

CONFERENCE II RESOURCE PAPER

Summary of Survey Results

The Survey on Transportation Planning Issues and Needs for Planning Research was developed to solicit input on future research needs from a broad range of transportation professionals and stakeholders. Administered by the Transportation Research Board (TRB), with the cooperation of key stakeholder organizations, the open-response survey encouraged respondents to share their ideas about key issues in transportation planning, upcoming challenges, the resources needed by their organizations, and priority research needs (see Table 1). The varied and thoughtful responses to the survey pro-

vided participants at the TRB Conferences on Refocusing Planning for the 21st Century additional input and information about the views of the transportation community and our stakeholders.

DISTRIBUTION

The survey was distributed between December 23, 1998, and January 22, 1999, to 3,836 members of 10 key organizations. Each organization identified the segments of

TABLE 1 Survey Questions

Key Planning Issues

1. What is your primary role in the transportation planning process?
2. What do you see as the five key issues in transportation planning in the next 5 years?
3. Why? How will the issues you have identified affect you or your organization?
4. What are the most significant recent changes in transportation planning as they affect your organization?

Barriers/Challenges

5. What are the major barriers or problems you face (excluding funding constraints) in dealing with these key issues?

Resource Needs

6. What additional resources could you use to facilitate your work on these issues, assuming sufficient funding?
7. What are your priorities for building the capabilities of your organization?

Research Priorities

8. In your opinion, what should be the priority objectives for transportation planning research in the next 5 years?

their membership to receive the survey. Because individuals could be affiliated with more than one of these organizations, there was some overlap among the distribution lists. The participating organizations were

- TRB (members of Planning and Environment Committees);
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) (planning directors);
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA) (members of Planning and Legislative Committees);
- Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) (Planning Council);
- Surface Transportation Policy Project (STPP) (member organizations);
- American Planning Association (APA) (Transportation Division);
- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) (Planning Office directors);
- National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) (Planning Office directors);
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) (division administrators, Resource Center directors, and Federal Lands Highways Division engineers); and
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) (regional administrators).

SURVEY RESULTS

Of the 3,836 surveys distributed, 400 survey responses were received, a reply rate of 10.4 percent. Responses were received from a broad cross section of the transportation community, advocates, and customers. Figure 1 illustrates the proportion of responses received from members of the participating groups.

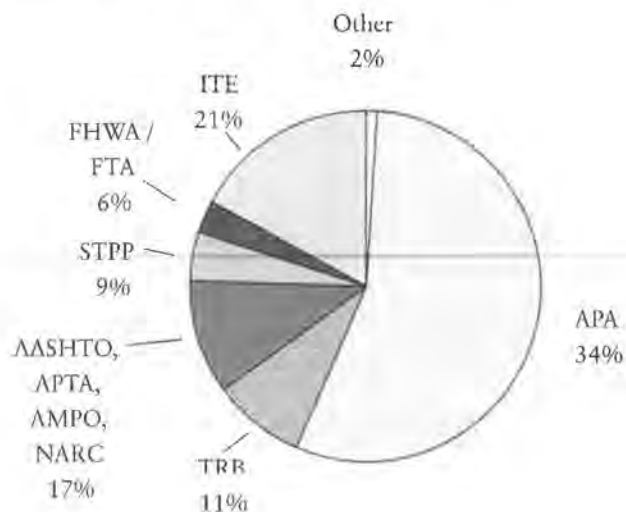


FIGURE 1 Proportion of responses by group.

Key Issues in Transportation Planning

Over one-third of the respondents identified issues that were related to land use planning and financing-funding as key transportation planning issues. Almost 25 percent of the respondents identified issues that were related to intermodal and multimodal planning, including access to alternative modes and modal choices. Five other issue areas were cited by 15 to 20 percent of respondents. These issues were transit, socioeconomic concerns, air quality, congestion management and reduction, and public education and involvement. The results are summarized in Figure 2.

Challenges and Barriers

Among a wide variety of challenges that confronted respondents, problems that related to institutional issues were cited most frequently. These challenges include concerns about public involvement, awareness, and understanding; problems that relate to governance and decision making; and issues that involve effective coordination and partnerships with other organizations.

