**ADD40 Committee on Transportation and Sustainability Meeting**

**Jan 23, 2012, 1:30-5:30pm**

**Hilton Columbia 9&10**

**1. Welcome and introductions (Joe Zietsman)**

* About 20 members and 40 friends attended – see separate attendance list.

**2. TRB updates including committee rotations (Martine Micozzi)**

* Martine welcomed Joe Zietsman as new Chair.
* Certificates of appreciation were presented to June Carlson and Paul Marx noting paper review work.
* Summer meeting was announced for April 15-18 in San Diego in conjunction with Asset Mgmt committees. See handout and [www.TRB.org/Conferences/AssetManagement2012](http://www.TRB.org/Conferences/AssetManagement2012). Sustainability Committee meeting will be on Monday morning (April 16).
* 2012 UTC Spotlight Conference on Sustainable Energy and Transportation was highlighted (Nov 8-9 in DC, supported by UTCs and RITA. See handout and [www.trb.org/conferences/UTCSpotlight2012.aspx](http://www.trb.org/conferences/UTCSpotlight2012.aspx)
* Rotations – 1/3 of committee members need to be rotated out. Max tenure of 9 years. 4 slots for under 35. 5 slots for international membership (incl. Canada). New members will be sought from those active in committee, with diversity of organization, region, etc. Need to be in place by April. New names need to go to Martine by Feb 15. Responsibilities: expected to review papers, attend meetings, help plan sessions, help with committee admin.
* Attendance at TRB this year is 10,900. Over 600 sessions. Over 100 workshops. Over 500 committee meetings. 4,300 papers submitted (3,900 in 2011)
* Next year’s Annual Meeting is Jan 13-17.
* Recognized John MacArthur, Nidhi, Damon, Joe, and all paper writers, reviewers, and presenters.
* Recognized Todd for subcommittee chair role.

**3. Committee business**

* Joe introduced Damon as new Vice Chair and the new subcommittee chairs:
  + Sustainable Transportation Indicators (Todd Litman)
  + Research (TBD)
  + Communications (Nidhi Kalra)
  + Paper Review (John McArthur)
  + Conference and Session Planning (Tien-Tien Chan)
* Friends can become part of subcommittees. Those interested in being friends should sign up at the committee website, [www.Trbsustainability.org](http://www.Trbsustainability.org), or at the Google Groups site, <http://groups.google.com/group/trbsustainability-friends-and-members/>
* Summer committee meeting on morning of April 16. Committee will discuss important issues – e.g. strategic plan. The strategic plan needs to be updated every 3 years. Donna Day is leading strategic planning effort. Time to take a fresh look.
* Rotations: Likely looking at those with longest tenure not in leadership role (e.g. subcommittee).
* Joe gave some personal background on his experience.
* Joe introduced Leigh Lane – Section Chair.
* Leigh introduced Mark Kross – Group Chair.

***Off-agenda item:***

**Presentation by Benjamin Teitelbaum, Program Manager for Commission for Environmental Cooperation: “Freight Sustainability for North American Corridors”**

* Copy of presentation will be posted on committee website.
* Copy of report at [www.Cec.org/transportation](http://www.Cec.org/transportation)

**[Committee business continued]**

**a. Approval of prior meeting minutes (Damon Fordham)**

* Damon highlighted some of the major points that came up in the previous meetings. Minutes were approved.

**b. Subcommittee updates (subcommittee chairs)**

* Sustainable Transportation Indicators (Todd Littman)
  + Subcommittee met Mon morning. Well attended. Highlights: Data needs came up (again). Provides opportunity. Impressive international efforts happening. Global transport intelligence initiative – created by SLOCAT. Various involvement of international org’s. But there is an organization missing – TRB. No US leadership for participating in efforts to establish global international practices for establishing data that are needed by practitioners. The group brainstormed and developed plan to work on 5 specific tasks:

1. ID current and needed performance indicators for local agencies – data gaps.
2. Need to do better job of communicating with general public and others the value of performance indicators and performance data collection. The value is sometimes not seen. The word “sustainability” is sometimes not accepted.
3. Research needs – increasingly sophisticated land use and transportation models, but tend to be oriented to needs of conventional transportation planning. Need to go back to sustainable transportation indicators and determine how models need to be modified. EG if health /physical activity is a desired outcome, need to go back to model and see how we could predict those outcomes.
4. Finding ways to measure softer-side transportation indicators.
5. Defining criteria for selecting indicators.
   * Anyone wanting to get involved can get in touch with Todd.
   * Leigh was approached by section chair for Travel Analysis Methods – they want to talk with this committee – what are needs around modeling behaviors and different demographics, and public health impact.

