Turning Points

- Research Executives Making History
- Commercial Aviation’s New Century
- India’s Highway Capacity Manual
- Roundabouts Gaining Momentum
- Imaging Revolution Hits the Streets
- Managing Traffic on the Move
- Smart Growth Accommodating Freight
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.

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* Membership as of December 2014.
3 Caretakers and Change Makers: The Nine Leaders Who Built the Transportation Research Board
Suzanne B. Schneider
The advent of TRB’s tenth Executive Director in February 2015 offers an occasion to review the history of the nine men who led the Board from its beginnings in 1920 to the present. Engineers all, they have served as spokesmen and champions for what transportation research can accomplish and have facilitated the dialogue, coordination, fundraising, study, and dissemination needed for the research enterprise to thrive.

13 Pedersen Named TRB Executive Director

14 Commercial Aviation Soars into Its Second Century: Aerial Views of a Rapidly Developing History—and Outlook
John Fischer, Greg Casto, and George Hamlin
Commercial aviation reached its 100th anniversary in 2014. The authors present a chronological fly-by of the historic highlights and assemble insights from eyewitnesses.

17 Indo-HCM—India’s Highway Capacity Manual Project: Developing a National Guide to Address Unique Traffic Conditions
Kayitha Ravinder, Senathipathi Velmurugan, and Subhamay Gangopadhyay
A five-year national study is under way to develop the Indo-HCM, a Highway Capacity Manual addressing the unique characteristics of traffic, roadways, terrain, and driver behavior in India. The authors describe the collaborative research undertaking, the component work packages, the coordinated progress, and the expected products.

23 NCHRP REPORTS AND PROJECTS
Implementing Modern Roundabouts in the United States
Hillary Isebrands
The United States has joined many other countries in the widespread implementation of roundabouts as an intersection alternative that offers significant safety and operational benefits. The author traces recent and ongoing efforts to develop and provide guidance and technical assistance to encourage the consideration and implementation of roundabouts.

26 NCHRP SYNTHESIS
Active Traffic Management Strategies for Arterials
Richard G. Dowling and Aaron Elias
Active traffic management is the timely adaptation of a roadway facility’s configuration and controls to maintain optimal productivity in response to—or in anticipation of—variations in demand, incidents, and weather. A recent synthesis project provides an overview of the state of the practice.

31 NCHRP SYNTHESIS AND NCHRP REPORT
Adopting Geospatial Technologies: Key to the Digital 3-D Revolution in Transportation
Gene V. Roe, Michael J. Olsen, and John D. Raugust
Responding to the rapid technological changes in the geospatial industry, the National Cooperative Highway Research Program has published a synthesis report summarizing the use of advanced geospatial data, tools, and technologies by state agencies and a report offering guidance on the use of mobile LiDAR, a key 3-D geospatial tool.

34 NCFRP REPORT
Smart Growth and Urban Goods Movement
Edward McCormack, Anne Goodchild, and Alon Bassok
Planning for smart growth, which emphasizes compact development, mixed land use, and nonautomobile modes of travel, has often ignored the role of goods movement. A new National Cooperative Freight Research Program report explores the implications of the smart growth–goods movement relationship for transportation modeling and freight planning.
TR News 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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The Transportation Research Board 2014 Annual Report is included in this issue as a special insert, between pages 24 and 25.

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Also in This Issue:

With the Panama Canal celebrating its centennial in 2014 and scheduled to open new locks in 2016, a feature article in the next issue looks at the legacy and future of the canal and the probable effects the expansion will have on U.S. harbor infrastructure and supply chains. Also featured is a report on the 2014 state partnership visits by TRB senior program officers, highlighting research needs and applications, particularly model efforts by state agencies to leverage new technology. Other features describe Louisiana’s strategy to “right-size” the state highway system, working with local governments; the response to the deadly Oso mudslide in March 2014 on Washington State Route 530, including recovery efforts and preventive measures; the effects of sustainability practices on airport operations and maintenance; and improving transportation options for veterans, military service members, and their families.
If you have ever visited the offices of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) in the National Academies’ Keck Center in Washington, D.C., you may recall seeing row upon row of photographs of the Board’s Executive Committee Chairs—78 individuals who have served in that role from 1920 to 2014. On a wall around the corner from the Executive Committee Chair gallery is a smaller group of portraits—eight of the nine men who have served as the Board’s Executive Directors since its founding 94 years ago.