Opening Avenues for Innovations

- Coordinating Across Modes
- Delivering into the Mainstream

Plus:
Transiting Parks and Preserves
Fuel Tax or Creative Financing?
Researchers Without Borders
The Transportation Research Board is one of six major divisions of the National Research Council, which serves as an independent adviser to the federal government and others on scientific and technical questions of national importance, and which is jointly administered by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine. 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. The Board’s varied activities annually engage about 7,000 engineers, scientists, and other 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.

The National Research Council was organized by the National Academy of Sciences in 1916 to associate the broad community of science and technology with the Academy’s purposes of furthering knowledge and advising the federal government. Functioning in accordance with general policies determined by the Academy, the Council has become the principal operating agency of both the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering in providing services to the government, the public, and the scientific and engineering communities.

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A Tour of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration: Implementing Transportation Solutions to Define a New Era

Peter H. Appel

At the fifth anniversary of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), Administrator Appel reviews the work and accomplishments of RITA’s six components and advances a vision of researchers communicating across modes to share findings and best practices and to develop and implement innovative transportation solutions.

Vanguard Technologies on the Move: Delivering Innovations into the Mainstream of Practice

Byron N. Lord

Through the Vanguard Technologies initiative, the Federal Highway Administration is promoting proven, high-payoff innovations that save time, boost safety and quality, and decrease congestion during highway construction: road safety audits, prefabricated bridge elements and systems, precast concrete pavement systems, techniques for making work zones work better, and the safety edge to reduce roadway departure crashes.

Transportation to Enhance America’s Best Idea: Addressing Mobility Needs in National Parks

Katherine F. Turnbull

Meeting the transportation needs of visitors to national parks, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, and other federal lands presents an ongoing challenge. The author reviews the planning, financing, and operation of recent initiatives and projects, as well as research efforts, findings from case studies, and best practices.

Rebirth of the Historic Hermit Road

Jonathan Upchurch

The Creative Financing Sidestep

Steve Williams and Dan Murray

The role of the fuel tax in generating future transportation revenue has been downplayed in the national debate, and several of the creative financing alternatives are problematic, the authors maintain, pointing to flaws in congestion pricing, tolling, privatization, and vehicle mileage taxes. They argue that raising the fuel tax is the better option.

TRB ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Investing in Our Transportation Future: Bold Ideas to Meet Big Challenges

A photo essay documents sessions, workshops, special events, poster presentations, awards, exhibits, committee meetings, and networking at TRB’s 89th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., January 10–14, including a speech by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and panel discussions with U.S. DOT leaders.

Expanding International Transport Research Collaboration: Working Group Presents Findings

G. A. Giannopoulos and O. A. Elrahman

An international working group has examined the issues of collaboration in transportation research between groups in the European Union and the United States. The report explores differences in research management, finance, and governance; investigates ways to effect collaboration; identifies possible models; and makes recommendations.
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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