* Research (chair TBD)
  + Tara Ramani provided a presentation to the committee on TRB’s research process.
  + Burr raised a need about a more interactive/dynamic way of tracking ongoing research and research needs. How can those with ideas track them against what is in progress or underway? Need a Facebook-like “visual thesaurus” to map the ideas by a few key words. Joanne indicated that this is particularly important for sustainability. This committee could volunteer to be a guinea pig.
  + Ann Hartell was at the orientation on Sunday on research. TRB is trying to improve integration between TRID other databases.
* Communications (Nidhi Kalra)
  + Nidhi introduced herself and her goals for the subcommittee: (1) to help committee perform its functions more effectively; (2) to find new ways to engage folks in the committee.
  + Website is [www.trbsustainability.org](http://www.trbsustainability.org).
  + Please go to committee website or the Google Groups site, <http://groups.google.com/group/trbsustainability-friends-and-members/> to sign up to be a friend (names from the written attendance log will NOT be automatically added to the mailing list). Information for expressing interest in full membership will be sent through this friend list.
  + She’d like help with:
    - Redesign of the website
    - Keeping website up to date – lots of work to keep it current.
    - Ideas for how to communicate – what’s working, what’s not, etc.
  + Website has new areas for subcommittee information.
  + Discussion of survey for expressing interest in membership, as well as what best mechanism is for keeping and tracking friends and member information.
  + Potential for creating LinkedIn group.
  + Joanne – AVO30 raised similar issue. Facebook blocked for federal employees.
  + Henrik – could we have some kind of repository for interesting articles, sources, etc. Nidhi – that capability does exist.
  + Nidhi’s email is on the website or you can email “webmaster” – that goes to her.
* Paper Review (John McArthur)
  + 20 papers submitted
  + Database with 120 people tagged to be reviewers, but don’t have areas of interest/expertise; would like to add that feature for next year to make assignment easier
  + 106 review requests with 83 reviews—no shows are a guaranteed way of not being selected to stay on committee
  + Two paper sessions with eight papers came out of this, with 20 accepted overall. We can have up to five for publication—two slated right now.
  + Interested in people who want to help with the subcommittee’s work – selecting reviewers and getting the papers reviewed.
  + We need to think about putting out a call for papers – helps to funnel papers to the committee. TRB starts submitting calls on May 1 – so the committee should start working on that soon to get into the deadline.
  + Will work with Tien Tien on session planning – we need to be proactive about what other committees we want to work with.
* Conference and Session Planning (Tien-Tien Chan)
* So far Tina, Shirley, John, and Mike S. have expressed interest in the subcommittee. Others are welcome.
* Timeline: For June 1, committee needs to submit preliminary list of sessions. There is a limit on lectern sessions. Good way to get extra credits is to partner. Various other committees have expressed interest in partnering. Workshops and posters do not have a limit and do not HAVE to come from a paper. TRB reviews workshop requests and makes determination. So far, haven’t had to reject any workshop ideas. Deadline for workshop request is June 1.
* Climate Change joint subcommittee (Mike Savonis, liaison)
  + Joint subcommittee on CC is joint with sustainability, energy, and alt fuels. Started 3-4 years ago. Chair is Lewison Lem. Subcommittee is focused on both mitigation and adaptation. Subcommittee is meeting in Munro Room of the Hilton.
* Health and Transportation joint subcommittee (liaison TBD)
  + Eloisa Renault, APHA, and Ed Christopher, FHWA Resource Center, distributed flyers (see handout). The subcommittee has 130 friends. Looking at health impacts of transportation. Looking for friends. They are being used as a model for communications – CCCC has recognized.
  + John MacArthur indicated the subcommittee discussed the following issues:
    - Documenting linkages between health and transportation
    - Evaluation of interventions – policies and projects
    - What does it mean to implement? What are barriers and successes?

