**City Transportation Issue Coordinating Council (A0030C)**

Thursday, January 14, 2021, 10-11:30am ET

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**Agenda:**

10:00 | Welcome and Ground Rules | Stephanie Dock, A0030C Chair

10:05 | Introductions

10:15 | Updates

10:15 | TRB Updates | Jennifer Weeks, TRB

10:20 | NACTO Updates | Matthew Roe, NACTO

10:25 | Our New Role

10:30 | Strategic Focus Areas

10:55 | Council Activities

11:10 | Who Should We Engage With?

11:20 | Next Steps & Open Floor (if time)

11:30 | Adjourn

**Attendees:**

Abdullah Alasmari, Univ. of Akron

Alek Pochowski, Kittelson

Andrea d'Amato, MassDOT

Andrew Nash, St. Pölten University

Anna Aleynick, AECOM

Anne Freeman, WSDOT

Anthony Loui, LA Metro

Antonio Castaeda, MWCOG

Audrey Wennink, Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago

Bern Grush, Harmonize Mobility

Beth Zgoda, ICF

Bob Hazlett, Act 11 Consulting

Brian Ray, Kittelson

Brittney Gick, TTI, Texas A&M

Caroline Alméras, ECTRI

Chris Breiland, Fehr & Peers

Danielle Elkins, City of Minneapolis

David Kuehn, FHWA

Edward Bury, Urban Transportation Center at UIC

Eric Randall, MWCOG

Eric Tang, VHB

Florinda Boschetti, EIT Urban Mobility

Fred Dock, P&D Consulting

Greg Barlow, RapidFlow

Hannah Twaddell, ICF

J. Swiderski

Jim Admunsen, Alaska DOT&PF

Jacob Wasserman, UCLA

Karen VanCluysen, POLIS

Katherine Kortum, TRB

Kelly Rodgers, Street Smart

Kenneth Capron, MicroRail

Lee Biernbaum, Masabi

Libby Rushley, Lawhon & Associates

Madeline Brozen, UCLA

Matt Kroneberger

Megan Weiss, Georgia DOT

Melissa Ruhl, Ford

Michael Flynn, Sam Schwartz

Patrick McMahon, Maryland Transit Administration

Peter Ohlms, Virginia DOT

Peter Plumeau, EBP US

Phil Lasley, TTI, Texas A&M

Rachel Beyerle, Nat’l Assn of Development Organnizations (NADO)

Rana Al-Jammal, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Raymond Chan, Chicago Transit Authority

Robert Ginsburg, Center on Work and Community Development

Ron Boenau, International Transport Research Advisor

Sabrina Sussman, Zipcar

Safak Ercisli, Leidos

Ted Rosenbaum

Todd Hemingson, HDR

Tom Wenzel, Lawrence Berkeley Lab

Tony Giancola

William Chernicoff, Toyota

Wu Ying, AECOM

**Welcome and Ground Rules (Stephanie Dock, A0030C Chair)**

**Attend Our TRB Session!**

* Equitable Recovery: Reimagining City DOTs (Session 1236)
  + Tuesday, Jan 26, 4:00-5:30 pm ET

**Introductions**

**See attendance list**

**TRB Update (Jennifer Weeks)**

**Conference Events to Note:**

* Dean lecture, Monday, Jan 25 (See slides)
* Chair’s Plenary Session, Wednesday, Jan 27

**Committees:**

* TRB took a step back this past year for Blue Ribbon Awards, paper awards, and Emeritus nominations.
  + Comes back this year
  + New award for Diversity and Inclusion.

**Specialty Conference Program**

* Covid significantly impacted the program: either cancelations or moves to virtual
  + Innovative Travel Models (canceled)
  + Environmental Analysis and Ecology (virtual)
  + Public Engagement (virtual)
  + Planning Applications (Jun 21-25)
  + TRB Tools of the Trade (Postponed until Aug/Sept 2022)
* Other Conferences
  + SETT
  + (See Slides)

**TRB General News**

* New Communications/Website
  + With blog, social media, and other online activities.
* Research Tools
  + COVID-specific research needs statement (RNS) Express (Link in Slides)
  + Practical Pipeline: Preprints of papers with potential for immediate application.

