

# NEWS



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

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## **JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR EARL SWIFT TO SPEAK AT TRB CHAIRMAN'S LUNCHEON**

Virginia-based journalist and author Earl Swift is the featured speaker at the Chairman's Luncheon of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 91st Annual Meeting on January 25, 2012, in Washington, D.C. Swift will share his perspective on the history of the Interstate highway system—the subject of his new book, *The Big Roads: The Untold Story of the Engineers, Visionaries, and Trailblazers Who Created the American Superhighways*.

Swift's critically acclaimed book, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in June 2011, tells the story of how the United States planned, designed, and constructed an interconnected, nationwide network of expressways in less than a century. Swift has written for a living since his teens. He has been a Fulbright fellow, PEN finalist, and five-time Pulitzer Prize nominee, and has earned a reputation for powerful narrative and scrupulous reporting. Swift wrote for newspapers in St. Louis, Missouri; Anchorage, Alaska; and, for 22 years, in Norfolk, Virginia, where his long-form features won numerous state and national awards. His stories have also appeared in *Parade*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Best Newspaper Writing*, and *River Teeth*.

Swift's earlier books include *Journey on the James: Three Weeks Through the Heart of Virginia* (University of Virginia Press, 2001), the story of a great American river and the largely untold history that has unfolded in and around it; *Where They Lay: Searching for America's Lost*

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*Soldiers* (Houghton Mifflin, 2003), for which Swift accompanied an Army archaeological team into the jungles of Laos in search of a helicopter crew shot down 30 years before; and a 2007 collection of stories, *The Tangierman's Lament*.

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.

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