

TRIENNIAL STRATEGIC PLAN (TSP)
Outlook Period: February 1, 2019 - January 31, 2022

PART 1: Committee Name and Scope

Committee Code *	AT020
Committee Name *	International Trade and Transportation Committee
- Date(s) reviewed	August 2019, January 2020
- Change, if proposed***	N/A
No. of official members approving change/total number of members **	N/A
Committee Scope *	This committee is concerned with regional, national, international, and multinational policy issues related to international trade and transportation (which includes inter-country movements and their domestic connections); trends and market forces in trade and international transportation; technological, economic, financial, institutional, or logistical innovations; and barriers to international trade in transportation goods and services.
- Date(s) reviewed	N/A
- Change, if proposed ***	N/A
- No. of official members approving change/total number of members **	N/A

* Show current, as it currently appears in the [TRB Online Directory](#)

** Includes Chair, Standing Committee Members, Emeritus Members, and Young Members

*** Show proposed, or Not Applicable

PART 2: Committee History

2.1

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Members in Attendance at Annual Meeting	41	25	14	11	15	15
Number of Visitors in Attendance at Annual Meeting			19	20	16	22
Number of Papers Reviewed	14	11	15	21	10	N/A
Total Number in Attendance at Mid-Year Meeting in person / by phone	8	11	14	9	20	N/A

2.2

Sessions and workshops sponsored/cosponsored at the Mid-Year meeting, including name of co-sponsoring committee(s) if applicable (by year):

Annual Meeting Activities	
2019	
Session Number & Name	Number of Podium Sessions: 3 Number of Poster Sessions: 1 Workshops: 1
Workshop 1091	Standardizing the Calculation and Reporting of Freight Transport Emissions on a Global Scale
Session 1207 (Lectern)	Impacts of Changes in Trade Policies on Agriculture and Food Transportation
Session 1238 (Poster)	Liner Shipping Routes and Schedules Under Uncertain Conditions
Session 1283 (Lectern)	International Trade and Transportation Implications of the United States – Mexico – Canada Agreement
Session 1686 (Lectern)	Border Costs, Investment Optimization, and Wait Time Predictions
2018	
Session Type	Number of Podium Sessions: 2 Number of Poster Sessions: 1 Workshops: 0
(Lectern)	Trade and Transportation in North America: Challenges and Opportunities
(Lectern)	NAFTA Renegotiation: Implications for International Trade, Transportation, and Regional Competitiveness
(Poster)	Research in International Trade and Shipping
2017	
Session Type	Number of Podium Sessions: 2 Number of Poster Sessions: 1 Workshops: 0
(Lectern)	Relationship of Trade, the Economy, and Transportation Within the United States
(Lectern)	Current Research in International Trade
(Poster)	Research in International Trade and Transportation

2.4

Provide titles of new research need statements (RNS) posted in TRB's RNS database (by year):

- The Risks to Global Trade - Date Posted: 1/24/2019
- The Relationship between Investments in U.S. Transportation Infrastructure and Competitiveness of U.S. Exports - Date Posted: 1/24/2019
- Logistics Infrastructure Measurement and Prioritization Protocol: Ensuring Trade Drives Economic Growth - Date Posted: 1/10/2019

2.5

Provide title(s) of RNS submitted for funding consideration: None

2.6

Provide titles of synthesis topics submitted (by year): None

2.7

Membership Make-up: Please see Attachment C provided by TRB for summary details.

As of May 2019, AT020 consisted of 25 members.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES	
Regular Member	17
State Department of Transportation Member	0
International Member	5
Young Member	3
GENDER	
Male	16
Female	9
DIVERSITY	
White	14
Black	1
Hispanic	4
Asian or Pacific Islander	2
American Indian	0
Two or More Races	1
Unknown	3
MEMBER AFFILIATION	
Public-Sector	6
Private-Sector	9
Academia	8
Nonprofit/Other	2

TRB's committee rules allow for a total of 25 Regular Members, 2 State Department of Transportation Members, 5 International Members, and 4 Young Members (younger than 35 years old) for a total committee membership of 36 persons.

