**Council Meeting Minutes**

TRB Annual Meeting 2022

*Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 4:00-5:30 PM*

**Attendees**

Stephanie Dock, DDOT, Chair

Alan Lubliner, WSP

Alexander Epstein, Volpe

Alison Conway, City College of New York

Allison Yoh, LA Metro

Amelia Hayes, FHWA

Andrea d'Amato, MassDOT

Andrew DeFrank, DDOT

Andrew Zalewski, Foursquare ITP

Anne Freeman, WSDOT

Anthony Donald, Michael Baker

Anthony Loui, LA Metro

Antonio Castaneda, MWCOG

Anusha Jayasinghe, TRB

Apoorv Maheshwari, QS2

April Delchamps, WSDOT

Audrey Wennink, Metropolitan Planning Council

Benito Perez, T4America

Bill Anderson, TRB

Bill Orleans

Bishoy Kelleny, Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization/Old Dominion University

Bob Ginsburg, Center on Work and Community Development

Brian No, Spin

Brian ten Siethoff, AMCL

Caitlin Cook, AMPO

Carolyn Mamaradlo, LA Metro

Catherine T. Lawson, SUNY Albany

Chris Breiland, Fehr & Peers

Cynthia Landez, KCI

Dana Hoffman, Denver DOTI

Danielle Elkins, City of Minneapolis

Daveitta Knight, RS&H

David Chia, The Collaborative, Inc.

David Straus, Association for Commuter Transportation

Emily Burns, Seattle DOT

Eric Tang, VHB

Erica Robinson, UT Arlington, TX

Foster Nichols, WSP

Frances Fisher, BART

Ginny Crowson, Bolton & Menk

Gregory Barlow, Rapid Flow Technologies

Hanna Cockburn, City of Greensboro

Hannah Greenberg, UC Berkeley Dept City and Regional Planning

Hugo Guzman, CalTrans

Jackson D Pierce, Rutgers University - Boustein School of Planning/Policy

Jean-Bernard Kovarik, IFSTTAR

Jeff Davis, Eno Center

Jeff Kramer, University of South Florida

Jim Dorsey, McCormick Taylor

John Shaw, Iowa State

Jonathan Rogers, DDOT

Karina Ricks, FTA

Kashfia Nehrin, Steer Group

Kelly Rodgers, Streetsmart

Kishore Gorle, CalTrans

Kristy Tu, Arup

Kyung-Hwa Kim, Atlanta Regional Council

Laura Richards, Cambridge Systematics

Leah Shahum, Vision Zero Netowrk

Liz Williams, MassDOT

Marina Budimir, DDOT

Mary Anne Koos, Florida DOT

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Matt Kroneberger, Arrival

Matthew Corrigan, FHWA

Maureen Gardiner, City of San Diego

Melissa Ruhl, Ford

Michael Rodriguez, MITRE Corporation

Mike Jelen, AECOM

Nancy Pullen-Seufert, Highway Safety Research Center, UNC

Nathan Peyton, MassDOT

Nick Jones, ETC Institute

Patrick McMahon, Maryland Transit Administration

Peter Fahrenwald, RTA (Chicago)

Peter Martin, CDM Smith

Phil Lasley, TTI

Preston Judkins, Parsons

Rana Al-Jammal, UMass

Raphael Dumas, City of Toronto

Raymond Chan, Greater Dayton RTA

Rebecca Sanders, Safer Streets Research

Rem Dekker, Waymo

Richard Rabinowitz, NJDOT

Robin Hutcheson, USDOT

Ryan Westrom, Ford

Sadia Chowdhury

Sonal Gangawala, NYSDOT

Sooraz Patro, Capital Region Planning Commission

Stephen Buckley, Kimley-Horn

Stephen Crim, DDOT

Stephen Ratke, FHWA

Steve Lutz, Jacobs

Steven Chan, Transoft Solutions

Sylvain Haon, UITP

Todd Goldman, Port Authority of NY/NJ

Todd Hemingson, HDR

Tom Wenzel, Lawrence Berkeley Lab

Tony Geara, City of Detroit

Tony Giancola,

Tracy Duval, FHWA

William Chernicoff, Toyota

Wu Ying, AECOM

Yohannes Bennehoff, DDOT

Yvonne Jones, DDOT

Zeina Nazer, University of Southampton

**Welcome/Introduction (Stephanie Dock)**

Recap of Annual Meeting Sessions

* Workshop on Sunday with the Rural Transportation Issues Coordinating Council. Sought to develop new research needs statements (RNS) at rural and city level focused on equity, resilience, sustainability, and safety
* City DOT leadership roundtable on resiliency
	+ Led by Steve Buckley (thank you, Steve!)
	+ Leaders from Houston (Veronica Davis) and Philadelphia (Michael Carroll) spoke on challenges to resiliency

