
E-NEWSLETTER for STATE DATA PRACTITIONERS
TRB Statewide Data and Information Systems Committee
March 2004

PURPOSE: The primary goal of the TRB Statewide Data and Information Systems Committee (A1D09) Newsletter is to disseminate research findings, description of new data tools, upcoming conferences/training announcements, and summaries of recent advances in the data field to a wide community of transportation practitioners. As an information resource, the newsletter will perpetuate the improvement and integration of transportation data to assist statewide multimodal planning.

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

***** CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS *****

- > Upcoming Conferences
- > Workshops
- > Recent Conference Proceedings / Information

***** IN THE HEADLINES *****

- > Letter Report on the Freight Analysis Framework
- > FHWA Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education, and Training (COMET)
- > RFP for the NCHRP Research SCOP Projects (8-36)
- > U.D. DOT Reorganization Proposal: Research, Pipelines, Hazardous Materials

***** MARK YOUR CALENDAR *****

- > Important Dates

***** RESEARCH *****

- > Recently released research product related to statewide transportation data

***** IN EVERY ISSUE *****

- > Website Links
- > Subscription Information

CONFERENCES

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

* Workshop on International Trade Data, Washington, DC: May 3, 2004
-><http://trb.org/calendar/event.asp?id=129>

* North American Travel Monitoring Exposition and Conference (NATMEC) 2004

San Diego, California: June 27-30, 2004

-> <http://www.natmec.org>

Registration is now open. Session information contained at the web link listed above (presentation and speaker information will be added shortly).

* Statewide Data and Information Systems TRB Committee Midyear Meeting, San Diego, California: June 28, 2004

* Joint Summer Meeting of the Planning, Economics, Finance, and Management Committees
Park City, Utah: July 25-27, 2004

-><http://trb.org/calendar/>

* Performance Measurement Conference, Irvine, CA: August 22-24, 2004

-><http://trb.org/calendar/>

* 5th National Conferences on Asset Management: Moving from Theory to Practice
Seattle, Washington: October 21 – 22, 2004

-><http://gulliver.trb.org/conferences/Asset>

* National Household Travel Survey Data Users Conference, Washington, DC: November 1-2, 2004

-> <http://www.trb.org/Conferences/NHTS.pdf>

* Conference for Research on Women's Transportation Issues, Chicago, Illinois: November 18-20, 2004

-> <http://www.trb.org/Conferences/Women/>

WORKSHOPS

*NCHRP Guidance Spawns NHI Transportation Asset Management Training

-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=2102

RECENT CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS / INFORMATION

* Transportation Research Circular (E-C061) Duck Key, Florida: May 21, 2003

-> <http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/circulars/ec061.pdf>

* Reauthorization: A Meeting on Data-Related Provisions

Washington, DC: November 19, 2003

-> TRB Circular, "Data Requirements in Transportation Reauthorization Legislation: What is Included and Impacts on the Data Community" will be posted on-line in the near future.

* 83rd Annual Transportation Research Board Meeting, January 11-15, 2004

-> <http://www4.nationalacademies.org/trb/annual.nsf>

--Sessions sponsored by Statewide Data and Information Systems Committee

Systematic Evaluation of Customer Needs and Data Programs
Transportation Data Partnering;
Transportation Data Resource Management: An Enterprise Perspective;
How Do You Decide? Who Do You Communicate With? Performance Measures and Data Needs
for Better Decisions and Improved Communication;
Data Needs for Freight and Intermodal Planning;
Data Integration for Asset Management;
Applications Using ITS Data Archives;
Metadata: Perspectives of Various Transportation Communities and
A Data Bonanza Workshop on National Data User Guides and Tools;

-- Meeting minutes for Statewide Data and Information Systems Committee
-> <http://members.tripod.com/~TRBstate/> (will be posted in the near future)

IN THE HEADLINES

LETTER REPORT ON THE FREIGHT ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=2366

A letter report from TRB's Committee on the Future of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Freight Analysis Framework (FAF) summarizes the outcomes of the committee's October 2003 workshop on the FAF. The report recommends that FHWA's Freight Office focus its resources on developing a national freight data program that builds on lessons learned in the FAF project. Further work on the FAF itself should be restricted to short-term documentation and clarification efforts and some limited updating.