**c. Liaisons to other committees (Donna Day and Nidhi Kalra)**

* For some years, have been keeping list of folks involved in different committees. Donna keeps track and invites to the committee meeting to discuss cross-cutting issues. Donna left forms for folks to pick up.
* Bill Lyons – Megaregions subcommittee – held workshop in 2010. There are 2 sessions this year related to megaregions. Good opportunity to bring sustainability issues to an emerging issue. Ed Christopher attended the subcommittee meeting. They will do a paper call for next year.
* Gary McVoy – maintenance and operations committee – they see the value of sustainability. They are sponsoring session on “climate change and sustainability considerations from O&M perspective” – session 456. They would be receptive to joint sessions or working together. Links to Asset Management connection.
* Elise Barella - Statewide multimodal planning committee - various related sessions and areas of interest. Several sessions during this Annual Meeting. Co-sponsoring May 23-25 “Turning vision into reality” conference.
* Winter Maintenance committee
* Deb Nelson – Ecology and Transportation. EPA in CA has signed MOU on sustainability regarding HSR. Ecology folks looking into how they fit in. Had ecology conference in Seattle.

**d. Planning for 2012 mid-year meeting and 2013 Annual meeting**

* Mid year meeting set for April in San Diego.
  + Will plan for a 3-4 session with conference call capabilities.
  + Likely in-person attendance from folks in room: 10-15
* 2013 Annual Meeting will be from Jan 13-17, 2013. Theme: “Deploying transportation research – doing things better, faster, cheaper.”

**4. Brainstorming of potential topics for sessions and papers (from the floor)**

* *Behavior and Sustainability* (Gui) – Potential interest in new subcommittee. Also came up last year. This is a psycho-social issue. Top-down doesn’t work due to political log jams. Has to be bottom up. Could be joint subcommittee with social and economic factors. Would provide a framework for proposing research as well as assembling what has been done. June supports. Could partner with public involvement people. Articulate the immediacy of the message. Mike S supports. Transportation practitioners need to dig down to WHY people move the way they do. We build bike lanes or road improvements and assume people will use, but don’t really know why. Craig Casper indicated that this came up in their regional planning. There is research on behaviors, particularly from other sectors (e.g. high tech/early adopters). Todd indicated this is really about taking a more nuanced approach to travel demand. Hence there is a link/partnership to the modeling community. This is similar to the Qualitative And Quantitative Methods Committee (ABD10). Paul indicated that Cervero and PB did some research on transit use and sustainability (TOD or compact communities see 40-50% reduction in SOV trips). Travel Survey Methods committee sponsored workshop on qualitative data on Sunday – another link. Caution that qualitative data can be misused in models and studies. Similar to the work being done on “attitudes towards climate change” – 6 Americas studies?
* *Sustainable community planning grants* (Joanne) – HUD/EPA/DOT partnership. How can we work with the grant recipients? Could this be a workshop in 2013, since this is really about taking it to the streets? John also mentioned TIGGER and TIGER grants. How does sustainability relate to livability and vice versa.
* *Low-hanging fruit of sustainability* (April) – what sustainable actions can be taken to save money, or at least be cheap to do in the short term. We need to find things that are attractive to implement. This links to the Annual Meeting theme for next year.
* *Green growth, economic decoupling, and de-growth* (Ralph) – RIO+20 is coming this year. Agenda is green growth. Will revive the decoupling debate, which has been looked at for over a decade. Opposite phenomenon is de-growth (takes GPD growth away from the center of the equation). How can the committee look at this issue? Radical idea, but certainly part of the sustainability literature. EMBARQ director Holger Dalkmann is going to RIO+20. Could invite to speak at a session next year.
* *Linking Asset Management and sustainability* (Tina) - how about a call for papers on linking Asset Management and sustainability. How to incorporate climate change impacts into asset management planning considerations. Also came up last year.
* *Health* (Joanne) – many committees are discussing.
* *Sustainability and air transportation* (Damon) – how can we link our committee better to air transportation rather than focusing on surface? Lots of work has been done recently in aviation/airports, for example, there have been lots of ACRP projects in recent years.
* *Indicators and measures* (Henrik) – continue to focus on indicators and measures – particularly those of interest to local and MPO level.
* *Pricing environmental elements* (Gary) – How do we price environmental elements, e.g. how much is a fish worth – then put it into your spreadsheet and incorporate into decision making.
* Other topics that came up in last year’s meeting and might warrant continued consideration:
  + *Jobs and sustainability.*
  + *Environmental review needs to change to “go/no go” process instead of “how to go” process.*
  + *Communication, behavior change, and sustainability.*
  + *Impacts of high resource prices for achieving sustainability.*
  + *Input/output comparison between auto dependent transportation systems with less auto dependent transportation.*
  + *Mobilizing the private sector to address sustainability.*
  + *Demonstrating that sustainability approaches don’t affect economic performance.*
  + *Land use and transportation sustainability links/implications at the implementation level.*
  + *Application of sustainability measures at the MPO/DOT level.*
  + *Land use and public health.*