**TRB Update (on behalf of Anusha Jayasinghe)**

* Thank you for your part in peer reviewing more than 4900 papers, organizing a combined 350 sessions and workshops and more than 300 committee meetings. We can only do this with the dedicated efforts of volunteers like you.
* The Transportation Research Record has an impact factor of 1.56 in 2021. Since 2015, the impact factor has risen steadily each year. As well, from 2018-2020 it has also been the #1 Transportation Journal cited by policy sources and in patent applications; for the latter, it is tied with IEEE Transactions.
* **News from the TRB Executive Office:**
	+ The Executive Committee is commencing work early on the next issue of Critical Issues in Transportation. This issue will focus on five broader societal goals: 1) Safety and Security; 2) Public Health; 3) Economic and Societal vitality; 4) Climate Change; and 5) Equity.
	+ TRB is embarking on a new Strategic Plan. Goals for the plan include: 1) Preparing to address current and future issues; 2) Expanding TRB’s impact; and 3) Assuring continued creativity, resilience, and sustainability.
	+ TRB has renewed our long partnership with Federal agencies, and once again is sponsored by OST-R, FTA, NHTSA, FRA, and FAA, plus two new sponsors.
	+ NASEM has changed demographic definitions, and as a consequence, TRB’s definitions have changed as well. Please log into MyTRB and update your profile to ensure that we have your demographic information and can track better track TRB’s DEI performance. At present, we have data for fewer than 50% of our committee Members, and less than 25% of our committee Friends data.
	+ TRB continues to place an increased emphasis on Equity, and would like each community of practice to continue to explore how are you addressing transportation-related equity issues in your committee?
* **News from the Technical Activities Division:**
	+ Two years after the Strategic Alignment restructuring of our committee structure, the Technical Activities Division is moving forward with an internal reorganization of staff. TRB welcomed a new TAD Deputy Director (focusing on technical content) and a new Director of Operations (focusing on operations).
	+ The next TRB Annual Meeting will be held January 8-12, 2023.

**Liaison Committee Update**

* Urban Transportation Data and Information Systems (AED20) – Steve Buckley: ways in which big data are relevant to cities. Subcommittees: Speed and reliability, big urban data, and census data. Probe data focus. Updated TSP and outlined new research needs. Privacy is an issue that has come up multiple times. TRB would like to come up with a statement about this issue.
* Statewide/National Transportation Data and Information Systems (AED10) – Phil Lasley:
* Transportation Safety Management Systems (ACS10) – Eric Tang: Focus on programs to reduce fatalities on roadways. How to better identify when crashes occur and design equitable safety solutions.
* Transportation Demand Management (AEP60) – Stephen Crim: Merged TDM and congestion pricing committees. Incentives and disincentives to change traveler behavior. Economics of pricing, parking management subcommittee, nonfinancial nudges/tools subcommittee
* Strategic Management (AJE10) – Andrea D’Amato: Focus on disruption. In partnership with the equity committee. Midyear conference on scenario planning as it is institutionalized/proactive.
* Transportation and Public Health (AME70) – Kelly Rodgers:
* Bicycle Transportation (ACH20) – Rebecca Sanders: Panel about increasing equity in bicycle research. Official meeting is Feb 1 (virtual).
* Transit Management and Performance (AP010) – Ray Chan: asset mgt (subcommittee), focus on equity and climate change. Virtual meeting later this month
* Urban Freight Transportation (AT025) – Allison Conway: curb management, distribution centers location and equity, labor, etc.
* Accessible Transportation and Mobility (AME50) – David Chia: emphasis that disabled and elderly needs are taken into account in fixed route and ped issues. Policy/ops/tech focused.
* Economic Development and Land Use (AMS50) – Ryan Westrom: Transit-oriented development and other issues.

Goal this year is to formalize the 25 liaison members to the council and organizing our efforts. If you would like to be a liaison, email Stephanie.

**Update on NACTO Initiatives**

[None available at this time]

**Federal Update (Jeff Davis, ENO)**

* ENO celebrated 100 years this year.
* Fed perspective: it’s a good time to be the MPO
	+ Biggest deal since the New Deal.
	+ Directly sending large infusion to counties and cities
* FTA a 43% increase.
* FHWA a 14% increase.
* $$ can be flexed back and forth between highway and transit at city level.
* Competitive grant program that cities can directly apply to (unprecedented)
	+ FRA being completely transformed. (excluding AMTRAK)
	+ FAA ground connection grant increased
	+ FTA: $3.6 billion/year will really be $5.6ish billion
* All money is guaranteed up front.
* Other opportunities:
	+ First time this many city DOT people in the fed office (as opposed to state DOT)
	+ Shows a willingness to give more money ***directly*** to city, county, and tribal vs states.
	+ Policy memo pushing states to change their project prioritization selection criteria in formulas
		- Heavier bike/ped focus.
		- Still in negotiations with AASHTO
		- Grant money may be held back if they don’t?
	+ Budget Reconciliation (Build back better)
		- After MLK and filibuster/voting reform, will get back to this
		- Drop dead date is April 1 (because they will need 60 senate votes)
		- Climate spending (including high speed rail and transit) could each get $10B…least controversial parts
* Potential Short-Term Issues
	+ Extra money won’t go as far if everyone increases their requested federal match (NYC subway case in point). Especially if projects have more cost overruns.
	+ One or both houses of congress changing parties (over 50% chance)
		- Discretionary appropriations for CIG and intercity rail will be closer to pre-IIJA levels as opposed to authorized levels.
* Potential Long-Term Issues
	+ When Covid money runs out, how will transit agencies make up revenue loss—especially if cities decide to keep some transit services free?
	+ 2026 Problem: One-time investment for 5 years over and above existing spending. Will agencies and cities be OK going back to pre-IIJA spending levels, or will this become the new normal?
	+ Highway Trust Fund running out of money. How will Congress fix this with such an aversion to raising taxes? Will they actually do away with the gas tax?

