

TR NEWS

January–February 2020

NUMBER 325

Aviation Logistics at Burning Man Festival

PLUS

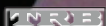
**Data for Transportation Decisions:
Findings from the States**

Rural Public Transportation

50 Years of NEPA

100 YEARS MOVING IDEAS:
ADVANCING SOCIETY

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

The **National Academy of Sciences** was established in 1863 by an Act of Congress, signed by President Lincoln, as a private, nongovernmental institution to advise the nation on issues related to science and technology. Members are elected by their peers for outstanding contributions to research. Dr. Marcia McNutt is president.

The **National Academy of Engineering** was established in 1964 under the charter of the National Academy of Sciences to bring the practices of engineering to advising the nation. Members are elected by their peers for extraordinary contributions to engineering. Dr. John L. Anderson is president.

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The three Academies work together as the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to provide independent, objective analysis and advice to the nation and conduct other activities to solve complex problems and inform public policy decisions. The National Academies also encourage education and research, recognize outstanding contributions to knowledge, and increase public understanding in matters of science, engineering, and medicine.

Learn more about the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine at www.nationalacademies.org.

The **Transportation Research Board** is one of seven major programs of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The mission of the Transportation Research Board is to increase the benefits that transportation contributes to society by providing 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.

Learn more about the Transportation Research Board at www.TRB.org.



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* Membership as of February 2020.

3 Data's Critical Role in Transportation Decisions: Findings from the Transportation Research Board's 2019 State Partnership Visits Program

Analysis and utilization of big data—for innovation, system performance, safety, and more—was the theme of findings from the annual partnership visits to state DOTs, university transportation centers, and transit and other modal agencies by TRB program officers, who have assembled examples and models across all areas of activity.

10 Meeting the Transportation Needs of Rural Communities: Lessons That Cannot Be Learned from Urban Transit

Peter Schauer

Rural transit differs from urban transit in a few crucial ways: there are no prescribed federal planning requirements for rural transit development plans, the range of vehicles utilized generally is narrower, and even the definition of “rural” is amorphous. The author recounts the history of rural transit in the United States and the advocacy and research collaborations that led to improved transit outcomes for rural communities.

14 Public Transit in Native American Communities: Early Beginnings and Progress

17 Supporting Burning Man: Radical Logistics for a Radical Event

Matthew Grunenwald

The Burning Man Festival convenes people from all over the world in the middle of the Nevada desert for one week each summer. The infrastructure and organization required to transport 80,000 people by land and air to such a remote area—and clean up according to “leave no trace” principles—are examined in this article, particularly the creation, management, and removal of the festival’s designated airport.



22 Golden Anniversary of Landmark Legislation: The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

Martin Palmer

In the 50 years since the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was signed in 1969, many laws, rules, and guidance have been revised and updated to help transportation agencies comply with the legislation. The environmental crises that led to NEPA, a history of its enactment and implementation, and its lasting effects in transportation are explored in this article.

28 NCHRP PROJECT 25-25 Seventeen Years of Environmental Research: Retrospective of a Long-Running Project

Ann Hartell and Christopher Voigt

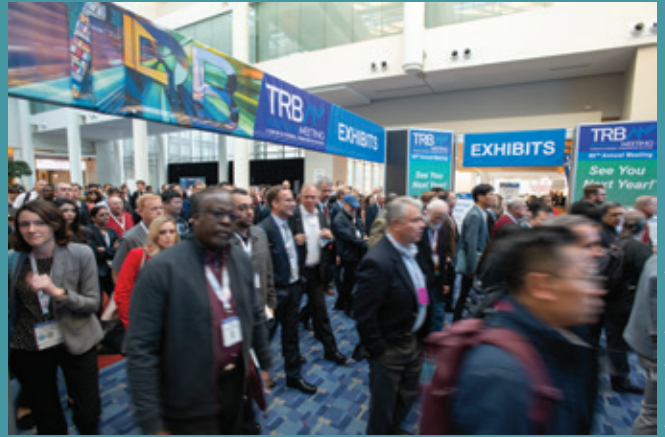
The 113 research tasks conducted as part of NCHRP Project 25-25 addressed environmental issues relevant to state DOTs, in order to support agency efforts in environmental stewardship and compliance. This article offers an overview of the project and its research tasks, which addressed topics ranging from air quality to cultural and natural resources to community concerns.



COVER Burning Man Festival encampment, as viewed from an airplane—the mode of arrival for many of the festival’s attendees, and one of the topics of this issue of *TR News*. (Photo: Alaska DOT)

Coming Next Issue

A record-setting crowd of nearly 14,000 attendees gathered at the TRB 99th Annual Meeting, January 12–16, 2020, in Washington, D.C. The March–April 2020 *TR News* features photo highlights from the Annual Meeting.



32 TCRP RESEARCH REPORT 195 Who Is Riding TNCs, and Where Are They Going?

Colin Murphy

The study presented in *TCRP Research Report 195* examined trip data from transportation network companies (TNCs) in major U.S. cities, as well as surveys from thousands of transit and shared mobility users nationwide, to uncover insights into the demographic and other characteristics of TNC trips.

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Cynthia J. Smith, Ines Aviles-Spadoni, and David M. Jared

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Stefanie Potapa, Amanda Gendek, and Glenn Stott

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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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Editorial Correspondence: By mail to the Publications Office, Transportation Research Board, 500 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, by telephone 202-334-2986, by fax 202-334-3495, or by e-mail lcamarda@nas.edu.

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