


TR NEWS



**Demographic Changes
Driving Change**
*Ensuring Mobility for All—
Safely, Efficiently, Equitably*

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DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES DRIVING CHANGE

3 INTRODUCTION

Changing Demographics Change the Transportation System

Joseph F. Coughlin, Robin Kline, and Katherine F. Turnbull

Age, income, gender, ethnicity, household size, and automobile availability are some of the variables that influence travel behavior and transportation demand for different modes. Articles in this issue highlight information presented at a 2008 conference on the Impact of Changing Demographics on the Transportation System.

4 Travel Demand in the Context of Growing Diversity: Considerations for Policy, Planning, and Forecasting

Heather Contrino and Nancy McGuckin

As U.S. society increases in diversity in the next few decades, a significant portion of growth in travel demand will come from minority populations. The authors explore differences in travel behavior that can have wide-reaching consequences for short- and long-term policy development, planning, and travel demand forecasting.

9 Preparing the Transportation System for Demographic Changes: Conference Explores Research Needs

Katherine F. Turnbull

10 Changes in Travel Characteristics by Gender: U.S. Commuting Trends from a National Sample, 1985–2005

Randall Crane

Women's travel is changing more than men's, with the increased participation of women in the workforce. Data from the American Housing Survey indicate, for example, that the gender gap for commute trip length is converging, although slowly. The author explores related trends and their implications for transportation policy and planning and identifies topics for further research.

13 Focusing on Demographic Changes and the Transportation System: TRB Activities Under Way

Katherine F. Turnbull

14 Key Issues in Transportation and Aging: Ensuring Safe Mobility for Older Adults

David W. Eby

Baby boomers are expected to bring a culture of "automobility" into older adulthood, holding onto licenses longer and driving more than previous generations. The author reviews approaches to help those who are able to drive safely continue to do so, through driving evaluation, education and rehabilitation, vehicle design and modification, advanced technology, and roadway design.

19 The Safety and Mobility Patterns of Older Women in 2030: Defining and Meeting the Challenges

Sandra Rosenbloom and Susan Herbel

Older women today must make a complicated choice—to continue to drive and face an increased risk of serious injury or death or to restrict or cease driving and face the greater risk of social and emotional isolation. Examining differences in the travel behavior of older women and men, the authors explore mobility and safety options to allow older people, particularly women, to maintain their independence and access in safety.



4



10



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COVER: Demographic changes bring changes in travel needs and preferences—researchers are studying the trends to prepare for adjustments to transportation systems and services. (Photo: John A. Rizzo, Getty Images)

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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24 SPECIAL FEATURE
**Communicating Transportation, Energy, and
Climate Change Concepts to the Public:
TRB Contest Identifies Exemplary Efforts**

Judy A. Meyer and Jennifer L. Weeks

Energy and climate change in transportation was the focus of the TRB Planning and Environment Group's recent annual competition to recognize fresh and creative methods of communicating technical transportation issues and concepts to John and Jane Q. Public. The top entries ranged from a book to multimedia presentations and interactive online games.

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CORRECTION: In the article, Nontoll Forms of Pricing to Reduce Traffic Congestion and Pollution: Mileage, Insurance, Carsharing, and Parking Strategies, by Allen Greenberg (*TR News*, July–August 2009, pages 28–31), an editorial error changed a per-mile fee from 0.43 cent to 43 cents. The sentence starting at the bottom of page 38 should have read, “In a second phase, the per-mile fee varied by location and traffic conditions—10 cents per mile within identified congestion zones and 0.43 cent per mile otherwise.”

COMING NEXT ISSUE

Anatomy of Change in Winter Maintenance is the theme of the November–December 2009 *TR News*, assembling articles on weather and road condition forecasting, winter maintenance decision support systems, training for winter maintenance operations, data collection for roadway treatment delivery, new snow fence technologies, Sweden's real-time traffic management



communications, Japan's use of cell phones for road and weather alerts, the chronology of an avalanche event on a highway in the Tetons, selecting snow and ice control chemicals to minimize environmental impacts, and more.

A Missouri Department of Transportation TowPlow, or trailer plow, can clear a path that can be adjusted from 10- to 26-ft wide with one operator and can allow a gang plowing operation to release two trucks to clear other routes.