

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

Wednesday, January 25, 2006, 8:00am – 9:45am

85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board  
Hilton Washington Hotel, Georgetown South  
Washington, D.C.

## 1. Introductions

The chair, Chandra Bhat, called the meeting to order. Chandra noted the committee's name change and began the meeting with introductions around the room. Attendees were also asked to provide their information on a sign-in sheet.

## 2. Committee Structure (Item 3 on the agenda)

The structure and organization of the committee were displayed for the group. The committee has four Research and Technology Transfer Facilitation subcommittees and two Technical subcommittees, all of which have been hard-working over the past year. The detailed charges of each subcommittee are available at the committee web site at [www.trb-forecasting.org](http://www.trb-forecasting.org).

There will be changes in membership due to reassignments and departures. Karthik Srinivasan will no longer co-chair the Emerging Methods Subcommittee, and Chris Forinash is leaving the Web Design and Maintenance Subcommittee. Jennifer Hunter and Joe Castiglione will remain on the subcommittee, and Jennifer will serve as chair once Chris departs. Tom Rossi, chair of the Research Agenda Subcommittee reported that Keith Lawton is leaving the subcommittee, and Rachel Gossen will be added as a new member. Other changes to subcommittee membership will be implemented once the committee rotation is completed.

## 3. Committee Membership (Item 4 on the agenda)

The committee has 28 regular members, 1 young member, and 1 emeritus member.

### *a. Geographical distribution*

The committee has both U.S. and international members, with 5 international (non-U.S. and non-Canadian) members and the remaining well distributed around the country.

### *b. Professional category distribution*

There is a good distribution of different professional categories among the committee members. There is an almost even split between academia and the private sector, with 13 academics and 14 consultants on the committee. Three members are from federal or state agencies. An effort will be made to increase federal and state membership over the next few years.

### *c. Expectations*

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 scheduled for April 2006.

*e. Emeritus Membership*

One option for retaining senior committee members is emeritus membership. Nominations for emeritus membership must come from the committee and must be approved by a 2/3 vote. Additionally, TRB has strict guidelines for emeritus membership.

**4. Committee Report (Item 5 on the agenda)**

*a. 2005 meeting report and outcomes*

The committee approved the minutes from the 2005 meeting. Based on discussions at the 2005 meeting, three calls for papers were issued. Additionally, the committee agreed to co-sponsor three Sunday workshops at the 2006 meeting. Committee members requested that results and applicable files from the workshops, particularly the activity-based models tutorial, be posted on the committee website. Chandra also noted that for future meetings, he will work to keep the committee meeting from conflicting with the Travel Survey Methods Committee (ABJ40) as well as the Task Force on Moving Activity-Based Approaches to Practice (ADB60T) and the Traveler Behavior and Values Committee (ADB10).

*b. 2006 TRB review process*

The committee received 77 papers, including papers reviewed by the Integrated Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee. The task of reviewing submissions to this subcommittee alternates yearly between this committee and the Transportation and Land Development Committee (ADD30).

*c. 2006 TRB paper review results*

Of the 77 papers reviewed by the committee, 18 were submitted for presentation only. 57 papers were submitted for presentation and publication, and 2 were submitted for publication only. On average, there were 4.1 reviews per paper. Committee members averaged 2.4 reviews per person, while friends of the committee (55 were used in the review process) averaged 1.7 reviews per person. The committee accepted 38 papers for presentation, and there are 18 papers being considered for publication. Statistics on OWR ratings, presentation ratings, and publication ratings for the papers were also provided.

Chandra emphasized that the paper reviews are critical to the functioning of the committee and thanked members/friends for their support. Chandra specifically noted the help and extra effort of Eric Miller and Joan Walker in the paper review process.

Of the 38 papers accepted for presentation, between 4 and 5 were presented in a poster session. During the review process, there was a very concerted effort for quality. Papers were placed into

sessions based on themes of the paper sessions; therefore, papers that did not fit into the podium sessions were placed in a poster session.

