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TRB TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

TRB Webinar: Advancing Transportation Equity—Key Insights from 2021 and Looking to 2024.

March 9, 2023

2:00 – 3:30 PM

NOVEMBER 2022 UPDATE

PDH Certification Information

1.5 Professional Development Hours (PDH) – see follow-up email

You must attend the entire webinar.

Questions? Contact Andie Pitchford at TRBwebinar@nas.edu

The Transportation Research Board has met the standards and requirements of the Registered Continuing Education Program. Credit earned on completion of this program will be reported to RCEP at RCEP.net. A certificate of completion will be issued to each participant. As such, it does not include content that may be deemed or construed to be an approval or endorsement by the RCEP.

ENGINEERING



REGISTERED CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

AICP Credit Information

1.5 American Institute of Certified Planners Certification Maintenance Credits

You must attend the entire webinar

Log into the American Planning Association website to claim your credits

Contact AICP, not TRB, with questions

Purpose Statement

The 2021 TRB Conference on Advancing Equity featured presentations from those working on the front lines of transportation equity and justice within community-based and non-profit organizations. The participants represented a wide range of experiences and perspectives. This webinar will provide key insights from the conference and share the TR Circular E-C281: Advancing Transportation Equity: Conference Summary and Action Brief. Presenters will also identify needed tools, policies, and practices to define, establish, and meet goals of equity within the industry. This webinar will seek input and participation from attendees for the second conference planned for 2024.

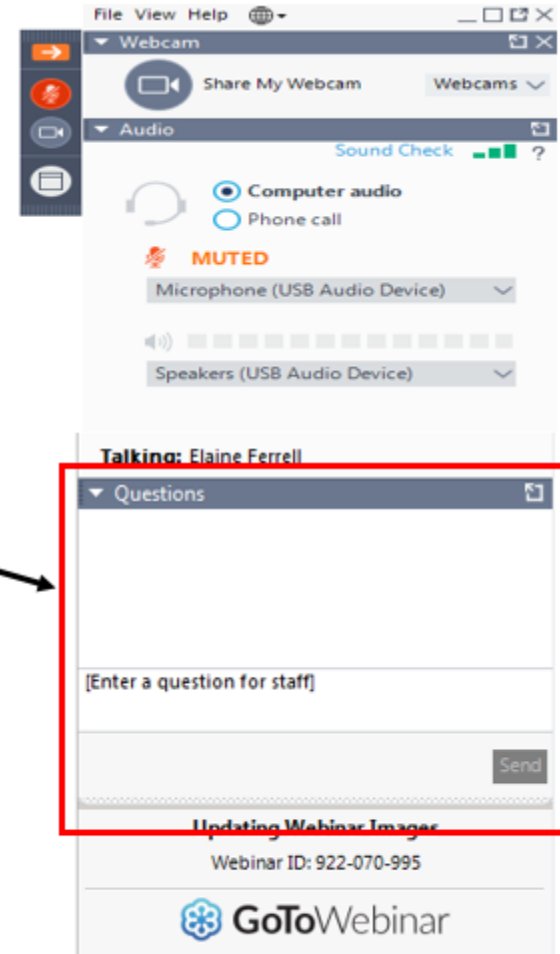
Learning Objectives

At the end of this webinar, you will be able to:

- Identify key research needs
- Use knowledge of tools, policies, and practices needed to make equitable transportation decisions
- Make decisions on actions that individuals, organizations, and institutions can take to meet research needs

Questions and Answers

- Please type your questions into your webinar control panel
- We will read your questions out loud, and answer as many as time allows



Today's presenters



Dr. Beverly G. Ward, Ph.D.
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Eric Tang
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Traceé Strum-Gilliam
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ADVANCING TRANSPORTATION EQUITY

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED, WHAT IS NEEDED, HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE IT?

