# TRB Transportation Issues in Major US Cities Committee (ABE30)Mid-Year – Strategic Planning MeetingApril 27, 2014Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:**

In person

Rina Cutler, Chair, City of Philadelphia

Monica Starnes, TRB

Ema Yamamoto, City of Philadelphia

Andrea D’Amato

Matthew Swift

David \_\_\_\_, OK DOT

\_\_\_\_, Northwestern University

By phone/webinar

Aimee Jefferson, Rutgers University

Steve Buckley, City of Toronto

Fred Dock, City of Pasadena

Eric Sundquist, SSTI

Andrew Zalewski, Foursquare Integrated Planning

Stephanie Dock, District of Columbia DOT

Sylvain Haon, Polis Network

Ivana Tasic, Utah Traffic Lab

Praveen Pasumath\_\_, CDM Smith

Chris Pangliani, \_\_\_\_

Elizabeth Deakin, Univ. of CA-Berkeley

Matt Kroneberger, Metropolitan Washington COG

Russell

Linda Bailey, NACTO

Payton Chung, Streetsblog

## Welcome and Introductions

Rina Cutler called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves.

## TRB Liaison Report

Monica Starnes is our committee’s new TRB Liaison. She most recently comes from working elsewhere in the National Academies on infrastructure and environment, but before that was with TRB working on SHRP 2.

### MyTRB

Monica introduced the new “MyTRB” platform that will help strengthen the volunteer activities of TRB. The site is being rolled out now and TRB is still working out the kinds, but the site will allow individuals to maintain their own profile, nominate themselves for standing committees, participate in the paper review process and submission, and will allow for committee discussions.

The website for MyTRB is [www.mytrb.org](http://www.mytrb.org). Anyone who is a member of a committee will have gotten an email about activating their account.

### Annual Meeting

For the Annual Meeting, the biggest news is that this will be our first year at the new location in downtown DC, at the convention center and new Marriott.

Session planning is getting underway. Each committee has 2.3 sessions and 0.5 workshops. Monica reminded the committee that we can have papers presented at our committee meeting as well.

June 15th is the deadline for workshops

Calls for papers should be in by early May – the posting about papers goes up on May 15th, start accepting papers in June.

Theme for this year’s TRB: Corridors to the Future – Transportation and Technology. Make sure we are aligned with that theme.

The Technical Activities Council has selected a number of critical issues:

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-Development of demand-responsive transportation

-Use and planning for demographics and big data, e.g. the urbanization

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-Technology and health

-Research dissemination and tracking

### Webinars

TRB has been expanding its webinar offerings over the last few years. This is another way for the committee to share good papers and other research of interest. Monica needs to receive topics by mid-May for next year’s planning.

Please send any ideas to Ema Yamamoto by Monday, May 16th.

## Subcommittee Reports

Rina re-introduced the Executive Committee that was formed during the last year.

### Review of Minutes and Survey Results from Annual Meeting Committee Meeting

Sponsored 5 sessions at TRB,

James Corliss talked at our committee meeting, and 5 members and friends gave pecha kucha presnetations on what is going on in their cities

After the committee meeting sent out a survey asking people about their engagement and issues – this was incorporated with

### **Research**

The committee put out a call for paper topic ideas earlier this year. After looking through the responses, the research subcommittee has selected 4 topics. We have contacted other committees about supporting these calls with us (noted below).

* Urban Transportation Data and Performance Metrics
* Livable Arterials: An Oxymoron or Urban Elixir?
	+ Confirmed Co-Sponsors: NF10: Pedestrians; ANF20: Bicycles; ANB20: Safety Data, Analysis and Evaluation
* Goods Movement in Active Urban Environments
	+ Confirmed Co-Sponsors: ANF10: Pedestrians; ANF20: Bicycles; AT025: Urban Freight Transportation
* Gender Gap in Urban Biking
	+ Confirmed Co-Sponsors: ANF20: Bicycles; ABE70: Women’s Issues in Transportation

### Annual Meeting Organizing

After a request for ideas this winter, the committee received 4 workshop proposals. The subcommittee selected 1 to put forward. The topic is “Performance metrics for urban streets,” which will highlight best practices by local, regional, and state agencies in using non-traditional performance metrics to (1) ensure multimodal street design outcomes and (2) convey the impacts of urban street improvements to the public and decision-makers.