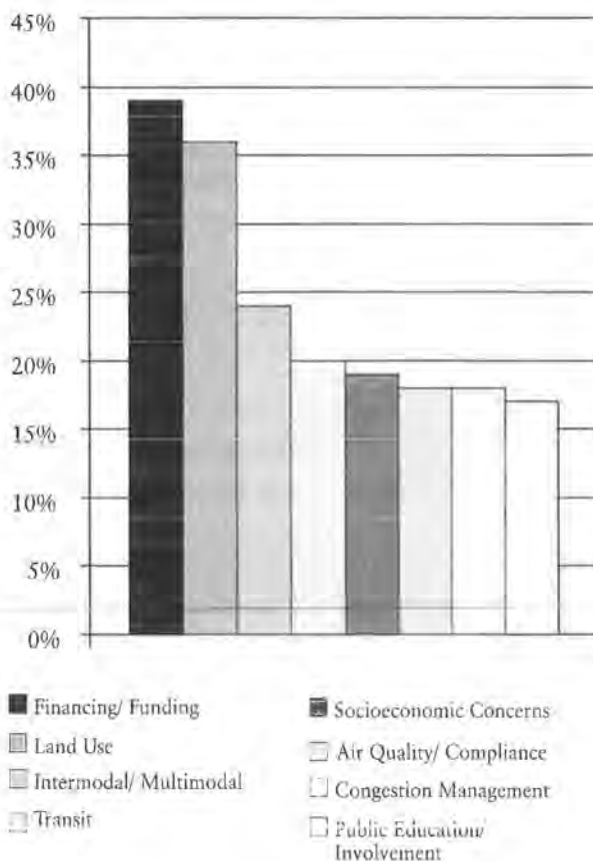


FIGURE 2 Survey results: key planning issues.

TABLE 2 Survey Results: Research Topics Recommended

<i>Research Topic Area</i>	<i>Total</i>	
	<i>384</i>	<i>100%</i>
Land use planning/issues	97	25.3
Travel demand/travel behavior	68	17.7
Transit	65	16.9
Intermodal/multimodal/alternative modes/mode choice	61	15.9
Socioeconomic concerns	56	14.6
SOV use	40	10.4
ITS/ITS data/ITS integration	38	9.9
Public: involvement/education/information/community/opposition	35	9.1
Planning tools/technologies	34	8.9
Sprawl: reducing/alternatives/urban	33	8.6
Financing/funding	33	8.6
Freight/trucking/CVO/goods movement	32	8.3
Data/databases/accessibility/monitoring	32	8.3
Air quality/compliance	31	8.1
Safety: traffic calming	30	7.8
Congestion: pricing/management/reduction	29	7.6
Regional/local planning/processes/authority	25	6.5
Systems operation/management/access management	20	5.2
Fuels: pricing/alternatives/clean	20	5.2
Cost of investments/projects	20	5.2
Environmental concerns	19	4.9
Old/existing systems	18	4.7
Travel demand management	18	4.7
Streamlining processes/planning/systems	14	3.6
Research programs: application of information/findings	14	3.6
Standardization: design/procedure/over jurisdictions	14	3.6
Government policies/programs/regulations	13	3.4
Measurements	12	3.1
Environmental process	9	2.3
Performance measurement	9	2.3
GIS and modeling/analysis/integration	8	2.1
Staff/ professional issues	6	1.6
Systems planning/regional planning	5	1.3
Corridors: preservation/access/growth	5	1.3
Efficiency	5	1.3
Global warming	4	1.0
Involving elected officials	4	1.0
Maintenance	4	1.0
Liability/legal/litigation	2	0.5
Clean Air Act/conformity	1	0.3
Other	107	27.9
No response	16	

CVO = commercial vehicle operations.

systems (GIS) capability (10 percent), developing more advanced modeling capabilities (7 percent), and additional research activities (6 percent).

Priorities for Planning Research

Respondents were asked to identify their top 5 priorities for research over the next 5 years. The 400 respondents recommended more than 40 topic areas, which are summarized in Table 2. One-quarter of the respondents identified research that was related to land use planning as a top priority topic area. Research on travel demand and travel behavior was identified as a top priority by close to 18 percent of the respondents. Two other recommended research areas closely followed this area: transit (17 percent) and topics related to intermodal and multimodal issues (16 percent). The need for socioeconomic research was identified by 15 percent of respondents. Both research

on single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) use and development and integration of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) capabilities were recommended by 10 percent of the respondents (Figure 3).

When research priorities were assessed by organizational affiliation, the survey results indicated a significant level of consensus on some research priorities across organizations. Four areas of research were among the top 5 topic areas for at least half of the 10 groups. Every group cited land use research as one of the top five priorities. Socioeconomic research was recommended by 7 of the 10 groups. Intermodal and multimodal research (6 groups) and travel demand and travel behavior research (5 groups) also had strong support across organizations. Other research topics were more often recommended by members of some organizations than of others. Table 3 summarizes the top five research priorities for the members of each group that responded.