

Strategic Plan - Committee on Transportation and  
Economic Development (ADD10)  
2017-2020

## **VISION**

*What the Transportation and Economic Development (TED) (ADD10) committee wants to be, or how TED wants the world in which it operates to be (an "idealized" view of the world)*

The Committee on Transportation and Economic Development (ADD10) will be a recognized leader in providing a cross-cutting forum for practitioners and researchers to advance traditional and state-of-the-art analyses and methodologies regarding the impacts of transportation investments on national, regional and local economic development (ED).

## **MISSION**

*Why TED exists and what TED does to accomplish its vision*

The transportation and economic development communities are constantly challenged to address new and increasingly complex, dynamic external trade-based factors including resource constraints, aging infrastructure, resilience of existing infrastructure and regions, emerging transportation technologies, demographics, trade, and travel demand shifts, the environment, internal and external effects of (dis)investment, economic resiliency, and the sustainable balance of interests across generations. At the same time, new insights on linkages between transportation and economic development are impacted by emerging data sources and methodological advances. Planning in a dynamic context benefits from defensible, transparent and replicable methods that address linkages between transportation infrastructure and ED.

ADD10 will work to develop, support, and communicate sound approaches to evaluating the linkages between multimodal transportation investments, system performance, and ED outcomes. The Committee will promote research and dissemination efforts to support rigorous analysis of the critical issues, recognizing that such analysis will consist of both familiar and innovative analytical approaches.

## **SCOPE**

*Topics/areas of interest*

Economic development includes economic growth and human development at the national level and integration of economic anchors, business attraction, business development, workforce development, and economic diversification at the regional and local level. Depending on the scale and goals, economic development has a basis in international economics, trade theory, macroeconomics, regional geography, urban economics and land-use planning. TED has the explicit goal of striving to create efficient, effective, and equitable transportation systems that promote competitive advantage, economic resiliency, and sustainability.

The Committee is concerned with the macroeconomic, microeconomic, spatial, and distributional effects of transportation investments, as measured by changes in economic performance, competitiveness, and efficiency. It is specifically interested in the identification and measurement of causal linkages between transportation investment and measurable improvement or deterioration in the level or type of ED.

Focal research themes of this Committee are:

- Theoretical/ methodological innovations in ED indicators and improvements in ED benchmarking methods in order to establish consistent, acceptable goals by which to measure investment performance success;
- Synergistic economic relationships between mode-specific transportation investments as well as between transportation investment and other ED strategies;
- ED factors associated with international trade related freight and passenger flows and their measurement;
- Changes in economic productivity due to transportation investments and the intermediate effects (e.g., changes in labor market size and specialization, accessibility between buyers and suppliers, and improvements in good movement flows) that produce these changes;
- Selection of appropriate ED strategies that account for the differences between urban and rural geographies (including scale and scope of impact, workforce and skills matching, and the role of supply chains and logistics);
- ED impacts of different funding/financing strategies for state/federal transportation programs, including the long-term effects of disinvestment in transportation infrastructure;
- ED-related gains or losses (externalities) that occur as incidental or secondary effects of transportation programming (including disinvestment), with special interest in outcomes of accessibility, economic opportunity, resiliency, sustainability, and equity;
- Impact of transportation programming on the private sector processes supporting ED, including business attraction, business retention or expansion, and small business or entrepreneurial development, and;
- Development of analysis methods and frameworks for assessment of influences of new and emerging transportation technologies (e.g., connected and automated vehicles, intelligent transportation systems, and innovations that promote a sharing economy) on employment and other ED effects .

## GOALS

**1:** Sponsor and stimulate academic and policy research on the *impact of transportation infrastructure investments* on international, national, regional, and local ED and competitiveness. Objectives (per the three-year plan timeframe) are:

- Issue a call for papers focused on TED Research Needs and TRB's Critical Issues;
- Sponsor or co-sponsor a minimum of three sessions at each TRB Annual Meeting with at least two classified as paper sessions; sponsor panels on TED topics and participate on relevant related panels at conferences, and;
- Submit a project for Cooperative Research Program (CRP) funding or CRP Synthesis funding based on final TED Research Needs.

