

# NEWS



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

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News Release

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## **TRANSIT VETERAN WILLIAM W. MILLAR HONORED WITH 2012 THOMAS B. DEEN DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP**

The 2012 recipient of the Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lectureship is former American Public Transportation Association President William W. Millar. His lecture, "Public Transportation: Today and Tomorrow," will be delivered on January 23, 2012, at the Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lecture and Presentation of Awards for Outstanding Papers during the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The lecture will be published in a forthcoming *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board*.

The Deen Distinguished Lectureship recognizes the career contributions and achievements of an individual in one of the areas covered by the Board's Technical Activities Division. Originally known as the Transportation Research Board Distinguished Lectureship, the award was renamed in 2002 in honor of the Board's eighth Executive Director, who served with distinction from 1980 to 1994. Honorees are invited to present overviews of their technical areas, including the evolution, present status, and prospects for the future.

William W. Millar, who retired last fall after a 40-year transportation career, including 15 years as President of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), is the 2012 recipient of the Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lectureship. Prior to APTA, Millar served 19

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years at the Port Authority of Allegheny County, the principal transit operator serving Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As its Executive Director from 1983 to 1996, he oversaw the development and operation of bus, busway, light rail, paratransit, and inclined plane service. He is the founder of Pittsburgh's award-winning ACCESS paratransit service. From 1973 to 1977, Millar worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, where he developed and managed Pennsylvania's Free Transit Program for Senior Citizens. He began his career as the county transportation planner in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1972.

An Ohio native, Millar earned a bachelor's degree at Northwestern University and a master's degree in urban transportation planning and policy analysis at the University of Iowa. His involvement with TRB began while a graduate student, and he has served on many TRB committees and in key leadership posts, including the TRB Executive Committee (1988 to 2011), which he chaired in 1992.

Millar has shown extraordinary leadership and commitment to developing research in the transit field. He is the recipient of the Founding Father Award for his leadership in establishing the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP). In 1999 TRB awarded him its W. N. Carey, Jr., Distinguished Service Award, and in 2008 he received the Texas Transportation Institute's Director's Research Champion Award. In 1975 he was a corecipient of TRB's Pyke Johnson Award. Millar recently received the Eno Foundation's Award for Transportation Excellence, as well as lifetime achievement awards from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, and he has been inducted into the ITS America Hall of Fame.

More than 10,500 policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions are expected to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 91st Annual Meeting, in Washington, DC, January 22-26, 2012. The meeting, held at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Hilton Washington hotels, includes more than 4,000 presentations in 650 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.