For Immediate Release
Press Release

Date: January 8, 2013
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2013 Officers and New Members of TRB Executive Committee Announced

Deborah H. Butler, Executive Vice President, Planning, and Chief Information Officer, Norfolk Southern Corporation, is the Committee’s 2013 Chair. Kirk T. Steudle, Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), is the Committee’s 2013 Vice Chair. Butler and Steudle will serve one-year terms in these offices, beginning January 17, 2013.

Newly appointed members of the Executive Committee are Scott E. Bennett, Director of Highways and Transportation, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department; John S. Halikowski, Director, Arizona Department of Transportation; Susan Hanson, Distinguished University Professor Emerita in the School of Geography, Clark University; Steve Heminger, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Oakland, California; Jeffrey D. Holt, Managing Director, Bank of Montreal, and Chairman, Utah Transportation Commission; Kevin L. Keith, Director, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT); Donald A. Osterberg, Senior Vice President of Safety, Security and Driver Training, Schneider National, Inc.; Steven W. Palmer, Vice President of Transportation, Lowe's Companies, Inc; Gary C. Thomas, President and Executive Director, Dallas Area Rapid Transit; and Phillip A. Washington, General Manager, Denver Regional Transportation District.

Reappointed members of the Executive Committee are Paula J. Hammond, Secretary, Washington State Department of Transportation; and Daniel Sperling, Professor of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science and Policy, and founding Director of the Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California, Davis.

Newly appointed and reappointed members of the Executive Committee will serve three-year terms, beginning January 17, 2013.

Organized in 1920, TRB is one of six major divisions of the National Research Council (NRC)—a private, nonprofit institution that is the principal operating agency of the National Academies in providing services to the government, the public, and the scientific and engineering communities. The NRC is jointly administered by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), and the Institute of Medicine (IOM). The TRB Executive Committee, whose members are appointed by the NRC chairman, exercises oversight responsibility for the Board’s programs and activities. Members include senior transportation industry executives, top officials of public-sector transportation agencies, and distinguished researchers from academia.
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 provides research management services that promote technical excellence; provides expert advice on transportation policy and programs; and disseminates research results broadly and encourages their implementation.

TRB’s varied activities annually engage more than 7,000 engineers, scientists, and other transportation researchers and practitioners from the public and private sectors and academia, all of whom contribute their expertise in the public interest by participating on TRB committees, panels, and task forces. TRB 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.

2013 TRB Executive Committee Officers

**Deborah H. Butler** has served as Executive Vice President, Planning, and Chief Information Officer, Norfolk Southern Corporation since June 2007. She has been employed by Norfolk Southern since 1978; her most recent prior position was Vice President-Customer Service. She received a bachelor’s degree from Agnes Scott College and completed executive education programs at Northwestern University’s Transportation Center, the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University, and the Harvard Business School. Ms. Butler serves on the Board of Trustees of Virginia Wesleyan College, on the Board of Directors of TTX Company, as a Commissioner on the Norfolk Airport Authority, and is past Chair of the National Grain Car Council, which is chartered by the U.S. Congress and the Surface Transportation Board.

**Kirk T. Steudle** is the Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and has served in that position since 2006. He is engaged in all aspects of transportation in the State of Michigan. Mr. Steudle was the 2011-12 President of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and is a member of the AASHTO Executive Committee. He chairs the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) Oversight Committee for TRB and has served on the Executive Committee since 2004. He is on the Board of Directors of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America), and the Engineering Society of Detroit. He also serves as Chair of the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) Advisory Board. Mr. Steudle is a graduate of Lawrence Technological University (LTU), where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Engineering and is also on the LTU Civil Engineering Advisory Board. In 2012, he was inducted into LTU’s Engineering Hall of Fame. He is a registered professional engineer in Michigan.

Newly Appointed TRB Executive Committee Members

**Scott E. Bennett** has been the Director of Highways and Transportation, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department since 2011, and has worked for the department since 1989 in various positions, mostly involving research, program and policy planning, and program delivery. Mr. Bennett is actively involved with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Board of Directors and several of its standing committees. He is currently responsible for guiding the implementation of two recent statewide, voter-approved highway bond programs which will total over $2 billion in additional improvements to Arkansas’ highway system, which is the 12th largest in the
nation. He was inducted into the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineering in 2010, and named University of Arkansas Young Engineer Alumni of the Year in 2005. Mr. Bennett received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas and is a registered professional engineer in Arkansas.

**John S. Halikowski** is Director, Arizona Department of Transportation. Mr. Halikowski served 12 years as Director of Research at the Arizona House of Representatives. He was involved in major legislation that addressed the Maricopa County transportation plan, state highway construction acceleration, privatization, drunk and drugged driving, transportation finance, and graduated driver licensing. Mr. Halikowski has held prior positions as Executive Assistant to the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) Director and Deputy Director of Driver License Program; Legislative Liaison, MVD Customer Services and Central Processing Administrator; and MVD Deputy Director and Operations Chief. He serves on various transportation-related boards, commissions, committees, and councils. He received a bachelor of arts degree in communication from Arizona State University.

**Steve Heminger** is the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the regional transportation planning and finance agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay area in California. The MTC allocates more than $1 billion a year in funding for the operation, maintenance, and expansion of the Bay area’s surface transportation network. Mr. Heminger chairs the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee that is overseeing the construction of the new east span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. In addition, he is Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Mineta Transportation Institute and a member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO). He recently completed service as President of AMPO and as a member of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission. Mr. Heminger received a bachelor of arts degree from Georgetown University and a master of arts degree from the University of Chicago.

