

The National Academies of
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TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

January 12-13, 2022

Liberty LM Room (Meeting Level 4)
Marriott Marquis Hotel, Washington, DC

Wednesday, January 12

8:30 a.m.

Introductions and Announcements (Shaheen) Information

- a. Policy Statement on Preventing Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying was noted.
- b. Bias/Conflict of Interest Discussion – There were no conflicts of interest reported.

9 a.m.

Approval of August 17-19, 2020 Minutes (Shaheen) Action

- The minutes were approved, with an amendment that attendees need to be added. (They have been added at the end of these minutes.)

9:02 a.m.

Approval of Consent Agenda (Shaheen) Action

9:05 a.m.

Executive Director's Report (Pedersen) Information

- He discussed how 2021 was a year of adaptation and resilience for TRB's work, staff, and volunteers.
- He outlined the key issues of focus for TRB research as we begin 2022.
- The TRB Executive Committee is developing a new TRB strategic plan.
- Several USDOT agencies, and two new ones, are once again TRB sponsors.
- TRB finances have more certainty than in recent years, with the greatest uncertainties related to revenue and expenses from the 2022 TRB Annual Meeting and COVID-19.
- The Woods Hole Academies location continues to be on sale for \$27.5 million.
- He offered expressions of gratitude to TRB staff and volunteer leadership and the support of National Academies' leadership.

9:20 a.m.

Development of New TRB Strategic Plan (Turnbull) Information

- a. The NRC Strategic Plan was adopted in February 2021 and TRB is committed to developing a new strategic plan to be aligned with it, hopefully this upcoming June.
- b. The proposed goals and strategies were outlined.
- c. This will be a five year plan and will be for staff and volunteers.

9:40 a.m.

Break

10:10 a.m.

Panel Discussion with USDOT Modal Administrators (Hampshire, Dickson, Boss, Joshi, Lessley)
Information

- Representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. Maritime Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and the Federal Rail Administration each expressed their interest and enthusiasm for working with TRB on issues that need research and data development.

11:20 a.m.

Introduction to Policy Session on Decarbonization (Ford, Eisinger, Dodder, Berube, Committee Chairs)
Information

- USDOT Activities on Decarbonization: Over the last 30 years, technology has been key in reducing emissions. Going forward, emission reductions will require an acceleration of ZEV adoption. Research is needed on how to best structure incentives and how best to support infrastructure buildout.
- EPA Activities on Decarbonization: More research work is needed on many areas that intersect between the EPA's priorities and what TRB can offer.

11:45 a.m.

NTSB's Safety Priorities (Homendy) Presentation

12:10 p.m.

Walk to the Convention Center

12:15 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Chair's Plenary Session

3 p.m.

Walk Back to the Marriott

3:30 p.m.

Policy Session on Decarbonization (Ford, Hendrickson, Kim, Muncrief) Presentation/Discussion

- Political and business tides are turning on decarbonization. Electric vehicle sales in the U.S. has recently gone above 2% of all vehicle sales. These numbers are much higher in Europe.
- The International Transport Forum is growing as a forum that provides research reports and seeks to show best practices.
- The International Council on Clean Transportation is looking at trajectories for how much we can reduce emissions based on what kinds of transportation policies and procedures we put in place.

6 p.m.

Break for Evening

Thursday, January 12, 2022

8:30 a.m.

Policy Session Follow Up (Shaheen) Discussion

- Some of the questions that sum up yesterday's policy session on decarbonization: How do we think about getting people to think about their personal choices in how they use transportation? How do we think about incentives? How do we think about how the U.S. is positioned compared to other countries in the market and in policy? Is the grid robust enough to support conversion to electric vehicles? How about hydrogen? How do we make electric vehicles accessible to everyone? What about the new mobility landscape in relation to housing and land use? How do the workforce and supply chain fit into decarbonization? How do we measure how clean the grid is? How is the role of planning affected in both rural and urban areas? What is the role of the different modes?
- What is the role of TRB and next steps on decarbonization research? It would be important to bring mode administrators into better communication with utilities. What is the government's role in terms of identifying gaps in the grid, including in the bus network? We need a timeline of reports and research that is aligned with when they will be most valuable in the real world, such as a report what the U.S. government's decarbonization strategy should be.

9 a.m.

June 2022 Policy Session (Houston) Action

- The SPPR's recommendation for the June policy session topic is "reimagining goods movement."

9:10 a.m.

