



## POLICY AND ORGANIZATION GROUP Triennial Strategic Plan (TSP)

**Committee Name and Number:** Urban Freight Transportation, AT025  
**TSP Three Year Period:** April 2014 to April 2017  
**Date Prepared:** 20 May 2014

### **Committee Future Outlook Statement:**

#### Current Committee Scope

This Committee seeks to further research and understanding for integrating freight transportation in urban communities, for the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of information, the betterment of performance, the cultivation of practitioners, and the improvement of public policy and planning as they interact with private systems of logistics.

The Committee thus is concerned with developing and advancing the state of the practice in strategies and methods that improve the planning, implementation, operation and performance of urban freight transportation. It seeks to do so by bringing research into practice in ways that promote further collaboration among academia, the public sector and private interests towards common interests. It recognizes the vital contribution of efficient freight transportation to the quality of life of urban residents and to their overall economic well-being. It seeks to contribute to professional and academic discourse objectively, without advocating any particular position on public policy or private sector decision-making.

For the purposes of this Triennial Strategic Plan (TSP), “urban freight transportation” refers to the movement of goods and services by any transportation mode from or to an urban location, or which uses or impacts the multi-modal urban transportation system.

#### Factors and Influences that Will Shape the Committee’s Activities

The Committee’s activities are influenced by (and in turn influence) many factors. These can be read as issues or as opportunities (and often as both):

- Urban regions as national economic drivers and inter-modal freight transportation hubs.
- The state of urban transportation, as expressed by congestion, traffic circulation, mobility, accessibility, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable

- development, capacity needs, and state of infrastructure repair.
- Complete Streets, allowing for the shared use of all road users safely and efficiently (with special attention given to mitigating conflicts between trucks and non-motorized modes).
- Land use planning and policies, including freight-friendly land use planning and zoning, and management of rural areas as urban boundaries expand.
- Funding for urban freight infrastructure, including traditional public sources, private sources, and alternate delivery (such as P3).
- Anticipated demands for the transportation of freight and services.
- Pricing of urban freight transportation, including prices impacting energy, tolls, parking and time-of-day facility access.
- Marketplace conditions, including changes in the global supply chain, Post-Panamax impacts on the nation's port infrastructure, and domestic self-sufficiency in energy.
- Freight industry conditions, including the economics of freight transportation, labor supply and skills, and commercial viability in a competitive environment.
- Truck usage of roads, including efficient truck route planning, improving the first/last mile access and City Logistics, and minimizing infiltration through residential communities and other sensitive areas.
- State of repair and capacity of inter-regional freight transportation links.
- Institutional and regulatory ability to anticipate / respond to changes in the factors that impact urban freight.
- Electronic technologies that optimize the operations, safety, performance, and energy usage of urban freight transportation.
- Methods of engaging urban freight stakeholders, including freight forums, task forces, and the like.

#### Committee Future Outlook

The Committee aims to introduce innovations and promote good practices in policies, plans, procedures and actions that address the aforementioned factors and influences from the perspective of urban freight transportation. To achieve this, the Committee has five key goals for the future:

1. Seek ways to foster direct and active relationships between public and private stakeholders serving urban communities in order to develop better methods and policies for integrating freight into urban communities.
2. Identify and define urban concerns in freight planning, policy, and operations.
3. Promote research for planning, policy, and operational issues in urban freight transportation while seeking funds for such efforts.
4. Support professional development.
5. Develop and diversify committee membership and relationships, so that its

composition and connections are firmly rooted in the urban freight environment.

The Committee plan below identifies specific milestones to achieve these goals.

**Committee Plan:**

The discussion below identifies emerging issues that influence the Committee's work, as well as specific milestones, actions and targets that are intended to achieve the Committee's goals.

Emerging Issues Inside and Outside the Committee's Scope

Key emerging issues include:

- Changes in the global supply chain – e.g., shifts towards near-shoring caused by changing transportation, foreign labor and fuel costs; the shipment of domestic oil by rail.
- Security needs amid new foreign and domestic challenges.
- Disruptive technologies and production practices – e.g., growing use of e-purchases, movement towards trucks powered by natural gas, expansion and contraction of distribution centers, use of longer-combination vehicles.
- America's role as a trading nation, vis-à-vis structural economic changes in other nations (e.g., China, India and Brazil).
- Constraints to financing of new transportation infrastructure.
- Initiatives to promote urban regions as sustainable, viable places to live and work.
- Market forces that shape economic development opportunities, and how these compete with or complement urban land use and environmental policies.
- Competing demands for road space, best / highest land uses, and site access (e.g., programs to optimize downtown traffic circulation while improving the efficiency of on-street loading).
- Integrating freight into the urban and regional transportation and land use planning and priority-setting processes.
- Changing labor force, including shortages in personnel in both the public and private sector (e.g., due to pending retirements).
- Availability of data and analytical tools to predict, plan and monitor urban freight activity, commodity flows, and the factors that influence freight demand.

**Specific Milestones Over the Next Three Years**

**2014-2016**

In addition to many ongoing activities and responsibilities (e.g., review of submitted technical papers, organization of conference sessions), the following special objectives are identified for the upcoming three years.

