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TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

TR NEWS

All Aboard for Railway Safety Rulemaking

Also

Transit Standards: Catching Up with Innovations

The State of Transportation: Gaining Research Directions

Intelligent Transportation Systems: Preparing for the Long Term
The Transportation Research Board is a division of the National Research Council, which serves the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering. The Board’s mission is to promote innovation and progress in transportation through research. In an objective and interdisciplinary setting, the Board 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. The Board’s varied activities annually draw on approximately 5,000 engineers, scientists, and transportation researchers and practitioners from the public and private sectors and academia, all of whom contribute their expertise in the public interest. The program 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.

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Transit’s Complex Route to Improved Standards and Codes: Keeping Pace with Innovations
Jeffrey G. Mora and William P. Chernicoff

Experiences with the introduction of advanced technologies in bus transit—for example, alternative fuels—demonstrate the importance of developing or refining codes, standards, and best practices before and in conjunction with the new applications, to mitigate the risks and to improve safety and performance.

Consensus Rulemaking at the Federal Railroad Administration: All Aboard for Railway Safety Measures
Grady C. Cothen, Jr., Christopher F. Schulte, Jeffrey D. Horn, and David C. Tyrell

The Federal Railroad Administration has changed the traditional hear-and-decide regulatory procedure for railroad safety into a consensus model involving all stakeholders. Here are accounts and lessons from two noteworthy rulemaking successes, plus insights into the unique and balanced workings of the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee.

The State of Transportation: Findings from the Transportation Research Board’s 2004 Field Visit Program

A comprehensive roundup of transportation issues of primary concern around the states, compiled from first-hand reports by TRB’s Technical Activities program officers, points to new and renewed initiatives for transportation research. Three areas receive particular attention: succession planning, the development and application of performance measures, and transportation in national parks and federal lands.

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TRB SPECIAL REPORT
Development and Deployment of Standards for Intelligent Transportation Systems: Review of the Federal Program
Jocelyn N. Sands

Phase II of a study to review the federal Intelligent Transportation Systems Standards Program and to evaluate the program’s strategy identified obstacles to standards deployment and ways to overcome the obstacles. The study committee recommends several procedures to enhance the program’s effectiveness, covering investment of resources, guidance during development, and preparing for the long term.
features articles on innovative and timely research and development activities in all modes of transportation. Brief news items of interest to the transportation community are also included, along with profiles of transportation professionals, meeting announcements, summaries of new publications, and news of Transportation Research Board activities.

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School transportation is the focus of feature articles in the March–April TR News—including emissions impacts on neighborhoods, alternative fuels, child passenger safety, the application of automated vehicle location systems for school buses, insights from practices in the Netherlands, and more. Plus, photographic highlights and summary reports recap TRB’s 84th Annual Meeting.