

# NEWS



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

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## FORMER TRB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THOMAS DEEN TO RECEIVE FRANK TURNER MEDAL

Thomas B. Deen, Executive Director of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) from 1980 until his retirement in 1994, is the 2009 recipient of the Frank Turner Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Transportation. The award will be presented during the Chairman's Luncheon on January 14, 2009, at the TRB 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Deen is being honored for his career accomplishments and international leadership in transportation planning, research, and innovation.

The Frank Turner Medal recognizes lifetime achievement in transportation, as demonstrated by a distinguished career in the field, professional prominence, and a distinctive, widely recognized contribution to transportation policy, administration, or research. The award was established in 1998 to commemorate Frank Turner's extraordinary accomplishments in the development and construction of the U.S. transportation system. Turner was the initial recipient of the medal in 1999. TRB serves as the secretariat for the award, which may be conferred biennially. The following organizations are sponsors of the award: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; American Concrete Pavement Association; American Highway Users Alliance; American Portland Cement Alliance; American Public

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Transportation Association; American Road and Transportation Builders Association; American Traffic Safety Services Association, Inc.; Asphalt Institute; Associated General Contractors of America; Construction Industry Manufacturers Association; Equipment Manufacturers Institute; Eno Transportation Foundation; Institute of Transportation Engineers; National Asphalt Pavement Association; Road Gang; and Texas A&M Foundation.

During his tenure as TRB Executive Director, Deen presided over the Board's growth into new program areas and modes while preserving and enhancing the quality and breadth of its traditional technical activities. Under his leadership, TRB increased the participation and partnership of government, academia, and industry in the whole range of its activities and for the first time took on the challenge of conducting policy studies on national transportation issues, often at the request of Congress or the federal agencies. Deen also conceived and successfully promoted a series of strategic transportation research studies, which resulted in the establishment of two new, highly creative research programs—the first Strategic Highway Research Program and the Transit Cooperative Research Program. In structuring these programs, he worked to ensure that the research would be well conceived, connected to users, conducted with appropriate scientific rigor, and guided by ethical principles and high standards of quality. He also placed strong emphasis on international outreach and the implementation of research results.

In his early career, Deen was a pioneer in the development and application of methods for analyzing urban transportation problems and planning urban transit systems. After serving in the early 1960s as Planning Director for the new Washington Metro, he spent 16 years as Vice President and then President of the transportation consulting firm of Alan M. Voorhees and Associates. A frequent and active contributor to the work of other organizations concerned with transportation research, Deen chaired the national effort to prepare the first U.S. strategic plan for intelligent transportation systems. Since his retirement, he has been sought after to serve on a number of special-purpose commissions looking at pressing transportation issues; these assignments have included chairing a blue-ribbon panel appointed by the Maryland Governor to examine the inter-county connector and variable pricing options, and serving on an expert panel that is currently reviewing inspection procedures on major bridges and tunnels, following the crash of an 18-wheeler through a major bridge guardrail into the Chesapeake Bay. In addition, he recently served as Vice Chair of a National Academies study committee that recommended ways to transport spent nuclear waste to the Yucca mountain repository.

Deen was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1998. He has received numerous honors and awards, including the Institute of Transportation Engineers' Theodore M. Matson Memorial Award; the George S. Bartlett Award, awarded jointly by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, and TRB; and TRB's Pyke Johnson and W.N. Carey, Jr., Distinguished Service Awards.

A graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Engineering, Deen subsequently studied at the University of Chicago and received a Certificate from the Yale University Bureau of Highway Traffic.

More than 10,000 policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions are expected to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 88th Annual Meeting, in Washington, DC, January 11-15, 2009. The meeting, held at the Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Hilton Washington hotels, includes more than 3,500 presentations in 600 sessions and workshops covering all aspects of transportation.

The mission of the Transportation Research Board is to provide leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange, conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary, and multimodal. TRB facilitates the sharing of information on transportation practice and policy by researchers and practitioners; stimulates research and offers research management services that promote technical excellence; provides expert advice on transportation policy and programs; and disseminates research results broadly and encourages their implementation. A major focal point of TRB's activities, the Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for transportation professionals from all over the world to exchange information of common interest.

Organized in 1920, TRB is a division of the National Academies, which include the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council. The nation turns to the National Academies for independent, objective advice on issues that affect people's lives worldwide.

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