2.8

Provide any of the following:

Any special publications, such as TR circular, and conference proceedings Sponsored or co-sponsored specialty conferences, symposia, workshops, webinars or other joint efforts with other TRB committees, other TRB entities, or other organizations (i.e. AASHTO, FHWA, State DOTs, ASTM, ASCE, and/or other modes of transportation): None

PART 3: Committee Future Outlook Statement and Committee Three-Year Plan

Committee Future Outlook Statement

As a committee, AT020 anticipates that there will be significant changes to global trade and transportation practices and trends over the next decade. As a result, its members seek to better understand the following urgent and long-term issues:

RISKS TO GLOBAL TRADE

Despite the many benefits that trade has produced for the U.S. economy, there has recently been an increase in protectionism. Internationally, several European countries have populist political parties that are promoting similar anti-trade agendas. Recent events demonstrate that the current period of globalization is fragile. The members of AT020 believe these risks are important to follow and to understand, since they will have future consequences for freight transportation infrastructure investments and operations.

NORTH AMERICAN TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION

During 2018, Canada and Mexico were the United States' second and third largest trading partners, respectively. North American trade is dependent upon adequate transportation infrastructure and efficient inspections at the ports-of-entry to physically move traded goods. Yet, in practice, crossing a binational border in North America can be an expensive and time-consuming process. Border delays can create problems within industry supply chains and cause companies to become less competitive in the international market. Following and studying these issues has been a long-standing focus of AT020 and it will continue to be over the planning horizon. Other emerging issues that have renewed the committee's focus on border freight planning, include: the yet to be ratified United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) that would replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); advances in Mexico's manufacturing industries; expanded U.S. and Canadian energy production; and the opening of Mexico's energy industry to foreign investment.

FUTURE TRADE AGREEMENTS

AT020 will discuss the dramatic and sometimes volatile changes to the global trade agreement environment, so that local, state, and national freight transportation planners can better understand how changes will affect the nation's freight transportation system into the future.

IMPACTS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change driven by the anthropogenic release of greenhouse gasses is occurring at an almost unabated pace. Recently, a significant milestone of 400 parts per million (ppm) of CO₂ in the atmosphere was measured. This level of CO₂ is unprecedented in 3 million years and is closely tied to human activity. Many consequences of climate change have the potential to affect freight transportation infrastructure and operations. Future sea level change, for example, could inundate transportation infrastructure. Droughts, caused by climate change, could impact agricultural production and the viability of industry in certain regions. In addition to the potential consequences of climate change on international trade, AT020 is also interested in promoting activities that identify potential solutions for stabilizing or reducing CO₂ emissions related to international freight transportation and mitigating their impacts on industry and the general population.

CHANGES IN SHIPPING ROUTES AND EMERGING TRENDS IN THE MARITIME SHIPPING INDUSTRY

The expanded Panama Canal began its operations in mid-2016. AT020 plans to discuss how changes in demand at Atlantic and Gulf ports materializes, because of changes in the amount and type of trade transiting Panama by vessel.

The negative effects of climate change have also intensified discussions on the potential exploitation of the Transpolar Sea Route and on how this may transform international commercial shipping in the 21st century.

AT020 plans to follow developments on this topic and investigate potential uptake and implications for the maritime shipping industry.

Other important topics in maritime trade that should be monitored and studied include: growing ship sizes and cascading effects; overcapacity in the containership industry; the movement of LNG and other energy-related cargoes; and compliance with the new International Maritime Organization requirements (i.e., the amended Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) convention) for providing verified container weight to carriers as well as improving shipping environmental performance (MARPOL – Annex VI).

OTHER KEY ISSUES

In addition to the topics discussed above, other questions or areas of interest to AT020 members include:

- The growth in trade compared to economic growth, both globally and in the United States? Desired perspective would include: The World Bank, The International Monetary Fund, major ocean carriers, investment firms, academics, researchers at think tanks, etc.
- What are the fundamental drivers (macroeconomic, demographic, industry, etc.) of container trade growth, globally and in the United States?
- The impacts of sustainability initiatives, particularly consumers actively measuring their carbon footprints to mitigate climate change and choosing to buy ‘local’ or ‘Made-in-USA’ products, as a result. Also examine new programs to regulate and incentivize changes in freight facilities toward sustainability and reduction of community impacts from freight operations (seaports, railyards, and distribution centers).
- The impacts of 3D printing and the possibility for further automation in manufacturing and import substitution
- The practice and accuracy of trade forecasts, which are used to direct billions of dollars of investments by ports, railroads, private investors, and federal, state and local governments. What approaches to planning and forecasting should be used or adopted?
- Can investments in U.S. transportation infrastructure lead to improved competitiveness for U.S. exports?
- The expected impacts of autonomous vehicles / vessels on international trade.
- The impact of vertical integration in the supply chain.