Getting a workshop is a competitive process (each committee only has 0.5 workshops), but we have reached out about getting co-sponsors and have 3 co-sponsors currently confirmed. ANB20: Safety Data, Analysis and Evaluation, ANF10: Pedestrians, and ANF20: Bicycles have all agreed to co-sponsor. It was suggested that we also reach out to the performance measurement and the strategic management committees about supporting. The proposal is due June 16th and we are on track to submit early.

Possible podium sessions for using our 2.3 credits. Three main ones-

1.First year on the job – talk to new city officials about what they’ve found and learned

2. Climate resiliency – originally submitted as a workshop, but fits well as podium session. Looking at how cities have been responding

3. State DOT projects in urban areas – tried to do last year, but might take more reaching out to get a wider pool of responses. Talk about different state agencies, cities, MPOs, other entities – how they work together, share funding

### Communications

[fill in]

### Paper Review

Ema went over a paper review process 101. [type up notes]

## NACTO Update

Linda Bailey, Executive Director, gave an update on what’s going on in the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO). NACTO put out a urban street design guide – coming to the end of their endorsement campaign to get cities and states to adopt. Campaign ends May 2nd. Working with FHWA and AASHTO to make it easier to use the guide.

Related research

-FHWA study of cycletracks, underway right now. FHWA is very interested in LOS for these

-New trip generation for multimodal locations, working on with DDOT.

Events

-trainings with Caltrans in San Mateo

-3rd annual designing cities conference in SF in Sept. Get to have live converstaions with 18 of the largest city directors and staff

New Iniatives

-Bikeshare initiative – have had in the last year and 2 months 3 in-person meetings on bikeshare, helping local and state officials navigate the waters around bikeshare – let cities learn from each other. \_\_ Cities participating, looking to expand soon.

What is NACTO? NACTO is a group of cities working together specifically on urban transportation issues; if interested in joining, it is a fee-based organization. The conferences are open to all however. There are the major cities in NACTO, focused on the central cities and affiliate memberships for smaller cities.

## Strategic Plan

Took a look at the content of other committee strategic plans. Right now, focusing on the big picture, looking at the next 3 years and where we want the committee to go.

### Vision

Crafted the vision – captures where we want to go. Could wordsmith this for years, but after a few iterations think that it captures the big picture of what we want to do. Will still take comments for a week or so on anything they’ve missed or glaring issues.

### Committee Scope

This committee has always sort of been at a crossroads for several committees, a challenge has been identifying research specific to this committee.

Bob from Vancouver – one of the challenges the Canadian cities (and US cities too) face is related to getting senior level support for transportation – e.g. where the provincial government is going with funding.

Steve noted that the list of focus areas does cover this

### Future Outlook (Critical Issues)

Tried to synthesize what they heard in the survey.

1. Cities are going through a lot of changes. These changes do not only affect cities, but they matter.
2. On the data side, getting a lot more micro-scale data, not just having to settle for macro data like before.

Difficult to include everything we heard, tried to stay more macro-level. The last one on Curbside ROW in particular may be to micro issues

Rina suggested included social equity

Eric (?) Urban areas are the economic engine of the country, need to capture the economic role of cities. Also need to note the role of immigration in urban growth – not necessarily a special needs population, but language issues – and does connect to social equity since those groups are also often un-banked or have limited access to credit cards, which you need for bikeshare and other new mobility. How do you get everyone access to all the systems?

Strategic Management committee is going to addressing the urban/rural disparity that is likely to result in social equity challenges. As we focus more and more on urban areas because so many people live there, they drive the economy. Question for rural areas on how they are going to keep up.

Steve – this is going to be a 3 year plan, tried to narrow this list down to those that are going to be the biggest issues in that time period. This list is going to drive our research and the focus of our meetings.

Matt K (MWCOG) – The suburban areas are going to see the greatest growth in the next few years. The inner suburban core has needs like urban areas but not the same level of preparedness.

[comment I missed related to #6]

Andrea (response) – A lot of the tension that exists – parking management, how do you combine with off-street parking management. Have been looking at broadening #6 in that way.

Steve (response) – we have finite area to work with even though growth is still coming – we are going to have to look at priorities for that limited space. Corridors are going to be a big challenge.

Rina – parking is the 3rd rail of politics for cities. The issue of parking has not really had a home in TRB, Major Cities could be the home logically.

The key question is what we want to get out of this committee for the next three years – don’t want to cover what other committees will be addressing, need to narrow our focus. Rina suggests that curbside management could potentially roll into the changing cities theme. Funding and financing are being covered by several committees, so we may not need to include that one.