**TRR**

* Posting COVID-related articles free of charge
* Impact factor: 1.029
  + Papers are more discoverable on Sage, more papers published earlier than other journals.
  + Number 1 source for policy-related sources.
  + No. 5 transportation source cited by news sources.
  + No. 1 source cited in transportation patent applications.

Questions:

* Is there a way to befriend the Council?
  + Yes: Through MyTRB (This is a new feature)
* Do you have to be a member of another committee to be a member of the Council?
  + Yes.

**NACTO Updates**

NACTO representative not present; update not presented

**Our New Role (Stephanie Dock, Chair)**

We transitioned from a committee to a coordinating council

* Promotes attention to the specific and unique circumstances related to providing transportation to and within urban areas.
* All aspects of planning and providing transportation to and within cities…for both people and goods/services.
* Should be sure to focus on smaller communities as well.

What do councils do?

* Coordinate – provide a forum to coordinate needs and topics for cities
* Advise – communication and collaboration mechanism, serve as a resource for city expertise
* Convene – meeting during the AM, work with committees to put on sessions and workshops, get one session to plan
* Activities:
  + 1 Session at the Annual Meeting.
  + Strategic Plan (brief—will be a focus for this year)
  + Annual written report (also brief)
* Question: What connection does the council have to research?
  + Push other committees to keep a city-interest in the work they are doing via research needs statements (RNS).
  + Chair could submit NCHRP RNS’s if needed on Council’s behalf
  + This is still being developed.

**Structure:**

* Chair: 5-Year term (Stephanie Dock)
* Up to 25 members. Members must be on another committee with a max of 2 per committee.
* Liaisons with outside organizations (NACTO, federal agencies, other parts of NASEM)
* Friends: All previous friends were converted over.

**Goals for Today**

* Lay Foundations for Strategic Plan – 3 year cycle
* Proposed Outcomes
  + 2-3 Focus Areas
  + Who do we need to engage with?
  + Structure our council activities
  + Build momentum towards a larger research agenda and possible and future research needs conference.
    - We can use this as a basis to push other committees to focus on cities.
    - Will help identify which committee to partner with.

**Strategic Focus Areas**

**City Transportation and TRB**

* Because of how transportation money flows, there’s a strong bias towards states.
  + States are a core sponsor of TRB.
  + States have dedicated research funding.
* We have the opportunity to talk about what really matters from an urban perspective.
  + Where do we need to focus?

**How Do We Pick our Focus Area?**

* Urban Specific or at least urban focused.
* Cross-Cutting
* High-Level enough that it can encompass several activities.
* Question: How long are these focus areas good for?
  + Answer: Not a 1-year focus. Larger themes for at least 2-3 years (and then reevaluate) and possibly longer.
    - Coordinates with committees’ triennial plans.
    - It takes a lot of time to ramp up researchers.

**Proposed Areas**

* Designing cities for changing populations and conditions
* Multimodal safety
* Providing equal access and mobility for all users
  + Some of the other topics could be merged with this (e.g., advancing racial justice)
  + Advancing racial justice in cities through transportation policy
  + New approaches to addressing equity in urban transport - policy and mobility services
* Best practices sharing on innovative urban solutions
* Balancing competing demands on the streets, including parking & freight
* Opportunities through technology and data
* Developing urban transportation performance measures
* Improving relationships with partners, such as MPOs, transit agencies, state DOTs, and federal agencies.
* Innovations from the Pandemic - street use, freight, changing modal demands
* 24-hour multimodal operations as a cross cutting issue
* Addressing policies and planning for drones and UAV's within cities
* Innovative public transit funding and operations, especially post-pandemic
* Effective public engagement in an urban setting
* Open data communication to improve roadway operations
* For improving relationships: Suggest Including RPOs/RTPOs along with MPOs
* Is transportation sustainable?
* Best Practices on response to pandemics and associated disruptions
* Geometric design of urban streets
* Effective citizens engagement
* Restoring public transit ridership
* Integrating urban design/ form with land use and transportation planning processes
* Reducing personal vehicle ownership
* Methods to outreach and engage the underserved in urban areas
* Working with feds, transit agencies and counties to streamline micromobility low income programs
* New public-private partnerships and business models for shared mobility solutions
* Need to encourage new out-of-the-box solutions to City traffic, congestion etc
* Improving relationships between the "hard science" staff (e.g., engineers) and the "soft science" staff (e.g., planners)
* Personal Delivery Devices regulation and safety
* Improving street landscape (sidewalks, bike lanes) to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.
* Tracking impact on urban mobility interventions
* Improving the customer experience and customer environment within mobility
* Personal Delivery Devices (Sidewalk robots) regulation and safety
* Covid’s longer-term impacts on cities.
  + Frame in terms of long-term resilience perspective?
  + Responding to uncertainty

