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SUSAN HANSON SELECTED BY TRB AS THE 2018 W.N. CAREY JR. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

WASHINGTON -- In recognition of her outstanding service to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the Transportation Research Board (TRB), and the broader transportation research community, Susan Hanson is the 2018 recipient of the W.N. Carey Jr. Distinguished Service Award. Hanson is a Distinguished University Professor Emerita in the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University. The Carey Award — named in honor of W.N. Carey Jr., TRB’s executive director from 1967 to 1980 — recognizes individuals who have given leadership and distinguished service to TRB. The award will be presented during the Chair's Luncheon on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019, at the TRB Annual Meeting.

Hanson began her volunteer work on behalf of TRB in 1982 when she became a member of the Technical Standing Committee on Transportation Demand Forecasting. Since that time, she has participated on almost 40 National Academies or TRB committees, panels, advisory boards, or delegations. Collectively her terms of service on these various bodies exceeds more than 110 years.

Since 2013, Hanson has served as chair of the TRB Division Committee, which is responsible for ensuring that TRB meets the NRC’s standards for objectivity, quality, and integrity and that TRB’s activities are appropriate for the NRC. As chair, Hanson provides oversight for TRB's committee and panel appointments and report review, and assists the TRB Executive Committee with the strategic plan and special projects submitted to the NRC Governing Board for approval. During her service as chair, Hanson has overseen the approval of approximately 750 TRB reports and publications, and the creation of some 422 TRB committees and panels. As chair of the TRB Division Committee, Hanson has also been a strong leader and advocate for TRB’s efforts to continue to advance inclusion and diversity in TRB’s activities and programs.

Hanson was chair of the committee that in 2005 produced “TRB Special Report 282 — Does the Built Environment Influence Physical Activity?: Examining the Evidence,” which identified the need for additional research to better assess whether the built environment affects people's actual levels of physical activity. She also served as a member of the committee that wrote “TRB Special Report 298 — Driving and the Built Environment: The Effects of Compact Development on Motorized Travel, Energy Use, and CO2 Emissions,” which in 2009 called on all levels of government to adopt policies to support more compact, mixed-use development.

In her professional career, Hanson is an urban geographer who has focused on the connections between travel-activity patterns and urban spatial structure, on gender and the geography of urban labor markets processes, and on the significance of residential rootedness to urban
processes. In 2000, she was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Hanson received a Bachelor of Arts in geography from Middlebury College and a Ph.D. in geography from Northwestern University. Between degrees, Hanson was a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya.

TRB’s 98th Annual Meeting takes place Jan. 13-17, 2019, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, D.C. The meeting covers all transportation issues, with 5,000 presentations in more than 800 sessions. A number of sessions and workshops will focus on the meeting’s spotlight theme, Transportation for a Smart, Sustainable, and Equitable Future. The meeting is expected to attract more than 13,000 transportation professionals.

The mission of TRB is to provide leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange, conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary, and multimodal. Its annual meeting -- a major focal point of TRB's activities -- provides an opportunity for transportation professionals from all over the world to exchange information of common interest.

TRB is a program unit of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine -- private, nonprofit institutions that provide independent, objective analysis and advice to the nation to solve complex problems and inform public policy decisions related to science, technology, and medicine. The Academies operate under an 1863 congressional charter to the National Academy of Sciences, signed by President Lincoln. For more information, visit http://national-academies.org.

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