

# **Minutes of the Committee on Transportation Demand Forecasting (ADB40) Meeting**

Wednesday, January 12, 2005, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board  
Hilton Washington Hotel and Towers, Conservatory Room  
Washington, D.C.

## **1. Introductions**

Chandra called the meeting to order and began with introductions around the room. There were at least sixty people in attendance. A sign-in sheet was passed around.

Chandra indicated that the new committee web site is [www.trb-forecasting.org](http://www.trb-forecasting.org). All committee members are encouraged to visit the web site and provide the web development subcommittee with suggestions to enhance the value of the site. Information regarding the committee activities will no more be sent as attachments to e-mails, but will be posted at the web site.

## **2. Committee Scope and Title Change Approval (Item 3 on the Agenda)**

The new committee title and scientific scope have been approved by TRB.

## **3. Committee Structure (Item 4 on the Agenda)**

The structure and organization of the committee were displayed for the group. Chandra noted that the Research and Technology Transfer Facilitation Subcommittees (RTT) have been productive. The detailed charges of each subcommittee are available at the committee web site. The responsibilities of the RTT subcommittees include:

- providing a written report of activities annually to the committee, the next report being due on September 15<sup>th</sup>,
- making an oral presentation at TRB, and
- having at least one member of each of the RTT facilitation subcommittees attend TRB meetings of the technical subcommittees.

## **4. Staff Report (Kim Fisher) (Item 2 on the Agenda)**

Kim distributed handouts, but she did not make a presentation. She elicited questions regarding TRB and was asked about this year's attendance as well as the dates of next year's meeting. Kim estimated the attendance to be over 9,600. Additionally, she said that the 2006 meeting would be held January 22-26, which is later in the year than usual, due to scheduling conflicts with the hotel.

## **5. Committee Membership**

There are 28 regular committee members, 1 young member, and 1 emeritus member. Chandra is working to add an additional young member to the committee (the limit is two). The committee is allowed to have an unlimited number of emeritus members, subject to rigorous TRB qualifications criteria.

### *a. Geographical distribution*

In addition to the 26 North American committee members (including the young member and the emeritus member), there are 4 international members.

### *b. Professional category distribution*

There is a good distribution of different professional categories among the committee members. There is an even split between academia and the private sector, with 14 academics and 14 consultants on the committee. Additionally, there are two members from federal/state agencies. There will be efforts to increase federal and state membership over the next few years.

### *c. Expectations*

The expectations of committee members include:

- attending the ADB40 TRB business meeting,
- serving on subcommittees as called upon and meeting subcommittee reporting requirements and expectations,
- having liaison representatives attend the TRB meetings of their assigned committee,
- reviewing 5-6 papers within about 5 weeks in August/September, and
- being proactive in contributing to committee scope, events, and interests.

### *d. Scheduled rotation*

Every third year, 1/3 of the members must be rotated off the committee and replaced by new members. The next rotation for the committee is due in April of 2006.

### *e. Introduction of new members*

Laurie Garrow has joined the committee. Laurie is an Assistant Professor at Georgia Tech. She completed her PhD at Northwestern University (with Prof. Frank Koppelman) in 2004.

## **6. Committee Report**

### *a. 2004 meeting report and outcomes*

This report was folded into the subcommittee reports to avoid repetition.

### *b. 2005 TRB review process*

The committee received 61 papers, not including papers reviewed by the Integrated Land Use (LU-T) Subcommittee. Doug Hunt and the Land Use Committee took the lead on reviewing the LU-T subcommittee papers for 2005. In 2006, Eric Miller and our committee will be responsible for reviewing these papers (the task of reviewing the LU-T subcommittee papers alternates yearly between our Committee and the Land Use Committee).

*c. 2005 TRB paper review results*

Of the 61 papers reviewed by the committee, 11 were submitted for presentation only. 48 papers were submitted for presentation and publication, and 2 were submitted for publication only. On average, there were 4.3 reviews per paper. Committee members averaged 4 reviews per person, while friends of the committee (60 were used in the review process) averaged 2.5 reviews per person. The committee accepted 34 papers for presentation. There are 18 papers being considered for publication. These papers are now out for a second round of review. Chandra emphasized that the paper reviews are critical to the functioning of the committee and thanked members/friends for their support.

Chandra provided statistics on OWR ratings, presentation ratings, and publication ratings, highlighting the quality of the accepted papers. He added that quantitative ratings are not the only consideration, and that qualitative comments are also used when evaluating papers.