The discussion that followed centered on the advantages, disadvantages, and potential improvements/changes to poster sessions. A few key points from this discussion are listed below.

- ❖ While some presenters and audience members prefer poster sessions, there seems to be a negative perception of poster sessions at TRB as being second-rate to the traditional podium sessions, and sub-standard posters reinforce this idea.
- ❖ Ideas for improving the poster sessions included:
  - Highlighting the posters with short 5-minute presentations in a podium session to generate interest and increase turn out during the poster session,
  - Improving the layout of the poster session by increasing aisle space,
  - Focusing poster sessions on research/work in progress,
  - Making clear in the acceptance letter that papers placed in a poster session still go through a very competitive process, and
  - Reviewing strategies that other committees are considering or have pursued.

Chandra pointed out that the debate regarding poster and podium sessions is ongoing between Chuck Purvis, Kim Fisher, and the committee chairs. Kim pointed out that 46% of all papers submitted for the 2006 meeting were presented in poster sessions.

#### *d. 2006 TRB workshops/sessions*

The committee was very active at the 2006 meeting. The committee co-sponsored 3 workshops on Sunday, was the sole sponsor for 1 paper session, and the lead sponsor for 5 paper sessions. Additionally, the committee co-sponsored 5 paper sessions and 2 poster sessions.

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

The first special issue stemming from the partnership with *Transportation* was released in September 2005. Five papers were included in this issue and were selected by Chandra and Ram Pendyala, chair of the Traveler Behavior and Values Committee (ADB10). There is an ongoing plan to continue this partnership, and the next issue is being planned for this year. Since this committee was well within the 30% quota allowed by TRB for recommended publications in *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, all papers in the coming special TRB issue of *Transportation* will come from ADB10.

### **5. Triennial Self-Evaluation Report (Item 6 on the agenda)**

The next triennial self-evaluation (TSE) is due in the spring. Tom Rossi will lead the effort in drafting and distributing a new TSE. TRB has asked that the new TSE address appropriate issues related to the *Critical Issues in Transportation* document released by TRB in 2005.

### **6. Staff Report (Kim Fisher) (Item 2 on the agenda)**

Kim reminded attendees that handouts were distributed prior to the meeting through email. The files included information on TRB's organizational chart, information on the Cooperative Research Programs, the annual schedule, and tips on how to get involved with TRB committees.

Kim offered her assistance with statistics for the TSE and reminded attendees that committee rotation is scheduled for this year. Additionally, Kim welcomed any ideas for improvements to next year's meeting and noted that attendance hit the 10,000 mark this year.

Kim also presented four certificates to committee members based on their extra efforts over the past year (Chandra made the recommendations). The recipients were Doug Hunt, Eric Miller, Joan Walker, and Tom Rossi.

## **7. Subcommittee Reports**

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

Joan provided the summary from the Emerging Methods subcommittee meeting. Despite the 7:00am meeting time, there was a good turn out for the meeting. Throughout the meeting, the topic that surfaced (and re-surfaced) was the interface between demand and supply. One idea to address this issue was to collaborate with the Transportation Network Modeling Committee (ADB30) on a call for papers.

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

The subcommittee had yet to meet, but Eric reported on the subcommittee's activities at the meeting. 31 papers were submitted to the subcommittee, resulting in two paper sessions. One session focused on advanced methods while the other focused on applications. Eric noted that more land use models are being implemented, and that it is now important to focus on next steps in the process.

### *c. Research agenda development (Tom Rossi)*

Tom Rossi reported on the research agenda subcommittee and highlighted the four areas the subcommittee oversees: 1) research agenda, 2) research statements, 3) calls for papers, and 4) other requests from the chair. Tom noted that since the research agenda has not changed in a few years, the committee may want to revisit it. The agenda is posted on the committee website. Tom encouraged members to review it and provide feedback. No research statements were submitted to NCHRP or TCRP last year, but the committee has submitted statements in the past. It is a competitive process, and input from members is welcomed and appreciated. Regarding calls for papers, Tom pointed out that the subcommittees generate many of them. There were 3 calls for papers for the 2006 meeting. Finally, Tom discussed the fourth responsibility of the subcommittee, which includes addressing other requests from the chair. This year the triennial self-evaluation will fall in this category, and Tom will lead the effort.

