrighted Material**

Authors must secure necessary clearances and written permissions for presentation or publication from any contracting or supervisory agencies involved in the research or from holders of copyrights on material used in the paper. Authors must have concurrence from coauthors or coworkers before submitting papers for presentation or publication by TRB, and all contributions to the work must be properly acknowledged. If a paper accepted for publication contains previously copyrighted material, authors must obtain written permission from the copyright holder(s). TRB will assume the authors have obtained this permission before submission of the manuscript for inclusion on the TRB Annual Meeting Online. TRB will retain unrestricted rights to the material.

**Criteria for Submission Withdrawal (Desk Reject)**

To lessen the burden on the thousands of volunteers who review these papers under very tight deadline, we will not review papers with the following issues:

- Tables and text converted to figures to circumvent the word count
- Multiple tables combined into one to circumvent the word count
- Papers divided into parts to circumvent the word count
- Writing that cannot be understood by a native English speaker
- Topics outside the scope of the Transportation Research Board
• Inappropriate or offensive language
• Endorsement or promotion of a commercial product
• Unclear or confusing paper organization

We reserve the right to withdraw papers:
• In excess of 7500 words, excluding figures
• Figures and Tables not embedded in text
• Requiring extensive language editing
• Missing coauthors in the submission system

About the Transportation Research Record (TRR)

The Transportation Research Record (TRR) is owned by the National Academy of Sciences and published by SAGE Publications. Each annual volume contains 12 monthly issues, which are available via subscription or TRB Sponsorship.

The TRR publishes original, timely research on all areas and modes of transportation. Peer review is single blind and strives to elevate papers to their highest potential.

Data Accessibility Policy

Publishing Ethics

The TRR follows the Committee on Publishing Ethics (COPE) guidelines for policies on authorship disputes, complaints and appeals, conflicts of interest / competing interests, ethical oversight, and intellectual property.

Post-Publication Discussions and Corrections

Readers who wish to comment on work published in the TRR may write a Discussion, which is then sent to the author, who is given the opportunity to respond. Requirements.

For more information about SAGE’s correction policy, click here.

Reference Guidelines
Guidelines for References
1. The reference list should contain only references that are cited in the text, either numbered in the order in which they are first cited or, if using Harvard Style, alphabetical by author last name. Bibliographic lists will not be published. Papers that do not conform to a standard reference style may be rejected.

2. Do not denote text references with superscripts.

3. Do not include in the reference list personal communications or similar material that would not be available to readers. Instead, cite the unpublished work in the text and enclose the author's name along with the term “personal communication” in parentheses.

4. You may use the following content guidelines and samples in preparing reference lists:

**TRR Journal Articles**

*Note: Do not add “In” before the journal title; do not include the publisher or place of publication.*


**TRB Presentation Papers**


*Please check references citing papers presented at the Annual Meeting to see whether or not the paper was subsequently published in the Transportation Research Record (TRR). If the paper was published in the TRR, the reference should be changed to the corresponding TRR citation.*

**Other Journals**


**TRB Publications**


**Book**

*Chapter in a Book*


*Government Report*


- **Websites** References to websites should include corporate or personal authors, title of document, date of document (if available), web address (complete URL), and date accessed by the author.


- **Unpublished papers** References to unpublished papers presented at meetings should include name(s) of author(s); title of paper; and title, sponsor(s), location, and dates or year of meeting.


*Equations*

All variables should be defined at first use, either in the text or where the equation is listed.

1. Fractions in displayed equations should be stacked, in accordance with preferred mathematical practice.
2. If a displayed equation is numbered, use an Arabic numeral in parentheses, placed flush right.
3. Carefully distinguish the following:
   - All capital and lowercase letters;
   - Capital O (“oh”), lowercase o (“oh”), and 0 (zero);
   - Lowercase l (“el”) and number 1 (one);
   - Letter X, Greek chi (χ), and multiplication sign ×;
   - Prime ′, apostrophe ′, and superscript one ¹; and
   - English and Greek letters such as
• B and beta (β), upper- or lowercase k and kappa (κ),
• n and eta (η), v and nu (ν),
• u and upsilon (υ), u and mu (μ), and
• Upper- or lowercase p and rho (ρ), and w and lowercase omega (ω).

Footnotes
Do not use footnotes to the text. Incorporate the information into the text or delete the notes.

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols
Abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols must be fully defined at first use in both the abstract and the paper; the full term should be spelled out first, followed by the abbreviated term in parentheses. The following acronyms may be used without definition:

AASHO American Association of State Highway Officials
AASHTO American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ACRP Airport Cooperative Research Program
APTA American Public Transportation Association
ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers
ASTM American Society for Testing and Materials (known by abbreviation only)
EPA Environmental Protection Agency
FAA Federal Aviation Administration
FHWA Federal Highway Administration
FMCSA Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
FRA Federal Railroad Administration
FTA Federal Transit Administration
IEEE Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
ISO International Organization for Standardization
ITE Institute of Transportation Engineers
NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCHRP National Cooperative Highway Research Program
NHTSA National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
SAE Society of Automotive Engineers
SHRP Strategic Highway Research Program
SHRP 2 Second Strategic Highway Research Program
TCRP Transit Cooperative Research Program
TRB Transportation Research Board

Acknowledgments
Authors of papers that report results of research sponsored directly or indirectly by federal programs should indicate this sponsorship in an Acknowledgment section at the end of the text, above References.
Do not use appendixes. Include pertinent material in the paper itself or, where necessary, include a note that background material—such as derivation of formulas, specifications, or survey forms—is available from the author or in another report, which should be cited in the reference list.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE
The TRB peer review process is used both for papers submitted for presentation at TRB’s Annual Meeting and for papers submitted for publication review in the Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board. The peer review process is organized by TRB’s standing technical committees under the supervision of TRB staff. A minimum of three reviews are required for a publication recommendation or a presentation decision. The process also allows for scholarly discussion of any paper scheduled for publication, along with an author-prepared closure.

The National Academies of
SCIENCE • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

The National Academy of Sciences was established in 1863 by an Act of Congress, signed by President Lincoln, as a private, nongovernmental institution to advise the nation on issues related to science and technology. Members are elected by their peers for outstanding contributions to research. Dr. Marcia McNutt is president.

The National Academy of Engineering was established in 1964 under the charter of the National Academy of Sciences to bring the practices of engineering to advising the nation. Members are elected by their peers for extraordinary contributions to engineering. Dr. C. D. Mote, Jr., is president.

The National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine) was established in 1970 under the charter of the National Academy of Sciences to advise the nation on medical and health issues. Members are elected by their peers for distinguished contributions to medicine and health. Dr. Victor J. Dzau is president.

The three Academies work together as the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to provide independent, objective analysis and advice to the nation and conduct other activities to solve complex problems and inform public policy decisions. The Academies also encourage education and research, recognize outstanding contributions to knowledge, and increase public understanding in matters of science, engineering, and medicine.

The **Transportation Research Board** is one of seven major programs of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The mission of the Transportation Research Board is to increase the benefits that transportation contributes to society by providing leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange, conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary, and multimodal. The Board’s varied committees, task forces, and panels annually engage about 7,000 engineers, scientists, and other transportation researchers and practitioners from the public and private sectors and academia, all of whom contribute their expertise in the public interest. The program is supported by state transportation departments, federal agencies including the component administrations of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and other organizations and individuals interested in the development of transportation.

Learn more about the Transportation Research Board at [www.TRB.org](http://www.TRB.org).