Technical Activities Update (Grimes/Brach) Information

- Attendance appears to be between 6,000 to 7,000 of the more than 9,000 registered. Anecdotally, it seems we've had a lot of young people in attendance and social media has been particularly active because of sharing research digitally.
- The team was applauded for pulling off this year's conference and also for opening up the Chairs Plenary to everyone.

9:20 a.m.

TRB Division Committee Report (Hendrickson) Information

- This was an overview of how TRB fits into the National Academies and an overview of the committee's functions. The second half of 2021 was busy, with 36 committees and panels approved for CRP, 4 for CAAS, and 52 CRP and CAAS reports were reviewed.

9:30 a.m.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan (Lewis) Presentation/Discussion

- An update was given on TRB's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) Strategic Plan.

9:45 a.m.

Minority Student Fellow Programs (Febey) Presentation

- A program overview was given of its status in the 13th year of its existence.

10 a.m.

Young Member's Council (Kontou) Presentation

- The Young Members Coordinating Council (YMCC) is in its 12th year and has continued to develop and promote opportunities for involvement, resources, connections, and representation in all levels of TRB.

10:00 a.m.

Equity Conference Highlights (Ward/Williams) Presentation

- The Conference on Advancing Equity (CATE) potentially broke mid-year conference records with about 900 attendees.

10:20 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m.

International Subcommittee (Iwasaki) Information

- TRB currently has 16 signed agreements (Memorandums of Understandings and Letters of Intent) with international partners. We may be seeing an increase in international engagement due to COVID and becoming more virtual.

10:50 a.m.

Marine Board Update (Grabowski) Information

- An update was given of the Marine Board's activities and its Spring Meeting.

11:05 a.m.

Communications Update (Mackie) Information

- A report was given on how the TRB Communications Strategic Plan, which was adopted by the Executive Committee in July 2021, is being put into action.

11:20 a.m.

Cooperative Research Program Update (Hedges) Information

- The many publications from CRP in 2021 and increased funding for the program from the infrastructure bill were noted.

11:30 a.m.

Consensus and Advisory Studies Update (Menzies) Information

- Details were given about the four CAAS studies published since the July 2021 Executive Committee Meeting and current and upcoming studies were noted.

11:50 a.m.

Other Business (Shaheen) Information

- No other business was discussed.
- Neil Pedersen thanked Susan Shaheen for her outstanding leadership over the past year.
- Susan Shaheen also thanked Russell Houston for his work behind the scenes, Neil Pedersen and his work fighting on behalf of women in transportation, the TRB staff for its hard work making this conference happen, and TRB volunteer leadership

12 p.m.

Adjourn

Full list of attendees:

CHAIRS

- Susan A. Shaheen; Professor and Co-Director, TSRC; University of California, Berkeley
- Nathaniel P. Ford, Chief Executive Officer, Jacksonville Transportation Authority

MEMBERS

- Michael F. Ableson, CEO, Arrival Automotive-North America
- Carlos M. Braceras, Executive Director, Utah Department of Transportation
- Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner, New York State Department of Transportation
- Ginger Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, CAG Holdings, Inc.
- Michael F. Goodchild, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, University of California, Santa Barbara
- Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Transportation
- Susan Hanson, Distinguished University Professor Emerita, School of Geography, Clark University
- Stephen W. Hargarten, Director, Injury Research Center, Associate Dean, Office of Global Health, Professor of Emergency Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin
- Chris T. Hendrickson, Duquesne Light Professor of Engineering, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University
- S. Jack Hu, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Georgia
- Randall Iwasaki, Leader of State and Local Transportation, Amazon Web Services (AWS)
- Ashby Johnson, Executive Director, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
- William Kruger, Vice President, UPS Freight for Fleet Maintenance and Engineering
- Julie Lorenz, Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation
- Michael R. McClellan, VP Strategic and Network Planning, Norfolk Southern Corporation
- Patrick K. McKenna, Director, Missouri Department of Transportation
- Brian W. Ness, Director, Idaho Transportation Department
- Craig Philip, Research Professor and Director, VECTOR, Department of CEE, Vanderbilt University
- Leslie S. Richards, General Manager, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation
- Kevin Thibault, Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation
- James M. Tien, Distinguished Professor and Dean Emeritus, College of Engineering, University of Miami
- Katherine F. Turnbull, Executive Associate Director, Texas A&M Transportation Institute
- Shawn Wilson, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

- Michael R. Berube, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Sustainable Transportation, U.S. Department of Energy
- Richard Corey, Deputy Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board, Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation
- Steven Cliff, Acting Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

