

Data Requirements in Transportation Reauthorization Legislation



December 8–9, 2005

The Keck Center of the National Academies
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Washington, D.C.

Organized by the Transportation Research Board

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Data Requirements in Transportation Reauthorization Legislation Conference

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Ed Christopher, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Patricia Hu, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)
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Richard D. Paddock, Traffic Safety Analysis Systems and Services, Inc.
Alan E. Pisarski, Consultant
Nancy Ross, New York State DOT
Shari Schaftlein, FHWA
Anita Vandervalk, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.
Edward Weiner, Office of the Secretary, U.S. DOT

Teams Preparing White Papers

Finance and Revenue

Alan E. Pisarski, Consultant, *Team Leader*
Jack Basso, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
Janet Kavinoky, AASHTO, *White Paper Author*
Ross Critchton, FHWA Policy Office
Vincent Fang, MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc.
Bryan Grote, Mercator Advisors
Ysela Llort, Florida DOT
Arlee Reno, CSI

Freight

Paul Bingham, Global Insight, Inc., *Team Leader*
William R. Black, Indiana University
Catherine Lawson, State University of New York, Albany, *White Paper Author*
Michael Bronzini, George Mason University
Tianjia Tang, FHWA Freight Office
Rolf Schmitt, FHWA Freight Office
Benjamin Ritchey, Battelle
Michael C. Smith, University of Virginia

Operations and Security

Patricia Hu, ORNL, *Team Leader and White Paper Author*
Ralph Gillmann, FHWA
Roger Petzold, FHWA
Valerie Briggs, AASHTO
Rich Taylor, FHWA
Jeffrey L. Western, Wisconsin DOT

Planning, Policy, and Environment

Shari Schaftlein, FHWA, *Team Leader*
Edward Weiner, Office of the Secretary, *Team Leader*
Kenneth Cervenka, North Central Texas Council of Governments

Planning, Policy, and Environment (continued)

Robert Copp, California DOT
Robert Fuhler, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, *White Paper Author*
Thomas Kane, Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Jonette Kreideweiss, Minnesota DOT
Elizabeth Lanzer, Washington State DOT
Guy Rousseau, Atlanta Regional Commission
Roland Wostl, Colorado DOT

Public Transportation

Nancy Ross, New York State DOT, *Team Leader and White Paper Author*
Ronald L. Epstein, New York State DOT
Martin Loring, Oregon DOT
John Neff, American Public Transportation Association
Nancy Ody, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
David T. Spacek, Illinois DOT
Robert Stanley, CSI
Richard Steinmann, FTA
Chris Zeilinger, Community Transportation Association of America

Safety

Richard D. Paddock, Traffic Safety Analysis Systems and Services, Inc., *Team Leader*
Dave Bozak, InfoGroup, *White Paper Author*
Barbara Harsha, Governors Highway Safety Association
Anthony Kane, AASHTO
Robert Scopatz, Data Nexus
Dennis Utter, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Staff

Thomas M. Palmerlee, Transportation Research Board (TRB)
Brian Canepa, TRB

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Engaging the New Challenges

Dear Colleague,

Welcome! This meeting will identify and refine the data issues associated with the program proposals in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the legislation reauthorizing funds for surface transportation.

It is an opportunity for federal, state, and local officials and practitioners who manage data systems or who must assure the availability of high-quality data for their programs to engage with the new challenges from SAFETEA-LU.

The discussions will focus on the new and expanded requirements, including the new responsibilities that the data communities in state and metropolitan planning organizations are likely to face. The meeting also offers the opportunity to examine the requirements across programs and to suggest efficient data strategies for transportation organizations.

Six teams have analyzed SAFETEA-LU and prepared white papers to identify provisions that specify data requirements directly and programs that will require regular data sources to operate. The teams are

- Finance and Revenue;
- Freight;
- Operations and Security;
- Planning, Policy, and Environment;
- Public Transportation; and
- Safety.

The white papers will serve as the foundation for the discussions in the breakout sessions, which are the core activity of the conference.

I am pleased that you are here to help focus the community on the data issues that are most important for improving the delivery of transportation services.

—*Michael S. Bronzini*
George Mason University
Conference Chair



Michael S. Bronzini
Conference Chair

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Data Requirements in Transportation Reauthorization Legislation: Agenda

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2005

7:45 a.m.–8:30 a.m.
Continental Breakfast

7:45 a.m.–8:30 a.m.
Room 101
Breakfast for Breakout Facilitators and Recorders

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
Room 100

Opening Session

Welcome

Michael S. Bronzini
George Mason University, Conference Chair

Implications of Reauthorization for the Transportation Data Community

George Schoener
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation

Making the Most of New Reauthorization Information Requirements

Marty Spitzer
Professional Staff Member, House Committee on Science

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.
Break

10:30 a.m.–noon

Topic Breakout Session #1: Challenges of New Data Requirements and for Existing Data Programs

This session will focus on the data requirements of the new legislation. Two issues should be covered:

Legislative Provisions: Identify the key legislative requirements pertaining to the group's focus area. Address all sections, whether or not they explicitly deal with data, as a section may require new or modified data to effect implementation.

Data Implications: Identify in some short-hand manner the relevant implications of the legislative provision—e.g., existing data program, new data program; detailed financial data required; specific data needs to be developed; requires expensive and time consuming effort by metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). Each legislative provision should generate one or more statements about data implications.