**2:** Promote *methodological innovation in defining, measuring, and analyzing the economic impacts of transportation investment* at international, national, regional, and local levels of economic geography. Different impacts may be observed at each level of analysis. Objectives for this goal are:

- Maintain a current Research Needs statement and/or database;
- Develop a resource (likely a website) describing current and emerging practices with the twin goals of: (1) education on basic ED topics such as what distinguishes ED from benefit-cost analysis, and (2) highlighting new innovations and practices;
- Establish a subcommittee to monitor practical and theoretical innovations in ED and promote best practices.

**3:** Promote *dissemination of state-of-the-art practices in measuring and analyzing the economic impacts of various modes* of transportation investment on economic performance and development. Objectives are:

- Support development of economic models, analytical tools, and performance metrics that are flexible and valid: (1) across modes, revenue mechanisms, and land-use patterns, (2) in analysis of planned/unplanned capacity reductions, and (3) for valuing and conveying risk and uncertainty, given uncertainty in future mode shares, transportation funding/financing mechanisms, land-use patterns, and climate trends;
- Provide a broad forum for presentation, discussion, and refinement of approaches to modeling, forecasting, and evaluating the economic impacts of transportation investments, recognizing that methodological advances and emerging data sources are placing new, cross-cutting research opportunities within reach of this committee;
- Facilitate the spread of improved tools and methods for ED analysis (e.g., adoption of identification strategies, such as the increased focus on propensity score matching in case-control research), tools that are improving in accuracy (e.g., measures of TOD),

data that until recently has been prohibitively costly or inaccurate (e.g., freight flow, cost data, and other data sources) and confidential versions of public domain data like Census data;

- Promote development of models, tools, and metrics applicable at different levels of geographic, data availability, and desired detail in analysis;
- Develop and promote attendance at the TRB Annual Meeting TED sessions and workshops and/or webinars;
- Develop and promote attendance at TRB Summer Meetings, and;
- Promote peer exchanges across TRB committees by encouraging members and friends to attend meetings related committees, co-sponsoring and attending events of related committees, and engaging with other related organizations when possible.

**4:** Foster and enhance communication with and involvement of transportation stakeholders relevantly connected with the Committee's vision. Objectives are:

- Begin to identify co-sponsors and themes for the International Transportation and Economic Development (ITED) Conference in 2018;
- Develop a mailing list of individuals and public and private sector organizations interested in conducting research on transportation and economic development;
- Circulate the Research Plan to individuals on the mailing list and collect comments for incorporation into the Strategic Plan Update;
- Encourage participation by transportation stakeholders and Committee Friends in committee business and at the Annual and Summer Meetings;
- Continue to coordinate with AASHTO, NADO, FHWA, state DOTs, ARC, DRA, IEDC and other appropriate organizations, including establishment of mutual liaisons, and;
- Maintain and update the TED Committee website.

**5:** Achieve a high level of Committee effectiveness. Objectives are:

- Complete a draft updated Strategic Plan for the Committee for adoption at the 2017 TRB Annual Meeting;
- Maintain strong liaison bridges with other TRB Committees and outside organizations;
- Continue identification of opportunities for co-sponsoring sessions, workshops, calls-for-papers and Cooperative Research Program research;
- Develop and maintain materials that describe Committee's mission, goals, objectives and plan;
- Maintain a current TED Committee Friends list;
- Continue to identify, attract, and appoint leaders in transportation and economic development as Committee members when vacancies occur;

- Increase diversity in committee membership;
- Continue to encourage and facilitate the use of subcommittees to accomplish the objectives of the committee. Current subcommittees are: Paper Review, Research Plan, Strategic Plan, and ITED Conference.
- Form an additional subcommittee to monitor practical and theoretical innovations in ED and promote best practices. The goal of this subcommittee will be to develop a synthesis website promoting ED education and dissemination of best practices. Longer term, the subcommittee will monitor relevant journals for innovations to update the knowledge base.