

**TRIENNIAL STRATEGIC PLAN (TSP)**  
**Outlook Period: February 1, 2020 - January 31, 2023**

**PART 1: Committee Name and Scope**

Committee Code *	AT030
Committee Name *	Agriculture and Food Transportation
- Date(s) reviewed	July, 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 infrastructure, economic, institutional, operational, equipment, technological, and capacity issues influencing and affecting the movement of agricultural products by all modes of transportation. While the emphasis will be on North American transport systems, consideration will also be given to international developments that have an impact on the global market for U.S. agricultural products.
- 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

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of Members in Attendance at Annual Meeting	15	14	10	16
Number of Visitors in Attendance at Annual Meeting	14	13	?	15
Number of Papers Reviewed	9	6	7	7
Total Number in Attendance at Mid-Year Meeting	21	12	23	20

### 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	
<b><u>2017</u></b>	
<b>Session Number &amp; Name</b>	<b>Number of Podium Sessions: 1 Number of Poster Sessions: 1                      Workshops: 0</b>
Session 879 (Lectern)	Research Advances in Agricultural Transportation
Session 756 (Poster)	Current Research in Agricultural Transportation
<b><u>2018</u></b>	
<b>Session Number &amp; Name</b>	<b>Number of Podium Sessions: 2 Number of Poster Sessions: 1                      Workshops: 0</b>
Session 505 (Lectern)	Agriculture Commodity Data: Challenges and Applications
Session 299 (Lectern)	From Farm to Table: Multimodal Opportunities and Challenges of Moving the World's Food
Session 788 (Poster)	Current Research in Agricultural Transportation
<b><u>2019</u></b>	
<b>Session Number &amp; Name</b>	<b>Number of Podium Sessions: 2 Number of Poster Sessions: 1                      Workshops: 0</b>
Session 1355 (Lectern)	Urban Food Deserts: The Challenge of Providing Good Nutrition in Urban Areas Impacts of Changes in Trade Policies on Agriculture and Food transportation Current Researching Agriculture And Food Transportation
Session 1207 (Lectern)	
Session (Poster)	
Session (Lectern)	Current Research in Agriculture and Food Transportation
<b><u>2020</u></b>	
<b>Session Number &amp; Name</b>	<b>Number of Podium Sessions: 1 Number of Poster Sessions: 0                      Workshops: 0</b>

Session 1616(Lectern)	Moving U.S. Agricultural Commodities to Trade Gateways for Exports: Challenges and Opportunities
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## 2.4

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

- Alternative Fuels, Multimodal Freight Transportation Access/Efficiency and Infrastructure Investment Needs (2007)

## 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 August 27, 2020, AT030 consisted of 33 members.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES	
Regular Member	24
State Department of Transportation Member	2
International Member	3
Young Member	4
GENDER	
Male	19
Female	14
DIVERSITY	
White	21
Black	2
Hispanic	2
Asian or Pacific Islander	4
American Indian	0
Two or More Races	0
Unknown	4
MEMBER AFFILIATION	
Public-Sector	7
Private-Sector	15
Academia	9
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**

#### **Background**

During the 2012-2015 Triennial Plan update, members commented that the committee's (former) name, Agricultural Transportation, was too limiting. As a result, during the update of the current Triennial Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020, AT030 changed the name of the committee to Agriculture and Food Transportation. With the new name, the committee incorporated food distribution and its relevant supply chains under the umbrella of agriculture. This name change accompanied a definition that includes agricultural products beyond traditional farm products, as the new plan recognized the primary motivations of agricultural development to be food, energy, fiber, and pharmaceuticals. The research interests of the committee cover operations, management, policy, and regulations impacting the supply chain for these commodity groups applied to local, state, North American and global distribution. Recognition was given to the connections among global markets, the world food chain, and the domestic agricultural supply chain.

The additional emphasis on food transportation resulted in the broadening of goals and strategies to include cross-cutting issues for both agricultural and food transportation. The supply chain was defined to include the network over which products are developed and managed to their final point of consumption or sale, meaning that the research interests of the committee were necessarily expanded. The new focus will help create additional intersections with other committees and expanded collaboration opportunities for future joint meetings and activities. Other committees have been including food in their focus. An example is the Urban Freight committee who look at final mile deliveries of food a juncture with the overall agriculture supply chain.

Over the Triennial Strategic Plan 2017-2020 three-year period, the committee has progressed toward adopting the strategies that were identified under the two primary goals of research and education.

#### **SWOT Analysis**

In preparation for the 2020 plan update, recognition was given that more work was required to advance the function and influence of the committee. To this end, a formal analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) of the committee was developed via survey and completed. The survey was distributed prior to the annual meeting in January 2020 and discussed during the committee's annual session. The survey was again sent to the members and friends of the committee in July of 2020 to facilitate greater participation. A summary of the SWOT analysis was completed in preparation for establishing new goals for the Triennial Plan, 2020 – 2023. A discussion of that analysis follows.

