



2019 Editorial Board Transition Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

Don't see your question? Send it to trr@nas.edu and we will add it to this FAQ sheet.

Will the committee paper review timeline change?

No. The timeline for when committees need to complete their paper reviews and make their recommendations on the papers will remain unchanged, except review coordinators will no longer be responsible for re-reviewing papers for final publication consideration. The TRR Editorial Board will now manage the final review process after paper review coordinators/chairs submit their initial recommendations.

Are there other factors beyond the committee's recommendation that play a role in whether a paper continues with additional publication review?

Yes. Before sending a paper for further review, it will be evaluated by the board for novelty and timeliness of topic, importance of findings, contribution to the body of literature, etc. We do not want to waste an author's time by further reviewing a paper that most likely will not be published. We would like to uphold the TRB reputation of providing a quick review and decision.

What will the committee's role be after a paper is recommended for publication?

The committee's role is complete with the initial recommendation. However, individual reviewers and review coordinators will be asked to check a box if they would like to be involved in the publication review. We want to embrace committee involvement but not require it. The process will be per paper, so, for example, a review coordinator could express interest in a particular paper without having to look at all of the papers recommended by a committee.

What about practical papers?

The National Academy's legal counsel was concerned about TRB endorsing papers as "Practice Ready", so the site has been temporarily suspended. However, TRB remains committed to showcasing these valuable papers and are working with SAGE on an alternate site for launch later this year. So please do continue to designate papers of interest to practitioners; they will be featured on the new site (with the author's consent), but not labeled "Practice Ready".

Can I submit to the TRR outside of the Annual Meeting schedule?

Yes, we will be accepting submissions year round after the August 1 deadline this year.

If my paper is rejected, can I resubmit it to the TRR?

Your paper should be revised and incorporate all reviewer comments before resubmitting.

What does an Editorial Board do?

Most journals operate under the guidance of an editorial board that provides expert advice on content, attracts new authors, and encourages submissions.

The editorial board is a team of experts in the journal's field who:

- Review or send for review submitted manuscripts
- Select content for publication
- Advise on journal policy and scope
- Identify topics for special issues
- Attract new authors and submissions
- Act as advisers in the case of publishing ethics allegations
- Ideally submit some of their own work for consideration by the journal

What are an Editor's responsibilities?

Editors will be asked to evaluate committee-recommended papers to determine whether they fit into the scope of the journal and contribute to the field of transportation research. They will have access to the committee reviews and may wish to consult with other board members before deciding to send a paper out for further review. Once a second round of review is completed, the paper may be accepted or sent back for further revision.