Journeying Through Public Lands
Why Transportation Planning Is Essential

A Trail for Everyone
Forecasting Recreational Travel Demand
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Journeying Through Public Lands: Why Transportation Planning Is Essential
Natalie Villwock-Witte

National parks and public lands are places of the people, and how we get to them and navigate around them takes special transportation planning. The author introduces the articles in this theme issue by highlighting the efforts that maintain such locales and keep them accessible to all of us.

Federal Lands Transportation Planning 101
Benjamin Rasmussen and Nicholas Grisham

Federal lands make up 25 percent of the United States and require complex interactions among public, private, and nonprofit organizations to guide transportation planning. The authors provide a primer on how to navigate this process, who does what, and other essential tips for planning practitioners.

Enhancing the Visitor Experience: The National Park Service’s Data Collection Innovations
Erica Cole and Rachel Collins

The National Park Service is integrating emerging technologies—including mobile device data analysis—to better understand key transportation and visitor travel patterns, congestion, and other transportation analytics. The authors explain how data show the way visitors reach and move through parks and determine what travel information guests need and when, thereby better connecting them to their outdoor destinations.

Integrated Planning: Closing the Tribal Engagement Gap
Elijah Henley

Planning transportation projects on tribal lands can be fraught with challenges, not the least of which is finding effective ways to bring tribal representatives to the table. The author makes the case for integrated planning, in which multiple jurisdictions, funding sources, parties, and purposes merge for the good of all.

A Trail for Everyone: Active Transport in State Parks
Katherine Pritchett, Linda Lanterman, David Kelly, and Shea Lewis

Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri state parks are dedicated to active transportation and are partnering with neighboring communities to plan trail linkages. Their goal is that one day everyone might reside within 15 minutes of a trail.

Wild Open Spaces: Cultivating the Next Generation of Public Lands Stewards

The Public Lands Transportation Fellows Program provides recent college graduates with hands-on professional development, opportunities to explore America's natural splendors, and a route to federal service. In return, national parks and wildlife refuges get help developing and implementing cost-effective transportation innovations. Five current fellows share their experiences.

Transportation Connections 2040: Preserving Transportation Within America’s Great Outdoors
Reuben Vidaurrazaga, Rosemarie Spano, David Jeppesen, and Katie Lamoureux

The Bureau of Land Management conserves and maintains public lands for activities as varied as wilderness camping and solar-energy generation. Its first transportation planning tool and performance framework aims to support collaboration with partners and ensure future access to America’s great outdoors for generations to come.
NCHRP PROJECT 08-132
Peaks and Valleys: Forecasting Recreational Travel Demand
Mark Bradley, Greg Spitz, Aaron Lee, Ben Swanson, and Theodore Mansfield

National and state parks welcome millions of visitors annually, but seasonal surges can jam roads and overcrowd facilities. A National Highway Cooperative Research Program project is harnessing smartphone data to develop recreational travel-demand models aimed at helping public lands transportation planners better forecast and manage congestion.

Indirect Tension Asphalt Cracking Test: Ensuring Asphalt Mix Designs for Durable Pavements
Fujie Zhou and Kelly West

Road repairs can be costly, particularly when pavement breaks up before anticipated. Researchers at Texas A&M Transportation Institute have developed a cracking test that will help state departments of transportation gauge asphalt resiliency, saving time—and money.

Profiles
Roxanne Bash, FHWA, and Robert L. Bertini, Oregon State University

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

TRB Highlights

Members on the Move

Bookshelf

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In Memoriam

The July–August 2023 issue of TR News explores the theme of transportation-related advancements in accessibility and mobility. From individuals with disabilities that affect the senses and physical movement to the concerns of older adults and those with invisible disabilities that present cognitive issues, the authors look at innovations and their applications in myriad settings that make transportation for this population easier or, at times, possible for everyday living.

A warm, sunny day beckons a man to the paths in New York City’s Central Park. As the 843-acre greenspace undergoes restoration, accessibility is at the forefront of plans when installing such features as sloped pathways, restrooms, and adaptive swings on playgrounds. Such efforts empower people with disabilities as they navigate their larger environment.

Transportation Influencer
Arif Sadri, The University of Oklahoma

TRB COVID-19 Resources

Agencies and organizations can use TRB publications and online resources for useful and timely information to help address issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. To read about TRB’s current research and activities, and for a list of relevant publications, visit www.nationalacademies.org/trb/blog/transportation-in-the-face-of-communicable-disease.

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TR News (ISSN 0738-6826) is issued bimonthly by the Transportation Research Board, 500 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Internet address: www.TRB.org.

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Subscriptions: North America: 1 year $75; single issue $19. Overseas: 1 year $100; single issue $19 plus shipping. Inquiries or communications concerning new subscriptions, subscription problems, or single-copy sales should be addressed to the Business Office at the following address, or by phone 202-334-3216, fax 202-334-2519. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C.

Postmaster: Send changes of address to TR News, Transportation Research Board, 500 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Notice: The opinions expressed in articles appearing in TR News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Transportation Research Board. The Transportation Research Board and TR News do not endorse products or manufacturers. Trade and manufacturers’ names appear in an article only because they are considered essential.

Printed in the United States of America.

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