

NEWS



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

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News Release

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TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES COUNCIL HONORS FOUR STANDING COMMITTEES WITH BLUE RIBBON AWARDS

The Technical Activities Council established the Blue Ribbon Awards in 2013 to recognize exemplary practices and associated volunteer efforts in the activities of standing committees. The Blue Ribbon Award committees serve as role models, and the committee chairs and members are available to share their experiences with others.

The Technical Activities Council will present the Blue Ribbon Awards on January 12, 2015, at the Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lecture and Presentation of Awards during the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 94th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Committees recognized with 2015 Blue Ribbon Awards include the following:

Community Building and Mentoring

- **Traffic Flow Theory and Characteristics Committee**, chaired by Robert Bertini, California Polytechnic State University, for engaging young diverse participants through innovative and inclusive outreach; and collaboration in research, education and training

Advancing Research

- **Transportation Asset Management Committee**, chaired by Kathryn Zimmerman, Applied pavement Technology, Inc., for turning research needs statements into National Cooperative Highway Research Program–funded projects.

Contributing to TRB and the Transportation Community

- **Roundabouts Committee**, chaired by Eugene Russell, Kansas State University, for facilitating implementation of roundabouts through innovative dissemination and outreach of research and best practices

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES
Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

- *Honorable Mention: Active Traffic Management Joint Subcommittee*, chaired by Beverly Kuhn, Texas A&M University, for advancing advanced traffic management concept as innovative approach to improve safety and travel

In 1920 the Board established three technical committees to promote research and disseminate highway research findings. Today TRB maintains more than 200 standing committees and task forces that address all aspects and modes of transportation. More than 4,000 administrators, operators, engineers, attorneys, researchers, educators, and others concerned with transportation serve on these committees and task forces without compensation. Committee members identify research needs; provide information to the transportation community on research priorities and procedures; review papers for presentation at the TRB Annual Meeting and for publication; encourage the incorporation of appropriate research findings into practice; and develop special programs, conferences, and workshops.

Standing committees and task forces are organized into 11 groups, each overseen by a separate council. Six of the groups, including some 150 committees, address various functional aspects of transportation, with a major focus on highways. Each of the remaining five groups concentrates primarily on a specific transportation mode. The chairs of each of the 11 groups and a chair make up the Technical Activities Council (TAC). The TAC is designed to provide a forum for interchange between the groups of committees, the TRB Executive Committee, and TRB staff. The TAC is designed to assist in identifying emerging topics of interest to the transportation community and cross-cutting issues, and to help foster outreach efforts to other transportation organizations.

Approximately 12,000 policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions are expected to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 94th Annual Meeting, in Washington, D.C., January 11-15, 2015. The meeting, held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, includes more than 5,000 presentations in more than 750 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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