Aviation Logistics at Burning Man Festival

PLUS

Data for Transportation Decisions: Findings from the States
Rural Public Transportation
50 Years of NEPA
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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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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.

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.

Public Transit in Native American Communities: Early Beginnings and Progress

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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.


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.

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)
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.

Training Program for Transportation Research Managers

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

Collaboration Demonstration: New Jersey Hosts State Partnership Visit

Stefanie Potapa, Amanda Gendek, and Glenn Stott

Also in This Issue:

Profiles

Deborah Flint, Greater Toronto Airports Authority, and K. Larry Head, University of Arizona

Transportation Influencers

Nikola Ivanov, University of Maryland

TRB Highlights

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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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