Beverly G. Ward, BGW Associates, LLC
Gloria J. Jeff, Minnesota Department of Transportation Metro District
Traceé Strum-Gilliam, AICP, PRR
Eric Tang, PE, RSP2B, VHB

YOUR PANELISTS



Beverly G. Ward

BGW Associates, LLC



Gloria J. Jeff

MnDOT Metro District



Traceé Strum-Gilliam

PRR



Eric Tang

VHB

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

- Committee on Environmental Justice leadership
 - Importance of bringing research to an event
 - Policy makers
 - Practitioners
 - Researchers
 - Funders

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF CONFERENCE FOR ADVANCING EQUITY(CATE) 2021

- TRB Executive Leadership prioritized Equity within and externally
 - Neil Pedersen, TRB Executive Director
 - Operations and Committees
 - External focus in assisting practitioners/researchers and elevating equity topics
- TRB Committee on Environmental Justice evolved to Committee on Equity in Transportation
 - Committee focus
 - Transportation decision making process
 - External focus in communities/quality of life

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – CATE ORIGINS

- Tracee, Andrea, Gloria saw an opportunity
 - Equity in Transportation, Strategic Management
- Our partners
 - 7 other committees and a coordinating council
- Conference Leadership – experience and wanted to learn
- Equity in practice – session topics, leadership, participants, presenters

CARDINAL DIRECTIONS OF TRANSPORTATION EQUITY

- **Be intentional** about facilitating context-specific, people-first practices, policies, and outcomes in the transportation industry.
- **Acknowledge, prioritize, and respect** the perspective and participation of our public, especially Black and Indigenous communities and people of color, who have founded and advanced social justice in transportation while being simultaneously underserved and overburdened.
- **Implement** authentic and intentional practices for research, process improvement, and performance evaluation regarding transportation equity.
- **Recognize** that transportation equity is not a static goal, but rather a dynamic and ever evolving practice, and must be addressed as part of standard operating procedures.

WHY SUCCESSFUL?

- Timeliness of topic
- Leadership
- Collaborators
- Passionate commitment
- The demand and need for CATE 2024

TOOLS, PRACTICES, AND RESEARCH NEEDS

- Environmental Justice and Equity
- Public outreach tools
- Analysis Tools
- Research Needs

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Executive Order 12898 – *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, stresses the importance of involving traditionally underserved populations in designing and implementing transportation plans, policies, and infrastructure investments.

USDOT defines:

- Minority as a person who is Black, Hispanic or Latino, Asian American, American Indian and Alaskan Native, or Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- Low-income as a person whose median household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guideline

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Application and tools
 - Interactive and Static Tools (EPA EJSCREEN and VDOT Block Group Maps)
 - Benefit and Burden Evaluation (special technical study evaluations)
 - Program and Policy Evaluation (funding, policy guidance)
- Outreach and engagement
 - Focused on early and continued outreach
- Research spotlight :
 - NCHRP 532: Effective Methods for Environmental Justice Assessment
 - NCHRP 710: Practical Approaches for Involving Traditionally Underserved Populations in Transportation Decision-Making
 - FHWA 2018 Community Impact Assessment Guidebook

WHAT IS EQUITY IN TRANSPORTATION?

- TRB definition: Transportation equity ensures fair distribution of mobility options and transportation investments that connect people with opportunities and resources necessary to support their well-being
- USDOT definition: Equity means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

EQUITY LAWS, ORDERS AND FRAMEWORK

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- American Disability Act of 1990
- Title 23 U.S.C 324 (prohibits discrimination based on sex)
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Executive Order 13166 *Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency*, programs and activities receiving Federal funding assistance must take reasonable steps to ensure that people with LEP have meaningful access.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

- Prepare State, MPO and Local plans (Statewide Long Range Transportation Plans, Unified Planning Work Program, Transportation Improvement Program)
- Conduct gap analysis
- Incorporate equity score into prioritization matrix
- Assess funding zones by EJ/Equity zone
- Active transportation and safety

NEPA INTEGRATION

- Environmental justice analysis
- Equity Analysis*
- Community impact assessment
- Community cohesion
- Economic evaluations
- Cumulative effects assessment
- Health impact assessment

EMERGING TOPICS AND PRACTICE AREAS

- Restorative Justice
 - Justice40
 - Social Justice
 - Gender Equity
- Intersectionality (transportation/housing, workforce development, etc.)
- Partnerships

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF CATE 2024

- CATE 2024 Framing
- Organizational focus
- Student and community focus

WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE 2021 CATE?

