

# TRB 2007 Summer Conference



**July 7-9, 2007**

**Renaissance Chicago Hotel**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**Join 400+ transportation professionals participating in the midyear meetings of more than 40 TRB committees.**

**Participate in discussion sessions on:**  
“The Many Faces of Transportation Sustainability”

**Participation in sessions and tours of the**  
“32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Ports, Waterways, Freight, & International Trade Conference”

**Attend optional workshops on:**  
Environmental Analysis in Transportation  
Transforming Transportation Organizations  
Pricing  
Freight Transportation Data Challenges

## **TRB 2007 Summer Conference**

This year's conference will be held at the Renaissance Chicago Hotel - a premier luxury hotel located at the edge of "The Loop" in the heart of downtown Chicago. The conference will include both the annual TRB Summer Ports, Waterways, Freight, and International Trade Conference; and the Joint Summer Meeting of the TRB Planning, Finance, Administration, Freight, and Management Committees. The conference will provide attendees with a unique opportunity to attend sessions, take part in group discussions, participate in any of the more than 40 TRB standing committee meetings, and network with peers across a broad array of related topic areas.

### **The Many Faces of Transportation Sustainability**

“Achieving a sustainable transportation system—one in which (a) current social and economic transportation needs are met in an environmentally conscious manner and (b) the ability of future generations to meet their own needs is not compromised—is not a simple task. Certainly, the path to such a transportation system will be difficult. Transportation system planners and providers will need to work with and respond to market conditions, demographic changes, and political challenges; it will not be possible to envision achieving sustainability otherwise.”

So states the conclusion of the committee responsible for planning the TRB conference “Integrating Sustainability into the Transportation Planning Process” that was held in July 2004. The TRB 2007 Summer Conference will provide participants with opportunities to discuss this challenge from a variety of different perspectives in the following sessions:

***It's Easy Being Green – Chicago's Efforts in Creating Sustainable Communities:*** What projects and strategies are being undertaken to make American communities sustainable? This plenary session will open the conference by exploring the City of Chicago's efforts to address sustainability in practical, affordable, and adaptable ways.

***Show Me the Money! The Future of Transportation Finance: Perspectives on "Sustainable" Approaches:*** Despite the Interstate System and the baby boom generation both aging rather gracefully, highway, port, and rail infrastructure are in need of rehabilitation and repair and safety improvements. Moreover, mobility needs are changing with the graying of America, and everyone is looking for ways to finance needed programs, projects and services to keep us on the move. This session will explore strategies and plans for financing these important needs.

***Sustainable Data Programs:*** This session will introduce two parallel themes (a) why good data programs are a critical part of a sustainable transportation organization - data is necessary to make good decisions/tradeoffs in a resource scarce world, and (b) how to sustain data programs. Sustainable data programs require a commitment to best practice, the principle of continuous improvement, and the need for good governance to ensure necessary resources (time and money), planning and management. The session will present four strategies for sustaining data programs: cooperative data programs, private sector partnerships, the reuse of existing data for diverse purposes, and the necessary vision and management to ensure data programs are sustained.

***Creating Sustainable Transportation and Land Use Chicago Style:*** Recent activities in the Chicago area focus on enhancing the link between transportation planning and land use planning to create sustainable developments and transportation systems. Speakers will discuss the recent consolidation of the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS), the MPO, and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC), the land use planning organization into the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). Speakers will also highlight examples of innovative projects linking transportation and land use in the Chicago area.

***Express Yourself--How Citizens' Choice of Transportation Modes Can Contribute to More Sustainable Communities:*** This session will describe transportation options that citizens may avail themselves of and the impact that providing these options may have on encouraging more sustainable communities. Various forms of public transit, carpooling, vanpooling, and carsharing will be among the options discussed.