Finance and Revenue – Room 105

Alan E. Pisarski, Facilitator

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Freight – Room 101
Benjamin Ritchey, Facilitator

Operations and Security – Room 202
Rich Taylor, Facilitator

Planning, Policy, and Environment – Room 100
Edward Weiner and Shari Schaflein, Facilitators

Public Transportation – Room 109
Nancy Ross, Facilitator

Safety – Room 110
Richard Paddock, Facilitator

Noon–1:00 p.m.
Breakout Rooms

Lunch

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

**Topic Breakout Session #2:
Impacts on Data Provider and Analysis Communities**

This session will focus on how to meet the data needs identified in the first session. The following issues should be covered:

Existing Programs and Status: Identify and discuss the impact on existing data programs—e.g., the National Household Travel Survey; Commodity Flow Survey; Highway Statistics; National Transit Database; census products, etc. Can the identified need be met by an existing program, with or without modification of that program? Does the identified need provide a strong basis for supporting retention of the program?

New Data Needs: Identify the data items and attributes that would not be provided by existing data programs. Where this is unclear, cite the need for further review.

Data Program Options: Discuss, or at least identify, various approaches to meeting the data requirements. Good questions to ask are: (1) What are the consequences of no action (i.e., how will the legislative intent be implemented in the absence of any modifications of old programs or institution of new programs)? (2) What single action could be taken to provide the required data? (3) What other actions are needed? Discuss data program coordination as one means to provide the data. Discuss potential program costs.

[Finance and Revenue – Room 105](#)
Ysela Llort, Facilitator

[Freight – Room 101](#)
Catherine Lawson, Facilitator

Operations and Security – Room 202
Valerie Briggs, Facilitator

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Planning, Policy, and Environment – Room 100

Edward Weiner and Shari Schaftlein, Facilitators

Public Transportation – Room 109

Nancy Ross, Facilitator

Safety – Room 110

Richard Paddock, Facilitator

3:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

Room 100

Reports from Topic Session #1, Challenges, and from Topic Session #2, Impacts on Data Providers and Analysts

Finance and Revenue

Ysela Llort, Florida Department of Transportation

Freight

Benjamin Ritchey, Battelle

Operations and Security

Jeffrey L. Western, Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Planning, Policy, and Environment

Edward Weiner, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation

Shari Schaftlein, Federal Highway Administration

Public Transportation

Nancy Ross, New York State Department of Transportation

Safety

Richard Paddock, Traffic Safety Analysis Systems and Services, Inc.

5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Reception

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005

7:15 a.m.–8:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

**Topic Breakout Session #3:
Emerging Strategy Directions for the Data Programs—
Opportunities for Collaboration**

This session will finish and refine the listing of data program options and coordination, with major emphasis on the high-priority items that need attention. The following issues should be discussed:



Changing Roles: Who or what entities will play what roles in the process? Identify the changes that need to occur. Discuss cases where coordinated undertakings between levels of government would be necessary. Look closely and creatively at prospects for enlisting the private sector.

Performance Expectations: What would be an acceptable outcome for each existing, modified, and new data program, and when is that outcome required? What levels of accuracy, precision, and timeliness are needed?

Finance and Revenue – Room 105

Jack Basso, Facilitator

Freight – Room 101

Scott Drumm, Facilitator

Operations and Security – Room 202

Tim Lomax, Facilitator

Planning, Policy, and Environment – Room 100

Edward Weiner and Shari Schaflein, Facilitators

Public Transportation – Room 109

Nancy Ross, Facilitator

Safety – Room 208

Richard Paddock, Facilitator

9:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Room 100

Reports from Working Session #3: Emerging Strategy Directions

Finance and Revenue

Alan E. Pisarski, Consultant

Freight

Paul H. Bingham, Global Insight, Inc.

Operations and Security

Patricia S. Hu, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Planning, Policy and Environment

Edward Weiner, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation

Shari Schaflein, Federal Highway Administration

Public Transportation

Nancy Ross, New York State Department of Transportation

Safety

Richard Paddock, Traffic Safety Analysis Systems and Services, Inc.

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11:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Break

11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Room 100

Key Points from the Conference

Two experienced transportation professionals will present their views on the key take-home points from the conference. Mary Lynn Tischer currently works with the Virginia Department of Transportation as the Advisor to the Governor on Transportation Reauthorization. She previously headed the Transportation Planning, Policy, and Programming Division at the Arizona Department of Transportation. She has a strong background in the use of data to support transportation policy development. Joseph Schofer is Associate Dean of the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science and Professor of Civil Engineering and Transportation at Northwestern University. He chaired the National Research Council's Committee to Review the Bureau of Transportation Statistics' Survey Programs.

[Mary Lynn Tischer](#), Commonwealth of Virginia

[Joseph L. Schofer](#), Northwestern University

Developing an Agenda for Collaborative Data Collection and Analysis

A general discussion will address how the transportation data community can move forward to meet the challenges identified at the conference.

Michael S. Bronzini, Facilitator

Summary Report on the Conference

A TRB Transportation Research Circular will summarize the main points made at the conference; publication is planned for late spring 2006. Plan to attend a summary session, SAFETEA-LU and Data Systems, which will explore the next steps in meeting the SAFETEA-LU data challenges, at the TRB 85th Annual Meeting, January 22–26, 2006.

Mobile Phone Manners



As a courtesy to other attendees, please observe good mobile phone manners. When attending meetings and in the public areas adjacent to these activities, please turn off your cell phones and other wireless communications devices or use the silent notification options. Thank you for your cooperation.



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