- Neil Pedersen, previous Executive Director of TRB, amplified equity at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
- Engaged the Medicine and Sciences groups to highlight indigenous and gender groups and spotlight for those with differing abilities
- Federal partners have also evolved
 - Executive Orders
 - Equity Action Plan at USDOT

AUGMENTING PARTNERSHIPS

- 2024 CATE aiming to exceed 2021 event
- 2021 led by 2 sponsorship committees and 8 co-sponsoring committees and council
- 2021 CATE supported by 12 patrons across three sponsorship levels
- Patron support from a diverse set of corporate, governmental, and non-profit organizations

CATE LOCATION SELECTION

- Location with State DOT, regional, and/or local agency support
- Partnership with and involvement of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSI)
- Engagement with University Transportation Centers (UTC)

LOCAL PROGRAMMING AND ENGAGEMENT

- Elevate the myriad of lived experiences and see example projects and initiatives
- Opportunity for participant-driven “unconference” program running in concert with CATE
- Provide additional opportunities for engagement beyond the traditional session schedule
- Build connections with the local community in the host city
- Neighborhood tours
- Meeting local community groups

TRB MINORITY STUDENT FELLOW PROGRAM

- Established in 2010
- Students representing minority groups underrepresented in transportation field
- Each fellow presents a poster at the TRB Annual Meeting
- Fellows currently draw from 18 eligible minority-serving institutions
- Over 220 fellows since program inception
- Special collection featuring Fellows' research in Transportation Research Record
- Active engagement with CATE

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS

- Community organizations
 - Spotlight local projects and initiatives
- College and high schools
 - Mentoring and volunteering opportunities

DISCUSSION



THANK YOU!

- Beverly G. Ward, BGW Associates, LLC
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- Gloria J. Jeff, MnDOT Metro District
 - Gloria.Jeff@state.mn.us
- Tracee Strum-Gilliam, AICP, PRR
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Upcoming events for you

March 30, 2023

TRB Webinar: Successes &
Challenges—The First 4 Years of
Federal Performance Management