**5. Strategic plan discussion (Donna Day)**

* 2012 is the time for strategic plan update. TRB has a new template with more sections, but still should be brief. Takes a 7 year outlook. What are the drivers with respect to transportation? Need to define scope. Mission statement will likely remain.
* Schedule – we have most of 2012 to develop draft, then goes to TRB for approval process. Will discuss at length in April at our mid-year meeting. Joanne, Burr, and Joe and Damon will be engaged. Also new research coordinator.

**6. Accelerating the committee – brainstorming ways to leverage energy and enthusiasm, and ways to harness the power of social networking tools (Damon Fordham)**

* What tools work? What ones don’t?
  + Facebook maybe not, LinkedIn maybe will.
  + ACIP tools such as webinars, speakers bureau, ambassador program, and so on.
* What 4 or 5 things should we plan to do? These will be discussed in April at mid-year meeting.
  + Joanne: host a moderated bulletin board with question of the month, invite people to respond with their thoughts; need to think through the parameters of how to set up; she is thinking about an article being posted then folks comment. Example was APA discussions that one can join in. Also, National Journal and reNEPA. Nidhi and John suggested such a discussion could be done in a blog instead of by email; Nidhi says this is easy, can follow up in April.
  + Eloisa Raynault: Diversity of tools is best; survey of members to see what information wanted, what format, and how often. She will share.
  + John M: invite other committees/subcommittees to electronic discussion of our strategic plan to stimulate discussion, highlight our activities, get input.
  + Damon: is face to face important for bringing in other people? Shirley gave example of disseminating techniques for calculating sustainability impacts. She thinks workshops are a better format than webinars.
  + Comment that nominal assistance would help bring in younger members who don’t have the resources to attend workshops.
  + Nidhi—how to engage the younger members? A place to submit articles that could then get them visibility would be motivating to them. Address why would they like to engage: thesis advisors, connecting with people, awards?
  + Awards program to attract the young members?
  + John: poster session for young members and give out the best poster award. June says that this is similar to public involvement—she will communicate on this.
  + Joanne: how best to communicate sustainability could be a competition as part of the new subcommittee—wouldn’t have to have a poster, might be a video.
  + Web site that lists “what is going on” as a place for people to check and potentially join in or submit papers

**7. Presentations (10 min each, max):**

**a. Marie Launay, Euro Project Consult, “Promoting Sustainable Mobility in Urban Areas”**

* Copy of presentation will be posted on committee website.

**b. Henrik Gudmundsson, “Criteria for Measuring Transportation Sustainability”**

* Copy of presentation will be posted on committee website.

**c. Tara Ramani, “NCHRP Report 708: A Guidebook for Sustainability Performance Measurement for Transportation Agencies”**

* Copy of presentation will be posted on committee website.

**8. Roundtable updates from the floor (1 min/person max)**

* TRANSlife – UTC Tier 1 recipient. Focused on livability.
* Sustainable Resource Management In Transportation – summer workshop – July 9-11, Madison, Wisconsin.
* Donna handed out Greenroads Annual Report.
* PhD research under transportation livability - Syracuse University – has post doc and PhD research positions available.
* Elise: Adjo Amekudzi chairing ASCE TDI green streets conference – Fall 2013.

**9. Any other business**

* None

**10. Closure**