**2014**

- Complete 2014 Triennial Strategic Plan
- Release new "Call for Papers"
- Continue dissemination and use of innovative research initiative
- Undertake special outreach efforts with private sector freight stakeholders
- Utilize new TRB tool for maintaining the Committee's list of Friends

## 2015

- Complete committee rotation (33%)
- Continue dissemination and use of innovative research initiative
- Develop new Research Problem Statements
- Involve two new committee members in a TRB study/activity (e.g., NCHRP project panels)
- Undertake special outreach efforts with the international community

## 2016

- Prepare for committee officer rotation
- Continue dissemination and use of innovative research initiative
- Involve two new committee members in a TRB study/activity (e.g., NCHRP project panels)
- Undertake special outreach efforts with “young members”
- Perform comprehensive SWOT analysis

## Targets For Years Four to Seven

### 2017-2020

Over the longer term, the committee will seek to build upon its strengths (in particular, the commitment of its members) and to continue to work collaboratively with other TRB standing committees. The committee will endeavor to fulfill all TRB committee requirements (even as these may change), revisit the Triennial Strategic Plan, and undertake special efforts to close gaps, address weaknesses, and make improvements where necessary.

### Communications:

- Maintain a Committee website that provides access to the TSP, the Committee’s background, resources, notification of meetings and events, and membership.
- Maintain an open discussion group on LinkedIn (<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/TRB-AT025-Urban-Freight-Transportation-4186829?gid=4186829>). Discussions have covered a range of topics that are relevant to urban freight.
- Conduct regular Committee teleconferences, to keep the momentum going on activities and take decisions between formal meetings.
- Publish a regular *Member Spotlight* newsletter, which provides a means for Committee members to get to know each other (between meetings) and identify common interests.
- Disseminate, via e-mail, information on upcoming events that have an urban freight content to the mailing list of Committee members and friends.
- Encourage participation of Committee members and friends in upcoming freight conferences, webinars, etc. that are sponsored by other TRB committees or by other organizations.
- Prepare and disseminate the Committee’s *Urban Freight Resource Guide* to the TRB community at large, via the *TRB Transportation Research E-Newsletter* (see

<http://www.trb.org/main/blurbs/170314.aspx>).

**Membership:**

- Periodically update the Committee membership to maintain a balanced representation of urban freight transportation professionals working in the academic, public and private sectors, who wish to develop, advance and apply the state-of-the-practice.
- Ensure that the Committee membership reflects a balanced composition with respect to geography, gender, race, ethnicity, and organizational affiliation.

Proposed Changes in Scope

No changes in the scope or title are needed now.

## Appendix A – Committee History

### Committee Leadership

Chair	Ted Dahlburg
Vice-Chair	David Damm-Luhr
Secretary	Carl Millard
TRB Staff	Scott Babcock
Communications Coordinator	Akiko Yamagami
Membership Coordinator	Vince Mantero
Recognition Coordinator	Bala Akundi
Research Coordinators	Kazuya Kawamura and Michael Browne
Resource Coordinator	Laetitia Dablanç
Session Coordinator	William Eisele
TSP Coordinator	David Kriger
Emeritus Member	Arun Chatterjee

### Committee website

<https://sites.google.com/site/trbcommitteeat025/>

### Membership gender and racial diversity

The reported composition of the committee as of April, 2014 is shown below. This report does not include Young Members (currently, four members) or Emeritus Members (currently, one member).

		Percentage
White:	19	0.65
Black:	1	0.03
Hispanic:	1	0.03
Asian or Pacific Islander:	6	0.20
American Indian or	0	0
Unknown:	1	0.03

NB: the above percentages exclude Young Members and Emeritus Members

Male:	19	0.65
Female:	10	0.35

### Geographic distribution of membership

North West US	South West US	Central US	North East US	South East US
4	3	2	8	4

International: 8

### Professional affiliation distribution of membership

State	2	Federal	2
Education:	8	Private Sector:	6
Local	7	Nonprofit/Other:	3

### Recent History (2011-2013)

- Named new committee chair, vice-chair, and secretary
- Named new communications coordinator and new research co-coordinator
- Completed committee rotation
- Annual Meeting
  - Conducted three committee meetings
  - Helped organize and co-sponsor podium sessions, poster sessions, and workshops
- Midyear Meeting
  - Conducted three committee meetings
  - Helped organize and co-sponsor sessions
- Conducted several committee meetings via conference call
- Completed reviews of all assigned papers and made recommendations
- Prepared *Urban Freight Resource Guide*, a compendium of practical and research documents that covers a wide range of topics. The focus is on US resources, but also includes several international references. First edition released in February 2014.
- Organized and conducted several practitioner – researcher focus group discussions, aimed at identifying opportunities for bringing research into practice and at identifying further research needs. Most recent focus group held at the January 2014 TRB Annual Meeting, with over 75 participants
- Launched website and LinkedIn Group
- Released member spotlights
- Maintained friends list
- Prepared committee background section
- Recognized outstanding member contributions

### Other Committee Relationships

AT025 maintains and is establishing close formal and informal relationships with several other TRB committees. These include:

- ABE30 Transportation Issues in Major U.S. Cities
- ABG50 Transportation History
- ABJ90 Freight Transportation Data
- ADA20 Metropolitan Policy, Planning and Processes
- ADB30 Transportation Network Modeling
- AHB40 Highway Capacity and Quality of Service
- AHB70 Access Management

- AT010 Freight Transportation Economics and Regulation
- AT015 Freight Transportation Planning and Logistics
- AT030 Agricultural Transportation
- AT045 Intermodal Freight Transport

### Strategic Plan Dedication

The TRB Urban Freight Transportation Committee's Triennial Strategic Plan is fondly dedicated to the memory of Karin Foster. Karin, who unexpectedly passed away in 2013, was a highly devoted and motivated committee member. While deeply missed, Karin's enduring legacies are her commitment to freight transportation research and her gracious way with all persons.