The Promises and Risks of Innovation
Findings from the States

Plus:
The Legal Environment for Driverless Vehicles
Selecting and Prioritizing Freight System Projects
Setting Environmental Performance Measures
Sharing Operations Data: Making the Business Case
Once and Future Transportation Innovation: Predicting the Legal Environment for Driverless Vehicles

Dorothy Glancy

The legal environment for driverless vehicles will depend in part on the legal responses to earlier transportation innovations, such as steamboats, railroads, automobiles, and airplanes, the author explains. These precedents also show that as driverless vehicles become more sophisticated and more common, issues will arise that will require innovative and thoughtful responses from policymakers.

The Promises and Risks of Innovation: Findings from the Transportation Research Board’s 2016 State Partnership Visits Program

The 2016 state partnership visits by TRB senior program officers revealed the energy and insight with which state transportation agencies and their research partners are addressing the promises and challenges of technological innovations and business models that promise to transform the way transportation is experienced, paid for, and managed.

Freight Project Selection and Prioritization: From Identifying the Need to Making the Investment

Keith J. Bucklew

Many state departments of transportation and metropolitan planning organizations are developing actionable plans for freight transportation projects that qualify for federal funding. The author presents four case studies of plans that recognize the importance of rail, waterways, air, and pipelines as components of a freight system and the necessity of stakeholder engagement in the freight planning process.

Environmental Performance Measures for State Departments of Transportation

Anna Batista, Joe Crossett, Jeff Ang-Olson, and Jeff Frantz

A National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) project worked on establishing and demonstrating the practicality of a suite of core measures for environmental performance that could lead to advances in environmental stewardship. The authors present the results of proof-of-concept testing and a practical map for developing robust environmental performance measures.

Sharing Operations Data Among Agencies

Michael L. Pack

An NCHRP Synthesis project explored the state of the practice in the sharing of operations data among state, regional, and local agencies; the business case for agencies to share data; and the institutional, legal, and technical challenges that can inhibit success in sharing operations data.
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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COMING NEXT ISSUE

In the March–April TR News, photographic highlights from TRB’s 96th Annual Meeting convey the energy, engagement, and vision of participants from government, the private sector, and academia, from the United States and around the world, presenting research findings essential to every aspect of transportation practice. An article offers insights into transportation safety culture from a recent policy study that focused on offshore oil and gas drilling; another feature covers the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report on commercial motor vehicle driver fatigue, long-term health, and highway safety. Other articles explore public perceptions of mileage-based user fees, a day in the life of a TRB committee, and more.

(clockwise from top left:) Former Congressman and past U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta addresses an overflow audience after receiving the Frank Turner Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Transportation; two first-time registrants plan out their schedules with apps and printed programs; the Freight Transportation Committee considers its research agenda for 2017.