Committee Three-Year Plan

Over the next three years, AT020 has a plan to: promote research on international trade and transportation issues; develop research need statements that will lead to funded research projects; maintain strong participation in the committee’s activities by members and friends; and recruit new members and friends who are highly motivated to accomplish the committee’s goals. The committee’s work plan for the next three years is outlined in the sections below.

ACTIVITIES

Over the three-year period covered by this plan, the committee will seek to achieve the following two goals, using the strategies outlined below.

Goal 1: *Foster and contribute to research and public policy discussions on the global trade environment and its impact on international and domestic freight transportation trends.*

- Strategy 1: Identify critical, cross-cutting issues that affect international trade and transportation.
 - Action items:
 - Review the latest TRB update of *Critical Issues in Transportation* and develop a summary of critical and cross-cutting issues related to international trade and transportation.

- Examine other sources of information that may be useful for identifying critical and cross-cutting international trade and transportation issues and develop a summary of the issues identified.
 - Identify the gaps in existing research on critical and cross-cutting issues related to international trade and transportation.
 - Develop recommendations for research on critical and cross-cutting issues related to international trade and transportation.
- Strategy 2: Encourage, develop, review, and present research on international trade and transportation.
 - Action items:
 - Develop a *Call for Papers* for the TRB Annual Meeting, based on critical issues related to international trade and transportation and post the *Call for Papers* on the TRB website in early-May of each year.
 - Request that International Trade and Transportation Committee members and friends prepare at least one Research Needs Statement annually to be considered for future funding by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program or other cooperative research program.
 - Encourage AT020 Committee members and friends to submit papers to be considered for presentation at the TRB annual meeting and for publication in the *Transportation Research Record*.
 - Review TRB-assigned international trade and transportation papers submitted for the TRB Annual Meeting and provide results of the review process to TRB staff by October 1st of each year.
 - Recommend presentation of peer-reviewed international trade and transportation research papers at the TRB Annual Meeting.
 - Recommend publication of highly rated peer-reviewed international trade and transportation research papers in the *Transportation Research Record*.
- Strategy 3: Identify mechanisms to encourage international collaboration in international trade and transportation research.
 - Action items:
 - Explore opportunities for committee members and friends to support and collaborate on research that addresses global trade and transportation issues.
 - Continue to recommend appointments for international members on AT020.
- Strategy 4: Work with other TRB committees in the Freight Systems Group and the Marine Transportation Group, as well as other TRB committees, to identify common goals and pursue mutual research objectives.
 - Action items:
 - Identify TRB committees with related interests and appoint formal or informal committee liaisons.
 - Collaborate with members of other committees to develop research problem statements and co-sponsor meeting sessions and workshops.
 - Appoint a TRB Committee liaison coordinator

Goal 2: Educate transportation system stakeholders on the value and application of research on international trade and transportation issues.

- Strategy 1: Organize international trade and transportation presentations and sessions for the TRB Annual Meeting and the TRB Summer Meeting where appropriate.
 - Action items:

- Plan and manage one or more sessions focused on timely and important issues related to international trade and transportation at the TRB Annual Meeting.
 - Collaborate with other TRB committees and TRB staff to identify and co-sponsor other sessions of interest to AT020.
 - Collaborate with other TRB committees and TRB staff to identify and sponsor or co-sponsor presentations at the TRB summer meeting.
- Strategy 2: Develop international trade and transportation topics and sessions for specialty conferences hosted by TRB committees or other organizations.
 - Action items:
 - Identify and acknowledge specialty conferences and seminars that may be of interest to AT020 members. When members attend such conferences, invite them to prepare a brief summary of the conference proceedings to post on the committee website.
 - Explore opportunities for collaboration between AT020 and international trade conference sponsors for conference planning and participation, especially when such activities may serve to expand the dissemination of international trade and transportation research and education.
 - Collaborate with other TRB committees and other organizations, as needed, to develop shared research problem statements and plan joint sessions/conferences.
 - Organize webinars on topics of interest to the Committee members and friends with leading professionals serving as speakers
- Strategy 3: Use the Internet and other mediums to improve committee communication and collaboration among Members and friends.
 - Action items:
 - Develop and maintain a list of AT020 members (including young, state department of transportation, and international members) and a list of committee friends using My TRB. Update the lists as needed, including after the Annual and Mid-Year meetings.
 - Update the International Trade and Transportation Committee website at least twice annually.