Standing Ovations for TRB’s 2015 Annual Meeting

Plus
Envisioning Future TRB Today
Lessons from Critical Issues
The Art of Circus Logistics
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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 May 2015.
3 Evolving to Meet Customers’ Needs in the 21st Century: Implementing the Transportation Research Board’s Strategic Plan

Neil J. Pedersen

TRB’s new Executive Director defines five strategic challenges, each presenting pivotal opportunities. TRB must maintain and build on what it does well, he affirms, but at the same time issues, trends, and expectations are constantly evolving—and TRB must evolve to maximize its value to its sponsors, participants, and customers.

9 2015 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Corridors to the Future: Transportation and Technology

TRB’s Annual Meeting successfully changed its venue to the Washington Convention Center, amply accommodating and building on the momentum of record-setting growth in attendance, sessions, workshops, posters, special events, exhibits, and committee meetings and facilitating the active interchange of research findings—as attested in photographic highlights.

21 CHAIRMAN’S LUNCHEON ADDRESS 2015

Research and Innovation in Transportation

Robert E. Skinner, Jr.

TRB’s outgoing Executive Director shares a career of insights into transportation research—its relationship to innovation; its multidisciplinary and diverse makeup and inexorable expansion of scope; and the challenges of understanding and explaining its complexity, of demonstrating its value, of securing funding, and of programming—and assesses TRB’s position, relationships, and role.


Alan E. Pisarski

An analytical look back at the 12 editions of Critical Issues in Transportation discerns the overarching themes and trends, the transformations of perspectives, the changes in priority ranking, the variations in semantics, and the alterations in procedural approaches and sets forth lessons learned for the development of future statements of direction for transportation research.

35 Logistical Challenges of the American Circus: Solving Transportation Problems with Ingenuity, Daring, and Timing

Scott Babcock

The inner workings of moving the circus from city to city open up another area of high performance. The author traces the adaptations of travel methods throughout the 200-year history of the circus, citing the applied research and adaptive logistics, as well as the pioneering techniques and principles, that enable circus travel for instant showtime extravaganzas.

40 Common Sayings with Circus Origins

COVER: The standing ovation for outgoing TRB Executive Director Robert E. Skinner, Jr., who received the Frank Turner Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Transportation, was one of many—actual and metaphorical—standing ovations for TRB’s Annual Meeting in its new, spacious, and accommodating venue.
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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43 TRB SPECIAL REPORT
The Federal Aviation Administration’s Approach for Determining Future Air Traffic Controller Staffing Needs
Jill Wilson and Mark Hutchins

The U.S. Congress tasked the National Academy of Sciences to study the Federal Aviation Administration's methods for estimating the number of air traffic controllers needed for the safe and cost-effective operation of the nation’s airspace system. The study committee’s findings and recommendations, summarized here, emphasized proper science and data analysis, as well as consistency in decision making.

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Developing Decision Support Tools for Florida’s Traffic Management Centers
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COMING NEXT ISSUE

Articles in the next TR News explore the effects of the changing world energy market on the transportation industry, with deliveries of coal declining, natural gas use on the increase, and oil shipments from North American locations rising to challenge overseas sources. Authors examine the changing energy market by energy source, the transportation of North American crude oil, the effects on the U.S. Gulf ports and on barges and inland waterways, natural gas pipelines in New England, the effects of increased truck traffic on Pennsylvania roads, the shipment of crude oil by rail—including the crash in Lac Megantic, Canada—and more.

A tanker carries liquefied natural gas. New technology, energy sources, and routes are changing the transportation of fuels.