Q&A

* Question: Re: Memo to states on project prioritization—How successful will the feds be able to be in changing this?
	+ More transparency stuff might be in the law, but no luck yet.
	+ Suggested blog post from chat: <https://t4america.org/2021/12/20/usdot-urges-states-to-prioritize-repair-safety-and-climate-with-their-influx-of-infrastructure-bill-cash/>
* Question: Do you account for increasing share of electric vehicles in highway trust fund chart?
	+ Energy dept’s estimates are really conservative and don’t account for big jump in adoption.
	+ *Note*: the chat had several observations about this topic regarding switch to EVs, increasing efficiency of ICE vehicles, how the Ford F150 Lightning EV pickup could be a game changer in moving more Americans to EVs.
* Question: Rural area pushback?
	+ Rural areas are not as organized, but you will hear pushback from House Republicans.
* Question: What kind of influence can we have in HOW the funding gets used from IIJA? I'm particularly interested in new "Safe Streets for All" funding pot. How can we help this actually go toward worthwhile Safe System projects not just status quo? How influence "guidelines" of new funding pots?
	+ Keep an eye on the fed register and comments for rulemaking process. Will take a while to get year 1 worked out, but future years will be faster.
* Question: any thought of aligning our council’s efforts and research needs to match with these new federal efforts? (Bill Anderson, TRB)

**USDOT and Cities – A Conversation with City-Turned-Fed Leadership (Karina Ricks and Robin Hutcheson, FTA)**

* Robin: run 2 city DOTs – Salt Lake City and Minneapolis. President of NACTO, consultant with Fehr and Peers, now Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety Policy for USDOT
* Karina: Director of Mobility and Infrastructure in Pittsburgh, worked for Nelson\Nygaard, before that was Associate Director of transportation planning at DDOT (DC). Now Associate Administrator for Research, Demonstration and Innovation at FTA
* Biggest change is from being the project OWNER to being a project INFLUENCER and ENABLER.
	+ Put money out for use at the local level.
	+ Also thought leadership.
* Experience at the city level gives insight to make things easier
	+ Shared outcomes and goals.
	+ Are the processes serving the needs of the end users? How can they be better?
* But there’s a huge learning curve from going from city to federal level.
	+ Expectations that Robin knew what was supposed to happen from Day 1.
	+ She just needed to know what local govt needed (rather than how fed govt worked) so a bill could be crafted.
	+ Really looked at integrating on-the-ground needs into the bill.
* Safe Street for All (Aside)
	+ Funds for planning, full reconstruction, and low-cost, high-impact improvements over a wide geographic area!!
		- Fastest way to make a safety improvement or test a solution that can be fully implemented later.
* Karina: To be really user-centric, she wants to have ideas percolate up from the grassroots to make true innovation happen in the transit world.
* Q&A
	+ How can we (Cities Council and TRB) help out coming out of the infrastructure bill?
		- Getting the research ideas out there. Make sure the research is meaningful and actionable. It should be accelerated and focused on demonstration projects.
		- Innovation Principles: be free to FAIL! We have to try so we can learn the right/best way to do it.
	+ How do we standardize data to have larger-scale learning? How can we understand at the person level what is happening at the national level?
		- Robin: We are in really good hands with Dr. Hampshire and Sec Buttigieg. DOT’s commitment to TRB is big.
	+ How do you work/make better partnerships between organizations?
		- T4A: work with ITE and smaller agencies to develop relationships with the states and others. Should collaborate externally to make a bigger impact.
		- Stephanie: Move towards making a Research Roadmap. Rural did a workshop…maybe link up with NACTO to develop something. Would be great to have state and federal representatives for this.
			* The rural roadmap is in pre-publication: <https://www.nap.edu/download/26343>

**Closing Remarks**

* Seeking volunteers for all roles
* Sign-in to get on mailing list.
* Don’t forget to self-nominate as a friend on MyTRB.org (A0030C) <https://www.mytrb.org/Committees/SelfNominationAsFriend>