

## *Addressing Critical and Cross-Cutting Issues*

From the *Division A Leadership Guide, Appendix B*

<http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/dva/DivAGuide.doc>

Discussions at recent Technical Activities Council meetings and TRB Executive Committee meetings have highlighted the need for a strategic approach to help address critical and cross-cutting issues. While our traditional bottoms-up approach continues to generate activities whose sheer volume assures that most of the critical issues are being addressed, there are some notable exceptions. Growing congestion, security, workforce shortages, and advanced technologies are critical issues where it has been argued that a strong leadership role is needed.

The Technical Activities Council has concluded that the standing committees should serve as the focal point for identifying and addressing emerging, cross-cutting, and critical issues. The following steps are being taken to facilitate this committee role.

- Annually target issues to address, and monitor our activities in these areas. The current lists of such issues include:
  - “Critical Issues in Transportation 2002” approved by the TRB Executive Committee can be found at [http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/trnews/2002\\_critical\\_issues\\_article.pdf](http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/trnews/2002_critical_issues_article.pdf).
  - High priority cross-cutting issues identified by the Technical Activities Council and generated from proposed “big issue policy studies” submitted by the standing committees in 2003. These include:
    - Capacity (or congestion) of the transportation system: what does the future hold?
    - Getting rid of the seams (integrating modes and institutions for a more seamless transportation system)
    - Matching transportation systems to the communities they serve (context sensitivity, land use/sprawl, demographics, environmental justice, economic impacts, etc.)
    - The growing shortage of transportation personnel: outlook, implications, experiences, and actions
    - Making transportation investment decisions – art or science?
    - Transportation and energy: options for the long term
    - Balancing environmental and transportation goals
    - Moving the goods: giving freight the attention it deserves
    - Show me the money: meeting the long term funding needs for transportation
    - Safety: future options that could make a real difference
    - Security: where do we go from here?
    - Renewing the aging transportation infrastructure