

Call for Papers
85TH TRB ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 22-26, 2006
WASHINGTON, DC

Evaluation of User Benefits for Project Analysis

The **TRB Transportation Demand Forecasting Committee, ADB40** invites papers focused on improving the modeling and analytical tools for evaluating user benefits for the evaluation of transportation projects. It is a difficult problem due to a number of factors, including the large number and widely varying types of direct and indirect impacts (time savings and changes in operating costs, safety, reliability, emissions, noise, etc.), the inherent complexity of quantifying many of the impacts (job and non-work accessibility, economic impacts, social changes), the varying time dimension over which the (dis)benefits accrue (from short run travel time savings to long term environmental impacts such as global warming), and the dynamic travel behavior and land use adjustments that occur due to changes in the transportation network. Perhaps due to the complexities, traditional user benefit analysis has focused on short-run travel time and cost savings. However, there has been increasing attention placed on developing comprehensive measures of benefits that recognize the multifaceted and dynamic nature of the situation. Furthermore, rather than focusing on overall net benefits of a project, the distribution of impacts are of growing concern, which requires recognition that key concepts such as value of travel time savings vary significantly over travel contexts and over individuals. Another challenge involves the sources of error in such measures, and the need to specify the degree of uncertainty in any measurement. This is a fairly broad topic; note that the call is being placed by the Emerging Methods Subcommittee of the Travel Demand Forecasting Committee, and therefore analytically and theoretically based papers with strong links to demand modeling methods are most appropriate. Research focusing on either passenger or freight is welcome, as are technical reviews/discussion of federal regulations or other guidelines, the literature, or practice. Research related to state of the art travel demand and land use modeling is appropriate, including theoretical issues faced when dealing with more complex models as well as improvements in measures of benefits resulting from improved models. Research in the vein of transport economic theory, on which all user benefit analysis is based, is also welcome.

Please indicate **ADB40B** on the Submission Review form to indicate that the paper is being submitted in response to this *Call* for papers. Papers for the 2006 Annual Meeting must be submitted electronically **no later than August 1, 2005**. Updated paper submission information is posted on the TRB website <http://www.trb.org/meeting/>.

In addition, **authors who have submitted papers in response to this call** are requested to send the paper number and abstract to (joanw@bu.edu) the session organizer by **August 3, 2005**.

Further information about this call for papers may be obtained from:

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