The mission of the Transportation Research Board is to provide leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange, conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary, and multimodal. 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.
What Are Standing Committees and Why Get Involved?

The standing committees within TRB are communities of individuals who share an interest and expertise in transportation. With more than 200 committees, almost every transportation mode and topic is represented in the standing committee structure. Each committee proposes research, shares research findings, sponsors special activities, and provides a forum for transportation professionals to discuss today’s and tomorrow’s transportation issues.

Serving on TRB committees provides you with an opportunity to contribute to advancing the state of the art and the state of the practice in transportation. You will participate with individuals from around the world with diverse backgrounds, including industry, academia, consulting, and the public sector. This broad representation provides a chance to contribute, to learn, and to interact with others who share your passion for transportation.

There are no dues or fees associated with participation—only the time you voluntarily contribute to the committee activities and travel expenses to attend occasional meetings.

Ways to Get Involved

Visit TRB’s Website to see the list of all committees, including contact information for the committee chair and TRB staff representative. If you have difficulties in accessing the website, call TRB at 202-334-2934 and ask to speak to the staff representative in your area of interest.

Contact the committee chair by email to learn of current activities in which you may wish to participate. Share with the chair a brief synopsis of your background and areas of expertise and let the chair know you are interested in active participation.

Participate in committee meetings, which generally are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Don’t be shy—introduce yourself to the chair, sign the attendance sheet to get on the email distribution list, and be sure to follow-up by email with the chair after the meeting.

Volunteer to serve as a reviewer of research papers, to work on a committee project, or to give a presentation or preside at a session of the TRB Annual Meeting, webinar, or a specialty conference.

Express your interest in committee membership at the first opportunity. Membership requires a formal process; however, participation in committee activities is not limited to members. Active participants who are not members are called “friends” of a committee. Chairs look at the list of active “friends” when an opportunity for membership arises.

Benefits to You and Your Organization

Participation in TRB committee activities provides significant benefits to you, your employer, and the transportation community. Some of these benefits include:

- Networking with colleagues and establishing professional relationships with individuals from other geographical areas and disciplines to broaden knowledge and perspectives
- Receipt of valuable and timely information about ongoing and recently completed research, new technologies, and current practice
- Gaining early awareness of new research findings, as well as the opportunity to encourage research addressing problems faced by your employer
- Assisting your organization in contributing to the broader transportation community by sharing information about your organization’s research results and practices