***Chicago: America's Freight Distribution Hub:*** In the past 20 years, Chicago has become the major crossroads of America's global trade. The city is at the center of one of the largest trading areas in the world -- the east-west nexus joining the markets of Europe and Asia...and the north-south nexus of NAFTA. This session will examine how intermodal freight flows through Chicago impacts major seaports on both coasts. Chicago is the one gateway where all six Class-One North American railroads interchange traffic. Additionally, the City has a significant seaport connecting to the St. Lawrence Seaway, and also the Illinois River and Mississippi River. Chicago's distribution hub status means that 417,000 truckloads of freight (1.6+ million tons) are shipped from Chicago each day. Come to this session to learn how the "City of Broad Shoulders" tackles its' freight challenges, and discuss the implications this may have for others.

***The Many Environmental Faces of Transportation Sustainability – Going Strong... But Where?:*** This session will explore opportunities to concentrate and manage the myriad efforts to produce strategic results for transportation environmental sustainability. The workshop will facilitate and summarize participant's ideas on the following: The broad view of today's environmental initiatives for transportation; Where are they taking transportation programs? Are we spreading ourselves too thin? Helping each other through productive partnerships. Can we learn from successes of the transportation safety paradigm?

## **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Ports, Waterways, Freight, & International Trade Conference**

In addition to the freight and maritime components of the aforementioned sessions, there will be four (4) plenary sessions on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning on topics such as:

***Reliance on the World: Complex Sourcing + Production = Complex Logistics.*** This session will feature industry spokespersons from the Lake Michigan-Illinois/Indiana region addressing the trends in their companies, including plant sourcing and flexible transportation options (both inputs and outputs) and may also consider trends in military logistics.

***The Aging and Under-Maintained Infrastructure on the Great Lakes and Inland Waterways: Can A Critical Situation Be Reversed?*** The session will address the challenges on the rivers and Lakes with respect to physical deterioration and reliability, and institutional constraints. The increasing role of the states in meeting these challenges will be among the topics covered in this session.

***The Bottom Line on Freight Movement and Water Transportation.*** In early 2007, AASHTO circulated review drafts of its "Bottom Line" reports on freight demand and logistics and on freight movement across different modes. The session will focus on the findings and recommendations contained in those reports from the perspectives of shippers, carriers, and government transportation agencies.

***The California Bond Initiative: Will It Have A Ripple Effect?*** This session will focus on the potential impacts on infrastructure and environmental mitigation funding following the passage of a \$19.9 billion General Obligation Bond by California voters. The approved bonds will be used to support transportation projects, including projects associated with ports and goods movement.

In addition to the plenary sessions and mid-year meetings of freight systems and marine group committees, optional tours are also being considered, including:

- Field Trip to Port of Chicago's Iroquois Terminal, plus Calumet and Indiana Harbors
- Tour to Logistics Park – Chicago, the large Burlington Northern Santa Fe facility and the distribution centers that surround it.
- Architectural Boat and Walking Tour
- Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) Mainstream Pumping Station and Reservoir Tour

## Workshops

The following workshops will be conducted in conjunction with the TRB Summer Conference. Those marked with a ticket **TICKET** require a separate registration fee.

**TICKET** ***Transforming Transportation Organizations: Tools and Techniques for Organizational Development.*** This workshop will focus on addressing the needs of transportation agencies in adapting their organizations to meet the challenges of 21st Century transportation forces - fewer dollars, growing congestion, aging infrastructure, and information integration, among others. The workshop will explore emerging frontiers on how DOTs can improve organizational effectiveness through innovative mechanisms using existing resources. These frontiers include how stakeholders can be partners and agents in accomplishing an agency's mission, how to apply performance incentives in public agencies, how to translate accountability into tangible mechanisms that a DOT can apply, and what it takes to make transportation agencies more agile. The topics covered by this workshop will include strategic planning, business planning, relationship management, change management, and workforce development. Some of these topics have had recent NCHRP research focus. There are many examples of successes and failures at initiatives to address organizational development. This workshop will bring together practitioners with hands-on experience along with researchers to share and discuss ideas for proactively managing organizational development.