Chris P – agrees with rolling #6 into #1 – overarching theme of how we are changing our cities and how we can make changes. Implementing what a city *could* be, but also dealing with the hurdles of people who lose in the change.

Change #6 – managing committee demands in the ROW?

[couldn’t hear a bunch of this and lost the chain for my notes]

Feds are putting less and less dollars into transportation, but they are not reducing the rules. When they put 80-100%, they could set the rules, now they are less involved, and the rules may need to have flexibility. But while interesting, Rina would suggest taking this out since so many people are looking at it already.

[name- in room] On the other hand, other committees are focusing on much bigger picture aspects of this, this committee may have a lower-level focus

Steve – this topic is more about taking control of your fiscal future; how cities can solve our own problems. Looking to leaders who are doing this well.

Rina – that is different than what this says now, but she likes.

Want this to be framed positively.

Discussion of social equity – roll into #1 is proposed after discussion

### Focus Areas

Narrowed from the 40 plus topics we got out of the survey. Tried to narrow to 6-9 that we can focus on over the 3 year period.

Need to narrow this down further. Anything we can remove? Like Climate Change? Make sure these address the city-specific issues within these topics.

Make sure there are linkages between the outlook and the focus areas. Make sure these are tied into the TRB Emerging Issues, and then try to write these as research statements rather than just a bullet list.

### Committee Plan

Publishing information – we do mostly best practice sharing, but while good, often not turning this into publications. Could help the smaller cities involved in this committee to learn from what others have already done.

The relationship with NACTO and AASHTO – they can work better together over a common urban agenda. Trying to build that relationship. TRB might be the middle step in all that.

[could not hear comments in the room]

Sylvain – do not have to just look at North American cities for case studies and best practices – look internationally as well. Rina noted it is not our norm to reach out to Europe to ask for advice, though we should.

### Membership

There is a lot of interest in the committee – want to capitalize on this and develop a diverse, well-rounded membership. Keep some long-term members, but also include young go-getters who can do a lot of the heavy lifting.

Due to the way committees work at TRB, a lot of our members will be turning over next year.

A lot of interest in seeing how to get a city agenda to work at all levels – NYC or LA or Memphis or St. Petersburg FL.

It is a lot of work to be on a committee – one way we are going to look at who moves from friend to member is looking at who is going to be very involved.

-active participation in meetings and conference calls

-contributions to activities of the committee (paper calls, research statements, taking the polls we send, subcommittee involvement).

### Communications

Make sure that there is consistent, timely communications to the committee. Want to make sure we are on the same page as where TRB is going with communications – do we need a standalone website. Don’t want people to have to look for information – as much as possible it should be pushed to them.

Need to keep in mind the digital native vs. digital immigrants – need to respond to both.

Have to figure out how best to communicate with one another, and how to communicate to the world at large –how we put out our message. A huge challenge for the industry in general.

Please send comments to Steve by a week from Monday. Andrea asked for help getting the research focus areas turned into research statements. A draft final plan will be ready for circulation within 2 weeks then.

## Member and Friend Presentations

### Access To Multimodal Transportation And Traffic Safety: *Data From Chicago*

Ivana Tasic, Utah Traffic Lab

Using multiple data sources for Chicago on crashes by mode and demographic factors – at a block group level, modeled safety in relation to demographic and infrastructure factors

Question: how do socio-economic factors and education levels impact safety? Think those factors indirectly relate to mode choices and exposure. Rina asked to see a greater breakdown to see the interactions.

Next step: explore the role of spatial correlation in this; have been looking at crash frequency, now look at crash severity

Suggestion: include asset condition. Ivana noted that the availability of data drove the choice of city.

### Bikeshare: Rapidly Evolving Field

Andrew Zalewski, Foursquare ITP

Bikeshare research needs. Foursquare ITP does a lot of work in bikeshare – feasibility studies and business planning for bikeshare for several cities. More vendors are coming online.

From a research perspective, need for greater data transparency. Ridership data is often very detailed for large systems, missing for smaller systems. Their membership

-Pricing and cost structures

-Standardized data, like NTD, to enable more comparison

Needs: [see slide]

Better ways to model - looking at tourists, for example

What works to get more types of people to use the system

We don’t know how users respond to different pricing and price changes

Smaller systems understudied in general.

Philly is launching a study on bikeshare and equity. Rina is doing a session on bikeshare business models at the WTS Annual Meeting. Looking at the new models the existing systems are going to use going forward.

### Urban Multimodal Trip Generation

Stephanie Dock, District Department of Transportation