# **TRB Large Cities Committee Conference Call, 12/3/13**

## Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

* Rina Cutler, Philadelphia MOTU, Committee Chair
* Ema Yamamoto, Philadelphia MOTU
* Aimee Jefferson, Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation at Rutgers
* Andrew Zalewski, Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning
* Benito Perez, DDOT
* Chris Pangilinan, SFMTA
* Christine Yager, Texas A&M Transportation Institute
* David Seglin, Chicago DOT
* Denise Goren, MAR&M Consulting
* Don Shanis, Pennoni Associates
* Evelyn Isreal, DDOT
* Jesse Kohler, TransLink (Vancouver)
* Jim Jarzab, Commuter Connections
* John Fortmann, IL DOT
* Jonathan Rogers, DDOT
* Karina Ricks, Nelson\Nygaard
* Linda Bailey, NACTO
* Madeline Brozen, UCLA
* Matt Kroenberger, Metropolitan Washington COG
* Mike Ferrell, Metropolitan Washington COG
* Pranay, CDM Smith
* Stephanie Dock, DDOT
* Steve Buckley, Toronto DOT
* Trent Lethco, Arup
* Wes Marshall, CU Denver

## NACTO Update

Linda Bailey gave an update from NACTO. There continues to be work around the Urban Street Design Guide and Urban Bikeway Design Guide. NACTO is doing a round of case studies on projects that exemplify the principles in those books. If you have good project that you think exemplifies the guides, please send the project title to Linda Bailey for consideration.

NACTO has launched a major new project on bikeshare and social equity with City of Philadelphia as they get ready to launch their program. They are currently working with all the cities with bikeshare around this topic to gather best practices. Karina Ricks noted that New Orleans is looking at a very strong equity component in their proposed bikeshare program, currently in feasibility study stage

On the policy side, NACTO is working on making federal policy more urban-friendly. This is more on the administrative side right now because of how things are on Capitol Hill. Limited funding means more of a ‘back to basics’ approach on the legislative side, emphasizing the importance of transportation funding. On the administrative side, NACTO is getting a lot of support and is working with FHWA to support and promote best practices to help cities.

NACTO just hosted a conference on the urban bikeway design guide in Chicago. Looking at a 3rd edition in 2015, with more discussion of network design and contextual aspects at the neighborhood level.

Upcoming events:

* Designing Cities in SF Oct 22-25 - flagship conference, adding new elements: 1 morning un-conference, design issues, look at new projects around the country at “meet the cities” event
	+ ABE30 will be looking to host a dinner or breakfast for ABE30 members and friends attending the Conference
* Trainings:
	+ ITE annual meeting in Seattle, Aug 10 on new designs
	+ Pro-walk/Pro-bike, Pittsburgh, Sept 8 on bike design guide

## Subcommittee Updates

### Research

Wes Marshall reported that we posted 4 paper calls, which you can find on the [website](https://sites.google.com/site/trbabe30/blog/abe30callsforpapers). They are:

1. Applications of "Big Data" in Addressing Urban Transportation Issues
2. Goods Movement in Active Urban Communities (co-sponsored with the pedestrian, bicycle, and urban freight committees)
3. Livable Arterials: An Oxymoron or Urban Elixir? (co-sponsored with the safety data, pedestrian, and bicycle committees)
4. Understanding the Gender Gap in Urban Bicycling (co-sponsored with the women’s issues in transportation and bicycle committees)

Please help to get the word out! The committee has been promoting the paper calls via various avenues, e.g. sending the university transportation centers, and they getting around.

The committee has posted two new Research Needs Statements – had 6 already on the website and have left them there. The two new ones are about transportation resiliency in major cities and bringing public bike share to all people. You can see all the statements at <http://rns.trb.org> (search “abe30” to have ours come up).

Karina highlighted why research statements matter, even though it can be slow process. After collaborating with the bicycle subcommittee, a year and a half ago we put in (via DDOT) a statement to NCHRP on bicycle facility preference. The project is now funded and out for solicitation. Success!

REMINDER: Papers are due AUGUST 1st!

### Annual Meeting Organizing

Ema gave an update on behalf of this subcommittee. There are currently several ideas for sessions:

Session - First Year on the Job: A Conversation with New City Transportation Officials

Tentative Co-sponsors:  ABC10 and ABC20

Note: This is a podium session with no associated paper calls.

