New Way to Access TRB Annual Meeting Content

As part of our efforts to improve our products and services, TRB is revising the way it provides its Annual Meeting content to attendees and sponsors. Rather than produce separate products (AM Online and the Compendium of Papers), the following information will be made available on the Online Interactive Program website for the 2020 Annual Meeting:

- "Metadata" for all papers presented at the Annual Meeting will be provided when the Online Interactive Program goes live. "Metadata" includes author names and affiliations, paper title, subjects, and abstract.
- Poster presentations will be provided at the end of the meeting (this is weeks faster than provided previously).
- Power Point presentations (where permitted by the presenter) will be provided at the end of the meeting (this previously took 2-3 months).

The above material will be available only to registrants for the 2020 Annual Meeting and employees of TRB's year-round sponsors until the Fall of 2020 when the Online Interactive Program for the 2021 Annual Meeting goes live. At that time, the 2020 Annual Meeting Online Interactive program, with the information listed above, will be archived on TRB's Interactive Program Archive website and made available to anyone with a MyTRB account. This process will be repeated each year so that sponsors and Annual Meeting registrants will have exclusive access to the most recent Annual Meeting's materials for several months after which the material will be more widely available to facilitate dissemination of information and awareness of the breadth of content presented at the TRB Annual Meeting.

For the 2020 Annual Meeting, this new approach does not continue the practice of providing full papers presented at the Annual Meeting. This is the result of concerns expressed for years by authors that papers that were accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting but rejected for publication in the TRR Journal were being rejected for publication in other journals on the basis that inclusion in AM Online constituted previous publication. TRB is evaluating options that might allow us to return to the practice of making full papers available but it was not possible to do this in time for the 2020 Annual Meeting. By providing the names and affiliations of authors it will be possible for attendees to directly contact authors to request a copy of their paper.

TRB's history of providing Annual Meeting Attendees with meeting content is as old as the Annual Meeting itself. In the Annual Meeting's infancy, authors would bring multiple printed copies of their papers to distribute to attendees. This arrangement evolved into the TRB "Paper Room" where attendees could redeem coupons (included in their printed program) for printed copies of a limited number (1 or 2) papers. Additional copies could be purchased for a small charge. When technology advanced to support digital submissions, it was decided to provide all of the presented papers to all attendees, and the "Compendium of Papers" was born. This was provided first on a CD, then a DVD, then a USB drive to each attendee.

With the explosive growth of the number of papers presented and the number of attendees, this method of providing Annual Meeting content to attendees became very expensive, so TRB sought to provide this content on the internet. TRB gathered presented papers as well as Power Point presentations and poster presentations and combined them into AM Online. This content was available to attendees and sponsor employees only. With time, production of a separate web-based product and maintenance of several years of this material also became prohibitively expensive, in addition to posing the "pre-publication" problem for authors.

TRB is taking these steps in order to continue the tradition of sharing ideas and content while maintaining ability for authors to receive feedback from the meeting, refine their work, and publish the revised findings in the TRR or elsewhere.