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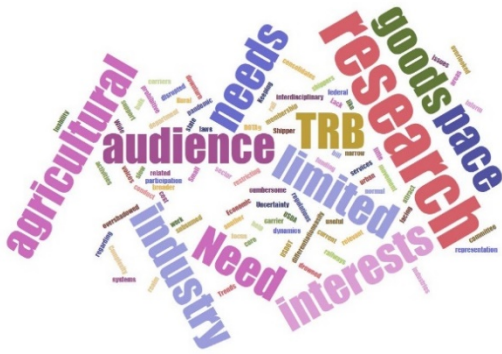
**Strengths:** The Standing Committee on Agriculture and Food Transportation (AT030) is actively supported by members of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This applied linkage is especially when compared to committees that present methodologies or deal with a wide range of areas. The industry we examine is relatively specific and definitive, so there are often reasonably clear issues to research as well as important areas of discussion. Frequently, these topics are timely and in the forefront of interest to practitioners and the public.



**Weaknesses:** AT030 has a relatively small number of members and friends when compared to other TRB committees. The lack of attendance by young members and international members is particularly noteworthy. In the future, steps need to be taken to encourage greater TRB participation in AT030. Submission of presentations and publication of papers for the annual meeting should also be carefully reviewed with the goal of improving the number, quality, and scope of committee backed research.

**Opportunities:** This committee considers agricultural and food transportation topics that span the entire supply chain from farm to table. In many cases, the public thinks this industry runs smoothly and efficiently, but we know this is not always the case. Food related topics are anticipated to remain relevant to everyone in our new reality so broader interest in our committee research should strengthen. Comprehensive discussions of our committee work can be causally linked to public health, along with societal safety and security. Food supply chains for both rural and urban areas remain critically important and properly advertised, should have the ability to draw a wide variety of TRB participants.





**Threats:** Many of the topics encompassed within this committee overlap with other TRB committees of equal or greater size and overall influence. While comprehensive research can be carried out across the vertical supply chain of agriculture and food, a fully integrated approach relies on collaboration across committees and the inclusion of multiple outside organizations. Participation of private sector firms such as transportation service providers is a gap in the committee.

### Transportation Research Board Mission Statement

**Provide leadership in transportation improvements and innovation through trusted, timely, impartial, and evidence-based information exchange, research, and advice regarding all modes of transportation.**

Source: Transportation Research Board Strategic Plan 2019

AT030 has developed a mission based on the areas of interest defined by its name and purview. This mission embraces that of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) strategic plan as stated above.

### Agriculture and Food Transportation Committee Mission Statement

**AT030 will provide leadership in transportation improvements and innovation focused on the efficient and secure movement of primary agricultural products, food, fiber, and pharmaceuticals throughout their supply chains. Research activities of the committee extend to all modes of transportation, with the goal of understanding links between domestic and global markets for agricultural and food products.**

**Goals and Objectives - 2020 to 2023****Goal: Research**

Produce quality research statements and guide research important to industry.

Actions:

1. Identify and establish a Committee Research Coordinator (CRC).
2. Form a Research working that is chaired by the CRC and is comprised of members from various aspects of agriculture and food transportation such as departments of transportation (DOT), United States Department of Agriculture, state agricultural agencies, private industries, and academia.
3. The research working group will be charged with identifying relevant research needs statement.
4. The research working group will develop draft needs statements with the goal of submitting them to TRB's database.
5. The research working group will work with DOT representatives on the committee to find sponsors who are willing to submit research needs statements for future funding opportunities.

**Goal: Outreach**

Increase outreach through the engagement of committee members with public and private sector partners. This will ensure a robust and vibrant evaluation of ideas, research topics and needs that will lead to better and more relevant outcomes.

Actions:

1. Increase outreach to private sector partners thru a series of committee/friend of committee guest appearance webinars with private sector representatives who will be invited to spend 10-15 minutes during regular committee calls to educate members about the most critical transportation issues facing the food and agricultural industry.
2. Increase committee membership representing state transportation and agricultural departments to assist in prioritize research topics and promote opportunities for new research ideas and needs.
3. Engage with groups like the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) to educate and engage on supply chain topics that impact the industry. Expand this list of organizations through the implementation process.
4. Expand the diversity of membership on the committee to create a welcoming, engaging committee where input on priorities, operations, and ideas are provided by a diverse array of members and stakeholders.

**Goal: Communication**

Increase communication that will engage committee members and further the development of the Agriculture and Food Transportation Committee.

Actions:

1. Conduct at least bi-monthly committee meetings or teleconferences to engage and inform members on committee activities.

2. Create, maintain, update, and provide a committee member roster with information on those members related to their areas of expertise.
3. Continue to develop and improve a committee web presence.
4. Promote the work being done by the committee through engaged communication at formal meetings and TRB events.
5. Develop a committee on-boarding process in partnership with TRB staff to better educate and engage members on TRB and committee goals, actions, and desired outcomes.

**Goal: Implementation**

Develop an implementation plan directed toward completing the established mission and goals of the committee.

Actions:

1. Establish a subcommittee including new and tenured members to develop the implementation plan and oversee its defined activities.
2. Present the implementation plan for review by the AT030 membership.
3. Develop a schedule and a series of performance measurements defined to achieve the goals established in the triennial strategic plan.