Session - Gender Gap in Urban Biking

Tentative Co-sponsors: ABE70 and ANF20

Note: Currently a call for papers, will move forward as either a paper session or a podium session, depending on how the quantity and quality of papers received

Session - Goods Movement in Urban Environments

Co-Sponsor: AT025

Note: Currently a call for papers, will move forward as either a paper session or a podium session, depending on how the quantity and quality of papers received.  AT025 is currently leading the effort to plan this session.

In addition, we may pursue the following podium sessions:

* Session - Climate Change and Resiliency in Urban Areas
* Session - State DOT Projects in Urban Areas

Depending on the response to our paper calls, this may change.

Finally, we have submitted a workshop application on performance metrics for urban streets (working with NACTO on this).

### Communications

The ABE30 blog is up and running! Stephanie noted that the first posts are up, including one from Phil Lasley on mobility and accessibility. A post on how to review a paper will be up shortly. Complimenting this, a newsletter with the “best of the blog” and research publications of interest from TRB and other sources will be coming soon.

Stephanie encouraged anyone who would like to post to the blog to please reach out to her.

### Paper Review

Christine Yager reported that they are working on finalizing this year’s list of reviewers. Stephanie will be sending a link to a very quick survey to confirm who is interested in reviewing papers this year, and for the people who do want to review, how many papers and in what topic areas. Please take the survey by next Friday, July 18th.

After paper submission closes, Christine and Eric will be in touch with the reviewers

### Strategic Plan Coordination

Steve Buckley reported that our strategic plan has been approved by the chair and submitted to TRB. We are awaiting any comments from TRB. The current version of the plan will be posted on the website.

## TRB Update

Rina gave a report on behalf of Monica Starnes. First, a reminder about the MyTRB portal for members and friends; if you have not done so already, create an account at <http://mytrb.org>.

The next Annual Meeting is January 11-15 in downtown Washington, DC at its new location, the convention center. Hotel information will come out in the fall. Once it does, if you are planning on staying at the hotel, book early!

TRB has asked us to invite a non-traditional stakeholder to speak at our committee or a session. A non-traditional stakeholder is someone…

* Who represents an employer type or a discipline or a sector important to your committee, but not historically involved in TRB activities or TRB meetings on a regular basis;[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Has experiences, research projects or findings, or perspectives that would be of interest to your committee;
* Would benefit from holding discussions and making contacts with your committee’s members and stakeholders at the 2015 Annual Meeting;
* May become active in your committee or may foster more active participation in your committee’s activities from the stakeholder group he or she represents; and
* Agrees to be an active participant in the 2015 TRB Annual Meeting.

Rina asked for suggestions – if you have ideas, send an email to Ema.

* Trent Lethco suggested American Museums of Science and Technology – good at translating technical to language that works for all audiences, especially kids, on things like climate change, for example
* Benito Perez suggested someone from the health community; federal, state, or local would work – dovetails with the social equity interest we were discussing earlier.

## Paper Review Process

Paper review is an important part of the annual meeting process. Papers can be selected for presentation (poster or podium), or/and the Transportation Research Record, or nothing this round. The reviews are very important for shaping the program. Papers are really interesting and you learn something every time you review. Most papers are less than 20 pages long – so while sizable, they are not impossible to read.

Some general guidance on how to review:

* Skim the paper when you get it to make sure it is in your area of expertise – and alert the paper review coordinator if the paper does not fit your areas. Do this right away, so the paper can be reassigned if needed.
* This is a single-blind process – you know who the author is, but they do not know who you are. Do not discuss the review directly with the author, and alert the review coordinator if you have a conflict of interest
* The manuscript is an unpublished document, do not use in your work or cite publicly
* Do not wait until Labor Day weekend to review your paper! No one wants to spend Labor Day doing that and your review won’t be as good if you cram it in at the end. We need at least 3 reviews per paper and the coordinators will be nervous if no reviews come in until the last minute.
* Do not wordsmith the papers. Instead, read them for (1) whether they have value to the industry, (2) clarity, and (3) whether the conclusions are well defended (there does not need to be a footnote very sentence, but there should be sufficient confidence in the findings).
* Particularly for senior staff, if you distribute a paper to your staff to read and then consolidate the review comments, please make note who made what comments so you can go back with questions/clarifications
* Remember there is a person on the other side reading your comments – be professional, be polite.

All the papers should be assigned to the committee and to reviewers by August 15th.

1. This applies across TRB, not just to ABE30 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)