The Transportation Research Board’s 180 standing committees cover all modes and areas of transportation. More than 3,000 volunteers, including experts from academia, industry, and government, serve on these committees. Their personal contributions to the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and the transportation community are numerous and significant, albeit immeasurable.

To mark the approach of the new millennium, the committees mounted a special effort to capture the current state of the art and practice and their perspectives on future directions in their respective areas of focus. The papers contained herein represent the results of that effort. Each paper provides a thoughtful and perceptive review prepared by experts fully engaged in advancing the way the traveling public is served. Taken together, the papers provide a comprehensive view of transportation as it exists today and can be expected to evolve as the new century unfolds. As a TRB initiative, of course, the papers give research its due attention.

On behalf of the TRB Executive Committee and the Division A (Technical Activities) Council, I want to express appreciation to all the committee chairs, authors, and others who contributed to this important effort. The product is the result of many hours of writing and consultation among the committee members, and represents an outstanding example of the contributions these volunteers make on an ongoing basis.

I hope you share our belief that these papers present information that will be useful in gaining a better understanding of the current technologies, practices, and issues of interest to transportation professionals today. More important, we hope the discussion of issues and challenges likely to be faced in the future will encourage readers to become major players as these issues and challenges are addressed by the transportation community.

Should you wish to comment on any of the papers, we encourage you to do so. Please communicate directly with the committee chair or author; with me at 225-767-9102, e-mail spaul@dotmail.dotd.state.la.us; or with Robert E. Spicher at 202-334-2935, e-mail rspicher@nas.edu.

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