Chandra noted that the committee cannot request too many calls for papers. He would like to have one call each from the Emerging Methods Subcommittee and the Integrated Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee.

### *d. Web development (Christopher Forinash)*

Chris stated that the subcommittee is working on keeping the site up-to-date as well as instituting a listserv. The listserv will be available to friends of the committee for reading privileges. Finally, Chris thanked the group for the opportunity and noted that Jennifer Hunter and Joe Castiglione will carry on the effort.

Chandra noted positive feedback regarding the website and its use, including comments from users outside the membership regarding the visually friendly design. He thanked Chris for heading the effort the past two years.

The 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.

*e. Activities coordination (Rick Donnelly)*

The Innovative Travel Modeling Conference (spring 2006) has comprised most of Rick's and the subcommittee's time. There has also been an idea for an online journal. The subcommittee is in the early stages of planning for this project. Chandra asked that this activity be put on hold because of the Innovative Travel Modeling Conference.

*f. Data information (David Levinson reported for Kay Axhausen)*

Work continues on the European travel survey archive. The metropolitan travel survey archive has been funded for another year, and there is a link to the archive on the committee website.

## **8. Transportation Information Needs Assessment**

The TRB Technical Activities Council requested this item. Ed Weiner commented on the objective saying that the council would like to draw on the committee members' experience to determine what data gaps are in the existing data systems as well as to discover current needs. There was some discussion regarding longitudinal and time-use surveys, but Chandra asked that this discussion be taken off-line in the interest of time. David Levinson will coordinate the effort for the needs assessment.

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

*a. Spring 2006 TRB Innovative Travel Modeling Conference*

This conference will be held from May 21-23 in Austin, TX. Rick Donnelly commented on the content and noted that one goal of the conference is to bridge the gap between research and practice. Researchers should leave with a better idea of practitioner needs, and practitioners should leave with a better sense of the research. The conference will offer ample time for panel discussions, audience participation, and open dialogue.

*b. Summer 2006 IATBR Conference*

The conference will be held August 16-20 in Kyoto. Registration is now open. Of the 360 submitted abstracts, 180 have been accepted for the conference.

*c. Spring/Summer 2008 Survey Methods Conference*

*d. Other Conferences*

- i. North American Travel Monitoring Exposition and Conference (NATMEC), June 4-7, 2006, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- ii. Freight Demand Modeling: A Conference on Improving Analysis and Forecasting Tools for Public-Sector Decision Making, September 25-27, 2006, Washington, D.C.

- iii. 11<sup>th</sup> National Transportation Planning Applications Conference, May 6-9, 2007, Daytona Beach, Florida
- iv. 11<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Transportation Research, June 24-29, 2007, Berkeley, CA
- v. European Transport Conference, September 18-20, 2006, Strasbourg, France.

**10. Proposed 2007 TRB Activities – Workshops, Calls for Papers, Special Sessions, etc.**

Chandra asked Joan and Eric for suggestions for next year's meeting; he also opened the floor for ideas. The following topics were suggested:

- ❖ Agent-based modeling,
- ❖ Congestion (what do we know, pricing, links to feedback, etc.),
- ❖ Small examples of activity models from the practical side,
- ❖ Jobs/housing balance,
- ❖ Unifying behavioral theory behind activity-based modeling,
- ❖ Equilibrium (develop formulation), and
- ❖ Practical discussion about role of models in decision-making.

Chandra noted that the Innovative Travel Modeling Conference in Austin will provide an opportunity to further discuss many of these issues.

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

In the interest of time, this item was struck from the agenda.

**12. Other Business**

In the interest of time, this item was struck from the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45am.

Minutes prepared by Rachel Gossen.