

NEWS



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

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Press Advisory

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Climate Change and Energy TRB 89th Annual Meeting Session Highlights January 10-14, 2010 – Washington, DC

Environmental concerns require added effort from state departments of transportation and other transportation agencies. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users calls for increased environmental mitigation and the comparison of long-range transportation plans with conversation plans. Sessions and workshops in this major topic area will provide a forum for discussion of research results, share lessons from case histories, and cover emerging areas in climate change and associated research needs.

More than 10,000 policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions are expected to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 89th Annual Meeting, in Washington, DC, January 10-14, 2010. The meeting, held at the Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Hilton Washington hotels, includes more than 3,000 presentations in 600 sessions and workshops covering all aspects of transportation.

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. TRB facilitates the sharing of information on transportation practice and policy by researchers and practitioners; stimulates research and offers research management services that promote technical excellence; provides expert advice on transportation policy and programs; and disseminates research results broadly and encourages their implementation. A major focal point of TRB's activities, the Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for transportation professionals from all over the world to exchange information of common interest.

Organized in 1920, TRB is a division of the National Academies, which include the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council. The nation turns to the National Academies for independent, objective advice on issues that affect people's lives worldwide.

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Highlighted Climate Change and Energy Sessions

Session 260 – Federal Climate Change Legislation and Policies: Update and Outlook

Progress on federal climate change legislation has been slowed by the health care debate, but is likely to reignite in 2010. A federal climate bill could have dramatic and sweeping impacts on virtually all aspects of transportation policy. This session will provide an update on the status of the climate bill in Congress, the prospects for its enactment, and its potential impacts on the transportation sector: the impact of cap-and-trade proposals on transportation policies; fuel-related provisions in the bill; the relationship between the bill and existing regulatory initiatives that affect fuel efficiency and mobile source regulations under the Clean Air Act and state authorities; and the various grant sources and incentives at the federal and state levels for transportation-related technologies, policies, and measures.

Session 351 – Trade-offs and Complementarities Between Energy Security, Carbon Mitigation, and Sustainability

As the nation struggles with the need to enhance and ensure stable energy supplies, the U.S. transportation sector remains almost entirely dependent on petroleum—much of it imported from around the world. At the same time, the transportation sector is responsible for 28 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions—second only to the electricity sector in GHG emissions. It is often assumed that reducing petroleum consumption will also reduce GHG emissions. This is accurate for policies designed to improve vehicle efficiency—such as the light-duty fuel economy standards—as there is a relatively fixed relationship between the amount of gasoline and diesel fuel burned and carbon emissions; however, this relationship does not necessarily hold true for alternative sources of energy, such as unconventional oil. While the increased use of Canadian oil sands, biofuels, advanced oil exploration technologies, and smarter land use decisions can improve energy security, there are concerns that some of these new energy sources may increase GHG emissions in the transportation sector. This session will explore the complementarities and trade-offs in these energy sources and will examine the nation's policy choices.

Session 471 – Beyond LDVs: Energy Use and GHG Emissions from Heavy-Duty Vehicles

Currently, U.S. fuel economy regulations apply only to passenger cars and light-duty trucks. Although medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles—large pickup trucks, delivery vans, and tractor trailers—account for nearly 20 percent of petroleum consumption in the transportation sector, they are not subject to fuel economy rules. This will soon change: in 2007, Congress mandated that U.S. agencies must begin developing fuel economy regulations for medium-duty and heavy-duty trucks, and rules are expected to be implemented within the next decade. Many challenges exist in developing these new rules—determining what will be regulated, how fuel consumption will be measured, and how much fuel economy must improve over current levels. This session will explore the complexity of the truck-building and trucking industries, examine the challenges of regulating fuel consumption in the heavy-duty sector, and highlight the cost-effective technologies available to improve truck fuel efficiency.

All Climate Change and Energy Sessions

Sunday

Session	Title	Hotel	Time
119	SHRP 2 Web Tool: Collaborative Decision-Making Framework for Additions to Highway Capacity	S	9:00AM-12:00PM
134	Emerging Issues in Traffic Signal Systems: Air Quality and Traffic Signal Systems in an IntelliDrive World	M	9:00AM-5:00PM

Monday

Session	Title	Hotel	Time
204	Low-Carbon and Renewable Fuel Policy: Issues and Updates	M	8:00AM-9:45AM
228	Transportation and Land Use: Making the Connection	H	8:00AM-9:45AM
260	Federal Climate Change Legislation and Policies: Update and Outlook	M	10:15AM-12:00PM
351	Trade-offs and Complementarities Between Energy Security, Carbon Mitigation, and Sustainability	M	3:45PM-5:30PM
355	Climate Change Regulation and Impacts on Aviation and Airports	S	3:45PM-5:30PM
373	Climate Change Roundtable	M	7:30PM-9:30PM

Tuesday

Session	Title	Hotel	Time
427	Eisenhower Fellowship Program Research Showcase	H	8:00AM-12:00PM
437	Coming to Grips with Sustainability: Framework Approach	H	9:30AM-12:00PM
438	Current Issues in Transportation and the Environment	H	9:30AM-12:00PM
439	Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Transportation Sector	H	9:30AM-12:00PM
440	Innovations in Alternative Fuels and Vehicle Technology	H	9:30AM-12:00PM
441	Transportation, Climate Change, and Sustainability	H	9:30AM-12:00PM
460	U.S. Nuclear Power Generation: Present, Future, and Implications for Transportation	S	10:15AM-12:00PM
471	Beyond LDVs: Energy Use and GHG Emissions from Heavy-Duty Vehicles	M	1:30PM-3:15PM
472	Control and Electrification of Highway Vehicles: Integrating Concepts and Infrastructure Needs	M	1:30PM-3:15PM
484	Climate Change Effects on Hazardous Materials Transportation Activity and Performance	S	1:30PM-3:15PM
488	Protecting and Enhancing the Environment, Part 1: Technical Challenges and Opportunities (Part 2, Session 545)	S	1:30PM-3:15PM
499	Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction Targets: Will This Strategy Get the Desired Results?	H	1:30PM-3:15PM
538	Vehicle Electrification: How Close Are We?	M	3:45PM-5:30PM
545	Protecting and Enhancing the Environment, Part 2: Management and Financial Challenges and Opportunities (Part 1, Session 488)	S	3:45PM-5:30PM
558	Achieving Sustainability: Examples from Europe	M	7:30PM-9:30PM

Wednesday

Session	Title	Hotel	Time
592	Achieving Sustainability Through Design and Infrastructure	M	8:00AM-9:45AM
636	How Do Travelers Value Energy Efficiency and the Environment? -Some Key Insights	H	9:30AM-12:00PM
641	Content and Comparison of Major Climate Change Studies	M	10:15AM-12:00PM

Thursday

Session	Title	Hotel	Time
713	How to Achieve a Global Low-Carbon Transport System by 2050	M	8:00AM-12:00PM

Hotels: Marriott (M), Hilton (H), Shoreham (S)

Additional Sessions Information: <http://pressamp.trb.org/conferenceinteractiveprogram/default.aspx>