Preparing for the New Panama Canal

Plus
Technology Trends at State Agencies
Right-Sizing a State Highway System
Reconnecting After a Landslide
Cost-Saving Geotechnical Solutions
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 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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The Legacy and Future of the Panama Canal: From Point of Transit to Transshipment Hub
Jean-Paul Rodrigue and Theo Notteboom

In 2014, the Panama Canal celebrated its centennial—spotlighting its legacy as a gateway of international trade but also raising questions about its future in an increasingly integrated global economy. The authors explore the transformations of the canal’s role throughout its history, analyze the current contexts, and assess Panama’s prospects as a hub of trade flows and international influence.

A Major Change or a Necessary Adjustment?
Scott Brotemarkle

Impacts of the Panama Canal Expansion on U.S. Infrastructure
Jean-Paul Rodrigue and Theo Notteboom

Trendsetters in Transportation Technologies: Findings from the Transportation Research Board’s 2014 State Partnership Visits Program

U.S. transportation agencies are accelerating the deployment of new and advanced technologies to improve operations and services to customers and to ensure a high return on investment from limited resources. This was the theme of findings from the annual partnership visits to states by TRB program officers, who have assembled examples and models across all areas of activity.

The Transportation Impacts of—and Response to—the SR-530 Landslide Disaster: Snohomish County, Washington State, March 2014
Tom Badger, Casey Kramer, John Antapasis, and Mike Cotten

Participants in the concerted recovery efforts after the deadliest landslide in U.S. history, the authors recount the strategies and collaborative actions, as well as the techniques and technologies deployed, to maintain and restore transportation connections to the stricken communities.

Implementing Geotechnical Innovations on a Major New Mexico Interchange: Time and Cost Savings
Robert Meyers

A construction project to address safety issues and mounting traffic congestion at a major metropolitan area interchange allowed flexibility in the geotechnical applications. The author describes the innovative applications of proven procedures and technologies critical to the success of the design–build project.

Right-Sizing the Louisiana State Highway System: Transferring 5,000 State Miles to Local Governments
Harold R. (Skip) Paul

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has developed a voluntary program to transfer approximately 5,000 miles of state roads to local governments. The program repairs the roads before transfer and includes other financial and jurisdictional incentives.

TRANSIT COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM REPORT
Improving Community Transportation for Veterans, Military Service Members, and Their Families
Elizabeth H. Ellis

With the homecoming of military forces and the relocation of many bases, community transportation plays an important role in local mobility for veterans, military service members, and their families. A Transit Cooperative Research Program project explored the needs and best practices and has published the findings.
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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**41** AIRPORT COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM REPORT
Evaluating Impacts of Sustainability Practices on Airport Operations and Maintenance
Jennifer Salerno
An Airport Cooperative Research Program project has developed an evaluation process and cost–benefit tools to help airport staff address the operations and maintenance impacts of sustainability practices, which can introduce new systems, practices, or equipment.

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**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:**

Photographic highlights capture the high energy and many successes of TRB’s 94th Annual Meeting, which featured U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony J. Foxx, more than 3,500 research papers, major professional awards, committee meetings, an active exhibit hall, and more—achieving record-breaking attendance at a new and more capacious venue. Also featured are the valedictory address by Robert E. Skinner Jr., who retired as Executive Director at the end of January, and a statement of vision for the Board’s future by new Executive Director Neil Pedersen. Other features review the history of TRB’s Critical Issues in Transportation series and examine the logistics and transportation innovations of traveling circuses.

**COMING NEXT ISSUE**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony J. Foxx (left) participates in a question-and-answer session with Washington Post reporter Ashley Halsey III (right) at the 2015 TRB Annual Meeting. Foxx outlined priorities for the coming year as well as long-term transportation needs.