

The HOV Systems Committee was the first TRB committee to develop a strategic plan, and this year we completed an update of the plan. This plan outlines the activities and objectives of the committee and provides a schedule as to how we plan to meet those objectives.

The committee has also focused a lot of effort on providing information on HOV facilities and helping to coordinate the sharing of information between diverse groups. Conferences such as this represent one of the major activities of the committee. Another activity has been the publication of a quarterly newsletter on HOV projects around the world. This has been developed under the leadership of Tim Lomax.

The HOV Systems Committee is organized into four basic subcommittees. The Information Development and Dissemination Subcommittee is responsible for organizing the international conferences, the sessions at the TRB Annual Meetings, and developing informational material on HOV projects. This group has been very active under the leadership of Katie Turnbull.

The Research, Planning, Design, and Operations Subcommittee is chaired by Adolf May. This subcommittee is responsible for identifying research needs and developing problem statements for consideration by different funding sources. This subcommittee has been very active and you will be hearing more about their recent efforts in upcoming publications.

Bo Strickland is Chairman of the Marketing/Outreach Subcommittee. This group has been exploring the development of a marketing training brochure for use in areas implementing HOV projects. This subcommittee is also exploring potential ways to enhance international outreach activities and to provide information to policy makers who make decisions on the implementation of HOV facilities.

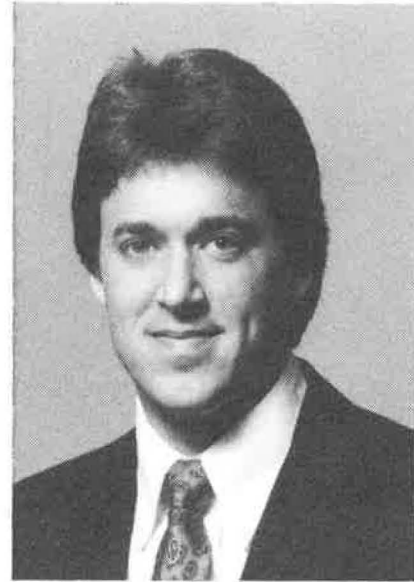
Finally the Strategic Planning Subcommittee is chaired by Chuck Fuhs. As I mentioned earlier, this subcommittee has just completed an update of the committee's Strategic Plan. It is also responsible for coordinating the committee's activities with those of other professional organizations.

In closing, I would like to thank John Bonsall who served as Chairman of the conference. John and his staff did an excellent job in organizing all the tours and activities during the conference, and in recognition of his hard work, I would like to present John with a plaque from the TRB HOV Systems Committee thanking him for his assistance. Katie Turnbull also did a great job as Chairperson of the Technical Program Committee and her efforts deserve notice. Rich Cunard, Angela Arrington, Reggie Gillum, and Catha Stewart from TRB have also done an outstanding job in arranging the hotel and conference accommodations.

HOV Facility Research Topics

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The Research, Planning, Design, and Operations Subcommittee met on Monday evening to discuss research needs related to HOV facilities. It was a very lively meeting and a number of good research topics were identified. The suggested topics have been grouped into three categories: planning and design, operations and enforcement, and arterial street HOV facilities. A number of specific topics were identified within each of those broad categories.

Within the planning and design category, topics suggested included connecting HOV facilities and HOV system planning, implementing HOV lanes in rail corridors, and HOV user trip purposes. Suggested research topics in the operations and enforcement category included examining the potential use of advanced technologies to assist with HOV enforcement, examining the cost-effectiveness of 24-hour versus peak-period HOV operation, analyzing time-series data, and examining lower-technology approaches to enforcement. Topics included in the arterial street HOV category included a state-of-the-art review of current experiences and projects, developing evaluation criteria, and identifying guidelines for arterial street HOV facilities.

Members of the subcommittee and others will be developing problem statements for each of these topics. The subcommittee will also identify possible funding sources for each of the research problem statements. The problem statements will be reviewed by the full HOV Systems Committee in January. Based on this review, the topics will be finalized and submitted to the different funding sources through the appropriate channels.