FHWA COOPERATIVE PROGRAM FOR OPERATIONAL METEOROLOGY, EDUCATION,
AND TRAINING (COMET)

-> <http://www.comet.ucar.edu/cometprogram.htm>

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) participates in several research opportunities in addition to the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP). One example is the Road Weather Management Program (RWMP), a transportation weather research program within the Office of Operations (<http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/Weather/resources/links.htm>). The RWMP seeks to better understand the impacts of weather on transportation and promote strategies and tools to mitigate those impacts.

An example of RWMP research efforts is the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education, and Training (COMET). The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) took advantage of COMET research by having Paul Knight, a Pennsylvania State Climatologist, visit ADOT&PF under the FHWA Peer-To-Peer program. Mr. Knight is an instructor in the Penn State University Department of Meteorology and is the Manager of the University's Weather Communication Group. Mr. Knight was the principal author

of COMET research project, "Developing An Interactive Mesonet for PennDOT." The research provides Road Weather Information System (RWIS) best practices for data archive, metadata, data exchange, user interfaces, partnerships, and mesonets. The extremely useful guidance has immediate application for the ADOT&PF RWIS program.

RFP FOR THE NCHRP RESEARCH SCOP PROJECTS (8-36)

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<http://www4.nas.edu/trb/crp.nsf/c9d0a412717cf3a68525672f00632fb5/5d54b8918a246d378525674800561b39?OpenDocument>

The following projects are being advertised:

1. Where Data Groups Are Organizationally Located Within State DOTs.
2. Effective Organization of Performance Measurement.
3. Improved Linkage Between Systems Planning and the NEPA Process.
4. Metropolitan-Level Transportation Funding Sources.
5. What Is the Impact of an Aging Population on System Planning and Investment Policies?
6. Information Design for Effective Decision Making and Communication.
7. Changes in Travel Behavior/Demand Associated with Managed Lanes (e.g., HOV, HOT) Facility System Expansion.
8. Peer Review of Best Practices on State and Metropolitan Transportation Planning Issues.

U.S. DOT REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL: RESEARCH, PIPELINES, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=2191

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has unveiled a reorganization plan that, among other things, would create a more focused research organization within the DOT to emphasize and promote innovative technology. Under the proposal, the Research and Special Program Administration (RSPA) would become the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA). RITA would integrate into its operations the existing functions of the Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office and the statistical and research functions of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

3/23-3/25/04	New NCHRP projects are selected
3/31/04	TCRP Synthesis Topics are due
4/1/04	Final Transportation Research Record (TRR) manuscripts due
6/15/04	Research problem statements for the FY 2005 TCRP due

RESEARCH

BTS JOURNAL OF TRANSPORTATION AND STATISTICS: VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1

-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=2401

FHWA'S NEW GIS WEB SITE

-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=2402

CENSUS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PACKAGE (CTPP) PART 2 DATA RELEASED

-> <http://www.bts.gov>

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE UNITED STATES: 2003 EDITION NOW AVAILABLE

-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=1180

FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION: STRATEGIES NEEDED TO ADDRESS PLANNING AND FINANCING LIMITATIONS

-> <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04165.pdf>

2010 CENSUS: COST AND DESIGN ISSUES NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=2343

QUALITY AND ACCURACY OF POSITIONAL DATA IN TRANSPORTATION

-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=2321

THE 2000 CENSUS: COUNTING UNDER ADVERSITY

-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=2327

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION'S RESEARCH DIRECTORY: FALL 2003

-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=2201

STATE PRACTICES USED TO REPORT LOCAL AREA TRAVEL

-> <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/ohpi/hpms/hpmspubs.htm>

TRAFFIC DATA QUALITY WORKSHOP: PROCEEDINGS AND ACTION PLAN

-> http://www.itsdocs.fhwa.dot.gov/JPODOCS/REPTS_TE/13839.html

IN EVERY ISSUE

TRB Statewide Data and Information Systems Committee:

<http://members.tripod.com/~TRBstate/members.html>

TRB E-Newsletter:

<http://gulliver.trb.org/news/>

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