*d. 2005 TRB workshops/sessions*

This is discussed under item 7.

*e. Partnership with Transportation, Kluwer Journal (Martin Richards)*

The partnership with *Transportation* will go forward beginning this September. The publisher has agreed to increase the number of publications per year from 4 to 6, and there will be a special TRB issue every year. In this special issue, a selection of papers on a specific topic that the ADB10 and ADB40 committees choose will be published. These papers must be subject to (at least) a three-person TRB review process and must also satisfy criteria for *Transportation* publication. Focusing on a particular theme for publication in *Transportation* will not compromise the quality of papers published by either TRB or *Transportation*.

For the first issue in September 2005, Ram Pendyala and Chandra Bhat will be the guest editors. The topic will be intra-household and group decision making. For subsequent years, the guest editors will be chosen based on the subject theme. Once the theme is chosen, authors of eligible papers in the subject area will be contacted for their consent to have their papers considered for publication in *Transportation*.

## **7. Subcommittee Reports**

*a. Emerging methods (Joan Walker and Karthik Srinivasan)*

Joan pointed out that the subcommittee's name change never formally went through, and she requested that Chandra look into this matter. The subcommittee meeting was well attended (30 people), and there was a good mix of academics, consultants, local, state, and federal representatives as well as young members. Joan indicated that the Proof of Concept workshop held on Sunday was very successful. The workshop highlighted five innovations in modeling. Slides from the workshop will be posted on the committee's website.

The subcommittee discussions identified the issues of integration (demand, supply, land use, air quality, etc) and validation as being important to travel modeling. The subcommittee also discussed calls for papers for 2006. The main topics include measuring user benefits for project evaluation (value of time, heterogeneity). Additionally, the subcommittee discussed sponsoring a workshop in collaboration with individuals in other fields such as sociology, psychology, and health.

*b. Integrated transportation and land use (Eric Miller and Doug Hunt)*

The LU-T subcommittee also sponsored a Sunday workshop, which was also very well attended. Four operational models were considered, with 45 minutes of discussion reserved at the end of the workshop. The presentations of this workshop will be posted at the committee's website.

There were two paper sessions originating from the LU-T subcommittee calls. The subcommittee received 17-18 papers for review, and 8 were accepted for presentation. 6 papers are being considered for publication. The subcommittee discussed four potential calls for papers for TRB 2006 and beyond:

- validation, calibration, and incentive analysis,
- model integration,
- model applications, and
- demographic modeling and regional economic modeling (evolution of demographics over time).

In addition to the two workshops organized by the emerging methods and integrated land use/transportation subcommittees, the committee was also involved with a Sunday morning workshop organized by the Task Force on Moving Activity-based Travel Analysis to Practice. Kostas Goulias briefed the group on the Sunday workshop. The workshop, entitled 'Activity-Based Approaches: Theory, Methods, Data, and Applications', provided an update on the state of the practice. Slides from this workshop will be posted at the committee's website.

*c. Research agenda development (Tom Rossi)*

There were four calls for papers (two from each subcommittee) submitted in June. In addition to the paper calls, one problem statement was developed and submitted to TCRP, but it did not make the research project list. Kim Fisher stated that TCRP is very competitive, with only 12 of 100 problem statements selected. She suggested that NCHRP would be a more promising route for funding.

Tom Rossi discussed the request made by TRB to review the critical issues in transportation published in 2002. TRB wants each committee to review the issues and determine if any should be revised or replaced or if new ones should be added. Tom identified five areas relevant to the committee:

1. The demand for passenger travel and freight movement is straining the capacity of the U.S. transportation system.
2. Worthy environmental goals and values pose serious challenges to the operation and expansion of transportation facilities to meet growing demand.
3. Transportation organizations are having difficulty attracting and retaining the technically diverse personnel needed in the 21st century.

4. An aging population poses special safety and mobility challenges.
5. Telecommunications and information technologies are likely to have significant but uncertain consequences.

*d. Web development (Christopher Forinash)*

Chris first recognized Joe Castiglione and Jennifer Steed for their efforts in developing the site. A large amount of relevant and updated material is now available at the web site. Chris sought feedback from members to enhance the value of the site. Suggestions from Chris included adding a friends' list to the web site, as well as using the site as a vehicle to inform researchers about funding opportunities. Both ideas were endorsed by the group. Additional suggestions regarding the web site included:

- Sending out an e-mail when there is new information on the site,
- Having a link to the site from committee members' sites,
- Maintaining a list of upcoming conferences with a link to the conference website,
- Exploring the option of a listserv.