July 8, 2023

TRB's National Conference on
Transportation Asset Management



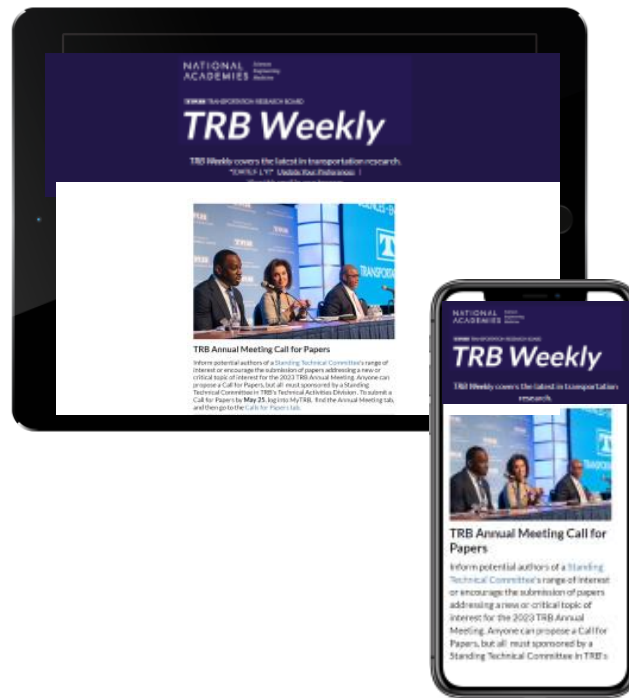
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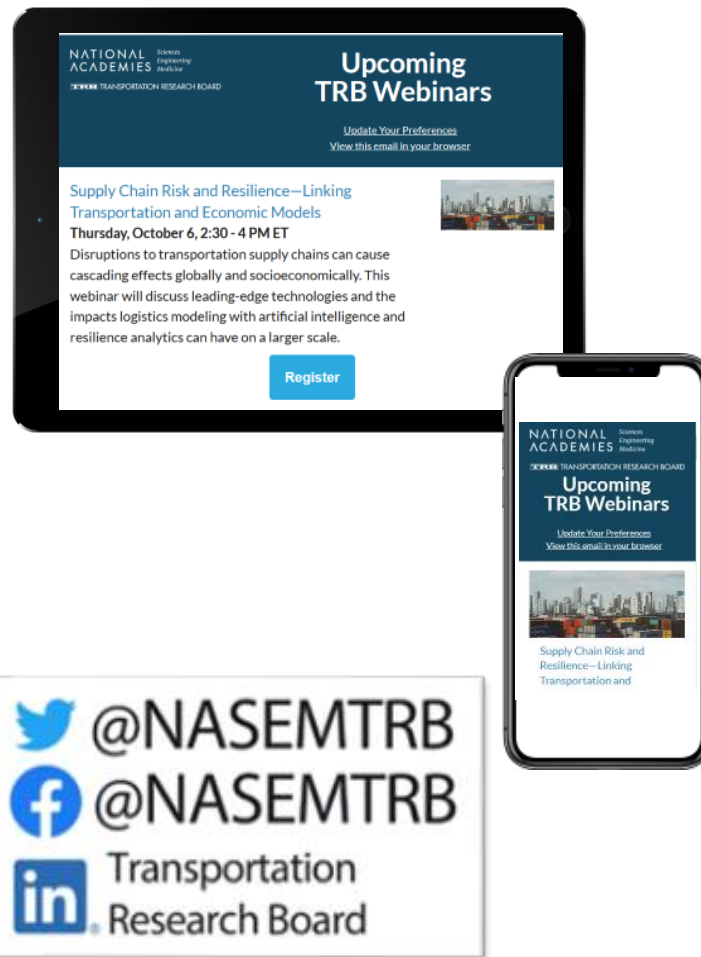
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Get involved

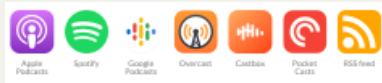
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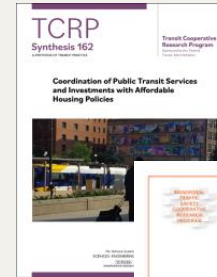
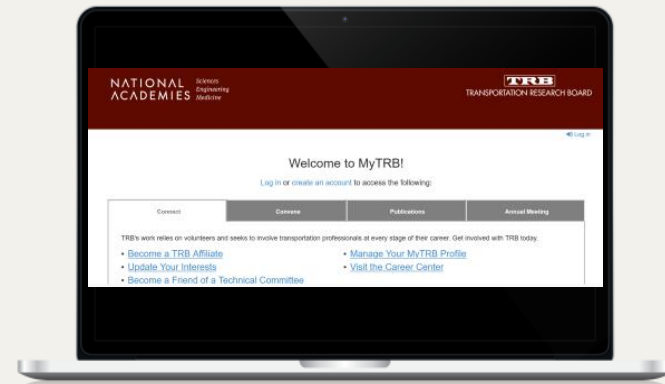
Network and pursue a path to Standing Committee membership

- **Work with a CRP**

- **Listen to our podcast**



<https://www.nationalacademies.org/podcasts/trb>



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