- LeRoy Gishi, Chief, Division of Transportation, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Department of the Interior
- Martha Grabowski, McDevitt Assoc. Chair in Information Systems, Professor & Chair, Business Administration Dept Dir., Information Systems Program, LeMoyne College
- Major General William Graham, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- John T. Gray, Senior Vice President Policy and Economics Association of American Railroads
- Eleftheria (Ria) Kontou, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Stephanie Pollack, Acting Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation
- Craig A. Rutland, U.S. Air Force Pavement Engineer, Air Force Civil Engineer Center
- Admiral Karl L. Schultz, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Karl Simon, Director, Transportation and Climate Division
- Paul P. Skoutelas, President and CEO, American Public Transportation Association
- Jim Tymon, Executive Director, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

Technical Activities Council Representatives

- George Avery Grimes, CEO Advisor, Patriot Rail Company
- Michael Griffith, Director, Office of Safety Technologies, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Jane Lin, Professor and Director, SusTrans Lab, Department of Civil and Materials Engineering Research Professor, Institute for Environmental Science and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Kathryn Zimmerman, Applied Pavement Technology, Inc.

SOON TO BECOME EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

- Robert Hampshire, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Res. & Tech. (OST), U.S. Department of Transportation
- Tristan Brown, Acting Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)
- Brad Mims, Deputy Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Representing Administrator Stephen Dickson
- Mary A. Leary, Acting Associate Administrator of the Office of Research, Demonstration, & Innovation, Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Representing FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez
- Maryam Allahyar; Director, Office of Research, Development, and Technology; Federal Railroad Administration Representing Acting Administrator Amit Bose
- Tom Keane, Associate Administrator Office of Research and Registration, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

VIRTUAL OBSERVERS

- Anne Aylward, Director of the Volpe National Transportation System OST-R/Volpe Center
- Dr. David Chien, Deputy Director of Aviation Policy and Plans, Federal Aviation Administration
- Casey Clemmons, Special Assistant to Tristan Brown, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

- John Croft, Federal Aviation Administration
- Tom Everett, Executive Director, Federal Highway Administration
- Patricia Hu, Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics

OTHER USDOT ATTENDEES

- Timothy Klein, Director, Office of Technology Policy and Outreach, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology
- Firas Ibrahim, Director, Office of Research, Development, and Technology, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology
- Meagan Manago, Executive Assistant to Tristan Brown, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
- Neil Mansharamani, Federal Aviation Administration
- Kelly Regal; Associate Administrator for Research, Development, and Technology; Federal Highway Administration
- Kevin Montgomery, Transportation Program Specialist, Federal Transit Administration
- Nanda Srinivasan; Associate Administrator for Research, Development, and Technology; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Caitlin McKeighan, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNING

- Alva Carrasco, President, Board of Latinos in Transit

TRB Staff

- Neil J. Pedersen, Executive Director
- Rosa Allen
- William Anderson, Senior Program Officer
- Cynthia 'Cindy' Baker, Executive Assistant
- Scott Babcock
- Ann M. Brach, Director, Technical Activities
- Scott Brotemarkle, Marine Board Program Director, Senior Program Officer
- Patrice Davenport, Deputy Director, TRB Program Development & Strategic Initiatives
- Karen S. Febey, Senior Report Review Officer
- Sierra Hall, Executive Assistant
- Christopher Hedges, Director, Cooperative Research Programs
- Russell W. Houston, Associate Executive Director
- Bernardo Kleiner, Associate Division Director, Transportation Safety
- Patti Lockhart
- Paul Mackie, Director, Communications/Media, Office of the Chief Communications Officer
- Stephen Maher
- Thomas Menzies, Director, Consensus and Advisory Studies
- Tom Palmerlee, Associate Director, Technical Activities Division
- Gary Walker, Senior Deputy Director, TRB Program Finance, Office of Chief Financial Office

Policy Session Speakers

- Dr. Tierra Bills, Assistant Professor, Wayne State University
- Dorval Carter, President, Chicago Transit Authority
- Elizabeth (Betsy) Harvey, Transportation Equity Program Manager, Central Transportation Planning Staff
- Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Williams, Director of Data and Policy, Massachusetts DOT

Invited Policy Session Guests

- Robert Hampshire, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Res. & Tech. (OST), U.S. Department of Transportation
- Brad Mims, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration
- Stephanie Pollack, Acting Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
- Andrea D'Amato, Assistant Secretary, MassDOT