

Introduction

Since the late 1980s, the Executive Committee of the Transportation Research Board has held special policy discussions at its semiannual business meetings, in which distinguished individuals from both inside and outside the transportation community are invited to participate in a dialogue on a timely, often controversial, topic. Over the years, the subjects of these discussions have been ambitious and wide-ranging. A summary of a recent (June 1996) discussion on cross-border transportation issues since implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was published in *TR News* 187 (November–December 1996). In January 1997, the Executive Committee chose to focus on another topic that has immediate and long-term importance for the transportation community—*Institutional Arrangements in Transportation: Impacts of Changing Roles*.

The Executive Committee selected this topic at a time when debate was beginning on the approaching reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, considered by many observers to have been a catalyst for significant institutional changes in transportation planning and policy making. The purpose of the discussion was to explore changing roles and responsibilities among the various levels of government involved with transportation, evolving changes in organizational and program structure, and shifting relationships between the public and private sectors. Speakers characterized the factors driving these changes and gave their views on further changes that they believe should be encouraged.

A framing presentation for the discussion was prepared and delivered by Stephen C. Lockwood, vice president of Parsons Brinckerhoff, who supports the firm's development of intelligent transportation applications, innovative financing, and service-delivery systems. Previously Lockwood was Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Highway Administration, and vice president of PRC Voorhees.

Stephen J. Del Giudice, the Prince Georges County, Maryland, Council member representing the county's second district, presented the perspective of a local elected official involved in metropolitan planning organization processes. Del Giudice has held many regional planning advisory positions with the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) and has served as chairman and vice chairman of COG's Transportation Planning Board. Bernard J. LaLonde, professor, The Ohio State University, and chairman of IMPEX Logistics, Inc., explored the institutional implications of recent developments in logistics and the inter-

modal movement of freight. LaLonde's extensive research has focused on such topics as the strategic design of logistics systems and the development of effective customer service systems. Drawing on his long career in public service, Norman Y. Mineta, senior vice president and managing director, Transportation Systems and Services, Lockheed Martin IMS, addressed institutional issues in transportation from a national perspective. Mineta served 21 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and was elected chairman of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation in 1993. He was a coauthor of the landmark ISTEA legislation, and previously

served as mayor of San Jose, California.

The Executive Committee traditionally asks one of its own members to assume responsibility for summarizing and reporting on special policy discussions, with attention to the potential for new or continuing TRB activity in the subject area. The summary of this session was prepared by Les Serman, executive director of the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, the metropolitan planning organization for the St. Louis, Missouri, area.



Norman Mineta (left), Lockheed Martin IMS, with James van Loben Sels, California Department of Transportation, during the TRB Executive Committee's special policy discussion at the 1997 Annual Meeting. Van Loben Sels was the moderator for the discussion, which focused on changing institutional arrangements in transportation.

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