***Environmental Analysis in Transportation.*** The Environmental Analysis in Transportation Committee is concerned with the protection and enhancement of the natural and human environment as an integral part of the planning, design, construction and operation of transportation systems and projects. The workshop will explore research needs identification, research implementation, technology transfer, and information sharing in the following areas: environmental data collection and analysis; impacts assessment and documentation; mitigation and enhancement; systems planning, project development and management; and environmental stewardship, streamlining and sustainability. Several national speakers will address the current issues, approaches and practices associated within these environmental areas in an informal discussion format.

**TICKET** ***Meeting Freight Transportation Data Challenges.*** Recent conferences have identified adequate data as a major challenge to improved analysis and modeling of freight transportation flows. With anticipated increases in freight flows, improved decisions to mitigate projected freight transportation congestion need improved data resources. This workshop will: (a) examine ways to take better advantage of current national data sources like the Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) and the Freight Analysis Framework, (b) explore new sources such as private-public data sharing and the use of ITS data for freight applications, (c) explore the potential benefits that might be derived from improved information, and (d) define needed research to improve future key freight flow information.

**TICKET Pricing.** The TRB 2007 Summer Workshop on Pricing is designed for transportation professionals and researchers interested in learning the latest developments in transportation pricing, including congestion-based pricing, parking pricing, "pay-as-you go pricing", and other user-based approaches. The workshop will focus on stakeholder issues, analytical tools and data to support pricing design, operation, prioritization, policy and planning decisions. Topics for discussion may include: equity and pricing; outreach, communication and education; economic impacts and system responses; user impacts and behavioral responses; forecasting challenges; environmental issues and benefits; performance measurement and cost/benefit assessment; project economics and finance; and basic data needs. The summer workshop uses an interactive discussion format to encourage broad participation by both seasoned professionals and those "new" to road pricing.

## **Registration**

Registration fees will be announced by April 1, 2007.

## **Hotel**

The Renaissance Chicago Hotel is a premier luxury hotel located at the corner of State Street and Wacker Drive at the edge of "The Loop" in the heart of downtown Chicago. It is only blocks from Millennium Park; Macy's (the original Marshall Fields) on State Street, and the shops along the Magnificent Mile.

Make your reservation for the TRB special rate of \$141 (per room, per night, plus 15.4% tax) by calling the below reservations number. This rate is available until Friday, June 8, 2007, or until the block of rooms is sold out. Rooms are subject to availability and may be at a higher rate after this date. The hotel may not be able to provide rooms at the group rate after the block of rooms is sold.

Renaissance Chicago Hotel  
1 West Wacker Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60601 USA  
Phone: 1-800 468-3571 or 1-312-372-7200

Reservations also may be made via the Internet at:

<https://marriott.com/reservation/availability.mi?propertyCode=CHISR&path=marriott&gc=TRBTRBA>

## **Preliminary General Schedule**

### ***Friday, July 6***

- WORKSHOP: Transforming Transportation Organizations: Tools and Techniques for Organizational Development
- WORKSHOP: Environmental Analysis in Transportation (all day)

### ***Saturday, July 7***

- WORKSHOP: Environmental Analysis in Transportation (continued)
- COMMITTEE CHAIRS' LUNCH (Noon – by invitation)
- OPENING SESSION: It's Easy Being Green – Chicago's Efforts in Creating Sustainable Communities: (3:30 pm – 5:30 pm)
- WELCOMING RECEPTION (following Opening Session)
- Committee meetings

### ***Sunday, July 8***

- CONCURRENT DISCUSSION SESSIONS: The Many Faces of Transportation Sustainability (morning)
- PORTS & WATERWAYS CONFERENCE SESSIONS (afternoon)
- Committee meetings

### ***Monday, July 9***

- PORTS & WATERWAYS CONFERENCE SESSIONS (morning)
- WORKSHOP: Meeting Freight Transportation Data Challenges (afternoon)
- Committee meetings

### ***Tuesday, July 10***

- WORKSHOP: Meeting Freight Transportation Data Challenges (continued, morning)
- WORKSHOP: Pricing (all day)