*e. Activities coordination (Rick Donnelly)*

The activities coordination subcommittee helped organize the workshops on Sunday. Rick Donnelly and Chandra Bhat, along with Ram Pendyala, Kostas Goulias, and Johanna Zmud, are also in the initial stages of planning for an Innovative Travel Modeling conference in 2006. The conference is intended to focus on topics such as advances in activity-based, demographic, and economic modeling, land use forecasting, integration, route choice, and dynamic traffic assignment. Details are still being worked out, but the expectation is that the conference will be held in late March or early April 2006 somewhere in the middle of the country.

*f. Data information (Kay Axhausen)*

Kay noted that the subcommittee has not been particularly active, though individual members of the subcommittee have been contributing to the objective of disseminating information on data to support travel modeling. Kay cited David Levinson's web site and work going on in Zurich regarding standards for documenting and archiving transportation data. It was suggested that these links be posted on the committee's site.

## **8. Briefings**

*a. Preliminary results on the pre/post 9/11 NHTS datasets and future plans (Bill Banister, BTS)*  
Bill was not present; therefore this item was skipped.

*b. Brief update on the relevant activities of the Travel Survey Methods committee (ABJ40) (Steve Ruegg)*

The ABJ40 committee sponsored a Sunday workshop on the NHTS data. The NHTS conference, held in November 2004, helped foster interactions between survey designers and modelers. The Travel Survey Methods committee discussed the next round of NHTS, which will include GPS, non-motorized, and long trip portions, and will focus on the elderly. At the ABJ40

committee meeting, Stacey Bricka gave a presentation on underreporting of trips, and Joy Sharp updated the group on the Commodity Flow Survey conference.

*c. Briefing on NHTS (Susan Liss)*

Susan reiterated that the NHTS conference was a success, and she highlighted the importance of the cross-communication between data collection experts and modelers. She also stated that the funding is not completely lined up for the 2008 survey at this point. The 2008 NHTS will separate daily and long distance trips. Currently, the idea of a data handoff for those interested in asking more questions of NHTS respondents is being discussed. There was a suggestion to change the NHTS to an activity- rather than trip-based survey. Susan welcomes suggestions and asked that they be directed to either herself or Nancy McGuckin.

**9. Reports/Announcements of Conferences, Meetings, Papers, Books, etc.**

*a. National Household Travel Survey Conference, November 2004*

This conference was discussed in items 8b and 8c.

*b. Conference on Women's Travel Issues, November 2004*

Rachel Gossen provided a brief summary of this conference, stating that it was well attended and highlighted current research relating to women's travel. She added that the conference proceedings will be posted on TRB's website.

*c. Census Data for Transportation Planning: Preparing for the Future, May 11-13, 2005 at the Beckman Center in Irvine*

Chuck Purvis commented that PUMS will be included down to the regional PUMA level.

*d. Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) Conference, July 8-9, 2005 in Boston*

Flyers were handed out regarding this conference.

*e. Spring 2006 TRB Travel Modeling Specialty Conference*

This item was discussed in 7e.

**10. Proposed 2006 TRB Activities – Workshops, Calls for Papers, Special Sessions, etc.**

Chandra echoed previous comments on the success of the Sunday workshops. However, he added that the committee might not want to hold any Sunday workshops next year, especially given the specialty conference being planned for Spring 2006. There seemed to be general consensus on this issue.

Tom Rossi summarized the calls for papers from 2002 to 2005. There were 3 in 2002, 6 in 2003, 3 in 2004, and 4 for the 2005 conference. Chandra asked that the subcommittee chairs send Tom Rossi ideas for calls for papers for the 2006 conference.

Tom Rossi enquired if there were any immediate ideas for calls for papers (in addition to the ones discussed by Joan Walker and Eric Miller). Chris Forinash suggested the area of school travel modeling as an area to consider for a paper call.

## **11. Research in Progress and Late Breaking News – Short descriptions from the floor**

Tom Rossi discussed the efforts of the TRB committee that has been established to review the state of the practice in travel forecasting. This committee will hire a consultant to undertake the state of the practice report. The RFQ for the project led to eleven responses, which has been short-listed to three consultant teams. The selection of the consultant should be made soon. Bruce Spear added that the hope is to have some quantitative assessment of the state of the practice that can be used as a baseline for the panel to recommend how we move the state of the practice forward at state DOT's and MPO's.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23pm.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Gossen.