KATHERINE F. TURNBULL IS THE 2014 W.N. CAREY, JR.,
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

In recognition of her outstanding service to TRB and transportation research, Katherine F. Turnbull is the 2014 recipient of the W.N. Carey, Jr., Distinguished Service Award. Turnbull is Executive Associate Director and Research Scientist at Texas A&M Transportation Institute. The Carey Award—named in honor of W.N. Carey, Jr., the Board’s Executive Director from 1967 to 1980—recognizes individuals who have given leadership and distinguished service to TRB.

For more than 27 years, Turnbull has provided uninterrupted service to TRB as a chair or member of more than 23 councils, groups, sections, committees, panels, and task forces. Turnbull is nationally recognized for her work in performance measurement and assessment of high-occupancy vehicle and high-occupancy toll facilities, Intelligent Transportation Systems technologies, and innovative transit service in national parks and federal lands. During this period, Turnbull has also been a prolific writer—receiving credit as the author or coauthor of 39 TRB publications since 1988.
Based on her experience and depth of knowledge of TRB, Turnbull was tapped to chair the TRB Technical Activities Council (TAC) from 2011 to 2013. Just a few examples of the council’s accomplishments during her tenure include the establishment the Young Members Council; initiation of an annual dialogue between the TAC and research directors of TRB federal agency sponsors; introduction of the “Blue Ribbon Committee” awards program; and implementation of the “Back to Basics – Fostering and Nurturing Research Agendas for Standing Committees” program, which included the creation of the Committee Research Coordinators position within the standing committee structure. In 2011 she was recognized as a National Associate of the National Research Council of the National Academies.

A native of Minnesota, Turnbull received Bachelor of Science degrees in political science and history from the University of Minnesota Duluth; a Master of Science degree in urban studies from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; and a Ph.D. in urban and regional science from Texas A&M University.

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