**Jeffrey D. Holt** is Managing Director at the Bank of Montreal and Chairman of the Utah Transportation Commission. Prior to joining the Bank of Montreal Mr. Holt served as Vice President for Goldman Sachs. He has worked as an investment banker for the past 30 years, specializing in transportation finance. He received a bachelor of science degree in finance from the University of Utah.

**Kevin L. Keith** is Director of the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). He oversees the agency responsible for designing, building, operating, and maintaining Missouri’s transportation system—the seventh largest in the nation. He has served for more than 25 years in various positions within MoDOT, including nearly nine years as Chief Engineer before being appointed director in 2010. Mr. Keith is nationally recognized for his innovative efforts to implement “Practical Design,” a no-frills approach that enables MoDOT to satisfy customer needs while saving money for more transportation improvements. Practical Design has saved Missouri taxpayers more than $1 billion and has been adopted in numerous other states. Mr. Keith received a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is active in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and is a member of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers.

**Donald A. Osterberg** currently serves as senior vice president of safety, security, and driver training for Schneider National, Inc. Mr. Osterberg has also served as vice president and general manager of Schneider Specialized Carriers, Inc.—the company’s flatbed and specialty transportation division. Prior to his career with Schneider, Osterberg served as executive vice president and chief operating officer for Kaufman Supply Co., a subsidiary of WATSCO, Inc. He received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and a master’s degree from the U.S. Army Command and General
Staff College. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army’s Airborne School, Ranger School (Distinguished Honor Graduate); Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses; Command and General Staff College; School of Advanced Military Studies; Armed Forces Staff College (joint professional military education), and the U.S. Army War College.

**Steven W. Palmer** is Vice President of Transportation for Lowe's Companies, Inc. He is responsible for Lowe’s International Transportation, Import Trans-load distribution center (DC) operations, and all of Lowe’s North American Transportation. Mr. Palmer’s career spans 37 years with the company with broad experience in merchandising, all aspects of Lowe's supply chain including vendor and channel analysis, replenishment, network design, DC site selection, transportation, and distribution management. He led the early development and DC startups of the specialty distribution center network and later assumed responsibility for all DC operations including all Specialty and Regional DCs before returning to lead the transportation group in the mid-1990s. Mr. Palmer is an active member of the Coalition of Responsible Transportation and the Retail Industry Leaders Association, where he currently chairs the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Additionally, he works actively with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on its SmartWay program. In conjunction with Lowe’s Government Affairs Department, he also works with various state legislatures, highway agencies, and the Environmental Defense Fund. He is a graduate of Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina.

**Gary C. Thomas** has been the President and Executive Director of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) since 2001. Thomas is responsible for a 13-city transit system that provides bus, light rail, commuter rail, paratransit, and high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lane services in an area in excess of 700 square miles. During his tenure, he has overseen one of the largest public transit expansions in North America. Mr. Thomas guides DART’s 3,700 employees to emphasize a strong customer focus to ensure that transit riders and taxpayers receive the best transit service available. He works closely with member city governments and the public in developing short- and long-term transportation and mobility goals. Prior to his selection as president and executive director, Thomas was senior vice president of project management for DART, overseeing the design and construction of all of DART’s major capital projects. Mr. Thomas received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering and a bachelor of architecture degree from Texas Tech University.

**Phillip A. Washington** has been General Manager, Denver Regional Transportation District (RTD), since 2009. Mr. Washington had served as the Interim General Manager for six months, and prior to that was RTD's Assistant General Manager of Administration for nearly ten years. He spearheaded the implementation of the first-of-its kind $2.1 billion dollar transit public-private partnership (P3). Before entering the transportation industry, Mr. Washington had a storied 24-year military career, retiring as a decorated active-duty U.S. Army soldier, having attained the rank of Command Sergeant Major, (E-9). This position is not only the highest non-commissioned officer rank an enlisted person can achieve, but also requires uncompromising integrity and leadership skills. He is the recipient of numerous military honors and citations for outstanding performance of duty and leadership. He received a bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Columbia College and a master of arts degree in management from Webster University.

**Reappointed TRB Executive Committee Members**

**Paula J. Hammond** is Secretary of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). As Secretary she manages an agency of 7,200 employees with responsibility for 20,000 lane miles of highways and 3,500 bridges. The department is also responsible for the state’s general aviation airports, passenger and freight rail programs, and the Washington State Ferry System, which is the
nation’s largest. Ms. Hammond has been with WSDOT 31 years and has worked in all areas of the department’s capital delivery, operations, and policy programs. She has committed her efforts to transparent project delivery and development of sustainable investment strategies for long-term safety, preservation, and maintenance of the state’s infrastructure. Ms. Hammond’s key initiative is the development of Moving Washington, the state’s program to fight congestion and reduce emissions. Ms. Hammond is the President of the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO); the chair of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Subcommittee on Public Affairs; the chair of the AASHTO Climate Change Steering Committee; and a member of several other AASHTO committees, including the Standing Committee on Performance Management. She is a graduate of Oregon State University, where she received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. She is a register professional engineer.

Daniel Sperling is Professor of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science and Policy, and founding Director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1982. He is a leading international expert on transportation technology assessment, energy and environmental aspects of transportation, and transportation and climate policy. He has authored and co-authored more than 200 technical papers and 12 books, including Two Billion Cars (Oxford University Press, 2009) and Driving Climate Change: Cutting Carbon from Transportation (Elsevier 2007). Dr. Sperling is an expert on public policy aspects of alternative automotive propulsion systems; was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the California Air Resources Board in 2007; and received a 2010 Heinz Award for his “achievements in the research of alternative transportation fuels and his responsibility for the adoption of cleaner transportation policies in California and across the United States.” He has served on 13 NRC committees and was founding chair of the TRB committee on Alternative Transportation Fuels. Dr. Sperling received a bachelor of science degree from Cornell University and a Ph.D. degree in transportation engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

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