**Comments:**

* This committee is really a synthesis council
  + Transportation does not exist in a vacuum and would be beneficial to coordinate outside topic areas.
    - How we do this will be really tricky, especially in a limited funding environment (though teaming with other outside research groups may help pool money).
  + Would be crucial as a role to reach out on behalf of TRB.
* Emphasis on working across silos and organizations (state, MPOs, cities, transit authorities, etc.), especially in data sharing.
  + Make sure other modes are connected.

**How do We Serve Our Community and TRB?**

* Recall 3 functions.
* Also beyond starting new research, there is an important role for sharing and socializing research already taking place (David Kuehn)
* Coordinate: Bring together the city-oriented folk of TRB
  + Regular updates to touch base
  + Working groups based on focus areas will do the bulk of the work to coordinate with other committees.
  + Larger objective: city research needs conference?
  + Push information in other TRB sources (e.g. articles in TR News)
* Advising: Serve as a resource for city transportation.
  + Maintain a reviewer list from other committees.
    - While we don’t review papers, we would still survey members for interest, expertise, and availability.
  + Find experts beyond reviewers.
    - How would we find them?
  + Spread the word about city-oriented activities at TRB.
* Convene
  + Meet during TRB Annual Meeting.
  + Develop and promote sessions.

**Comments**

* We all need to be better educated about the coordinating councils (what we do/what our role is).
  + Would be helpful to have a round table with all the committees.
* Advancing urban research would be timely with the new administration and Secretary of Transportation.
  + TRB is supposed to advise the administration from afar. Hope is that the research speaks to the broader community and permeates into administration’s policies.

**Who Should We Engage With?**

* Member Committees
  + Strong existing links:
    - Bicycles
    - Pedestrian
    - Urban Data
    - Strategic Management
    - Travel Demand Management
    - Equity in Transportation
  + Links in Development
    - Community Resources and Impacts
    - Traffic Signal Systems
    - Several transit committees
* Liaison Organizations
  + NACTO
  + POLIS for international perspective
  + National League of Cities (NLC)
  + Federal Agencies?
    - FTA
    - FHWA
  + Other parts of NASEM
  + UITP
  + AMPO
  + US Conference of Mayors
  + US Access Board
  + OMF and NUMO
  + NARC
  + NACO – Counties
    - How do we want to engage with counties?
  + Urban League
  + Urban Institute
  + American Planning Association (including Transportation Division)
  + ITE
  + NADO (Regional development organizations)
  + OECD ITF
  + ITDP and WRI
  + WRI Ross Center for Cities
  + APBP

**Next Steps**

* Seeking Volunteers!!!
  + Focus area working groups (taken from survey)
  + Strategic direction work group (how the council does its business)
  + If interested, contact Stephanie Dock: [stephanie.dock@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.dock@gmail.com) or [stephanie.dock@dc.gov](mailto:stephanie.dock@dc.gov).
* Don’t forget to self-nominate as a friend on MyTRB.org (A0030C).
  + <https://www.mytrb.org/Committees/SelfNominationAsFriend>