

NEWS



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

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TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES COUNCIL HONORS SIX STANDING COMMITTEES WITH BLUE RIBBON AWARDS

The Technical Activities Council established the Blue Ribbon Awards in 2013 to recognize exemplary practices and associated volunteer efforts in the activities of standing committees. The Blue Ribbon Award committees serve as role models, and the committee chairs and members are available to share their experiences with others.

The Technical Activities Council will present the Blue Ribbon Awards on January 13, 2014, at the Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lecture and Presentation of Awards during the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 93rd Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Committees recognized with 2014 Blue Ribbon Awards include the following:

- *Communications*
Travel Survey Methods, chaired by Guy Rousseau, Atlanta Regional Commission, for “ensuring that the travel survey community has access to the best and most up-to-date information, documentation, and details on survey methods.”;
- *Community Building and Mentoring*
Women's Issues in Transportation, cochaired by Marsha Anderson Bomar, Stantec Consulting, Inc., and Heather A. Rothenberg, Federal Highway Administration, for “cooperatively pursuing activities with the Women’s Transportation Seminar that enhance the professional development and career advancement of women in the industry.”;
- *Advancing Research*
Operational Effects of Geometrics, chaired by Kay Fitzpatrick, Texas A&M Transportation Institute; and **Geometric Design**, chaired by Eric T. Donnell, Pennsylvania State University, for jointly “developing a strategic geometric design research program in consultation with American Association of State Transportation Officials Technical Committee on Geometric

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Design.”;

- *Contributing to TRB and the Transportation Community*
Conduct of Research, cochaired by Jason J. Bittner, University of South Florida Center for Urban Transportation Research, and Barbara Thomas Harder, B.T. Harder, Inc., for ‘championing and leading a variety of TRB activities, special initiatives, and ongoing partnerships.’; and
- *Contributing to TRB and the Transportation Community*
Urban Transportation Data and Information Systems, chaired by Catherine T. Lawson, State University of New York, Albany, for “expanding the depth of research on urban transportation data through a number of joint subcommittees devoted to emerging transportation data issues.”

In 1920 the Board established three technical committees to promote research and disseminate highway research findings. Today TRB maintains more than 200 standing committees and task forces that address all aspects and modes of transportation. More than 4,000 administrators, operators, engineers, attorneys, researchers, educators, and others concerned with transportation serve on these committees and task forces without compensation. Committee members identify research needs; provide information to the transportation community on research priorities and procedures; review papers for presentation at the TRB Annual Meeting and for publication; encourage the incorporation of appropriate research findings into practice; and develop special programs, conferences, and workshops.

Standing committees and task forces are organized into 11 groups, each overseen by a separate council. Six of the groups, including some 150 committees, address various functional aspects of transportation, with a major focus on highways. Each of the remaining five groups concentrates primarily on a specific transportation mode. The chairs of each of the 11 groups and a chair make up the Technical Activities Council (TAC). The TAC is designed to provide a forum for interchange between the groups of committees, the TRB Executive Committee, and TRB staff. The TAC is designed to assist in identifying emerging topics of interest to the transportation community and cross-cutting issues, and to help foster outreach efforts to other transportation organizations.

Nearly 12,000 policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions are expected to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 93rd Annual Meeting, in Washington, D.C., January 12-16, 2014. The meeting, held at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Hilton Washington hotels, includes more than 4,500 presentations in 800 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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