



## **TRB Urban Freight Transportation Committee (AT025) Conference Call**

Friday, December 7, 2018  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Conference Call: 1-866-528-2256 / Access Code: 4753125

### **MEETING NOTES**

#### **Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review (Bill Eisele) (11:00 – 11:10)**

Bill reviewed the list of members, and asked members to announce themselves. Due to time restraints and high attendance, Bill could not take roll from everyone on the call.

#### **TRB Staff Report (Scott Babcock) (11:10 – 11:25)**

Brittany Gick from TRB provided a staff report. She noted the Washington National Airport (DCA) WMATA Metrorail station will be closed during the Saturday and Sunday of the TRB Annual Meeting. Chip Millard confirmed that WMATA's website indicated the station will be closed on Saturday 1/12 and Sunday 1/13. Both Brittany and Chip provided information about alternate options (different airports, different access options from DCA).

Please note: You can monitor the situation on the WMATA website at [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com). The trackwork schedule can be found at <https://www.wmata.com/service/track-work.cfm>.

Brittany also mentioned the Freight Day sessions will be held in a different location this year (Convention Center, Ballroom C). Additionally, TRB staff and committees are currently in the final paper re-review process.

#### **Research Subcommittee Update (Erica Wygonik) (11:25 – 11:40)**

- **Paper Review Process, Stats and More**

Erica indicated 41 papers were submitted for review. As a result of the excellent content, there will be two groups of paper sessions that will be presented at TRB (see information below). A total of 17 papers will be placed in a poster session. Erica noted this year a subcommittee oversaw the paper review process, which was very helpful. She would like to add a couple more people to the subcommittee. She also stated that most reviews were submitted prior to the deadline this year. She gave a special thanks to her subcommittee who assisted with the paper review process: Ivan Sanchez-Diaz, Jason Wallis, Jeff Ang-Olson and Michael Browne.

Bill asked for confirmation about the number of papers acceptable for publication and presentation. Erica noted that only 20% of submitted papers can be recommended for

publication, and 60% of the papers are eligible for presentation. Bill and Erica summarized that the implication is that a number of excellent papers cannot be accepted for publication or even presentation.

- **Resulting Sessions**
  - **“Managing Curbspace Access in an Increasingly Congested Urban Environment” (Monday)**
  - **“Emerging Modes for Last Mile Delivery in Dense Urban Areas” (Tuesday)**
- **Other Activities / Announcements**

#### **2019 TRB Annual Meeting Activities (11:40 – 12:00)**

- **Workshop (Sunday) – “Advancing Identified Urban Research Needs with a Focus on Last-Mile Delivery” (Tamiko Burnell)**

Tamiko said the workshop is coming together nicely, with three and possibly four speakers confirmed. Many of the presentations will focus on public-private partnerships. The presentations will include a St. Louis-based, rail-focused presentation (Mary Lamie, St. Louis Regional Freightway and Michael McCarthy, Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis), a New York City DOT presentation focused on cargo bikes (Diniece Mendes, NYCDOT), and Caroline Mays from Texas DOT speaking about approaches to advance last-mile delivery in urban areas.

The workshop’s organization will have the presentations above, then reports on work completed to date and then a session on generating new research statements. The workshop will take place from 9 AM to 12 PM on Sunday 1/13 in Convention Center, 147B.

- **Poster Session (Monday) – “Latest Research in Urban Freight Movement from Around the World” (Peter Plumeau and Barb Ivanov)**

Peter stated the committee has 17 posters planned for the event. Many are focused on data and modelling, while others are based on real-world case studies. About six countries are represented in the poster session. The poster session will take place on Monday 1/14 from 8:00 AM to 9:45 AM in Convention Center Hall A.
- **Urban Freight Transportation Committee Meeting (Monday) (Bill Eisele)**

Bill noted the committee meeting will take place from 1:30 PM to 3:15 PM on Monday 1/14 in Marriott Marquis, Archives (M4). The meeting will include committee member recognitions, committee business items, and two activities. One of the activities will be an update by Marygrace Parker from the I-95 Corridor Coalition about the development of the National Freight Fluidity program. The other activity will feature a presentation by the USPS focused on last-mile deliveries by Mr. Jean Philippe (JP) Ducasse. Bill asked for feedback about the committee meeting format (staying with the shorter meeting, or having more presentations in a longer meeting).
- **Co-sponsored Session (Monday) – “Urban Food Deserts: The Challenge of Providing Good Nutrition in Urban Areas” (Bill Eisele)**

Bill mentioned that the Urban Freight Committee will co-sponsor a session with the Committee on Agriculture and Food Transportation from 3:45 PM to 5:30 PM on Monday 1/14 in Convention Center, 147B.

- **Freight Day Part 3 (Tuesday) – “Making Autonomous Freight Vehicles Work in the Cities of the Future” (Barb Ivanov)**

Barb noted there will be four speakers for a session focused on autonomous freight vehicles. Featured speakers include Kroger, Nuro, Udelv, and Parkunload (a group from Spain that has an autonomous software platform). The Spanish initiative also includes variable pricing capabilities. Bill noted the session will occur on Tuesday (1/15) from 1:30 PM to 3:15 PM. Barb encouraged committee members to distribute the memo Bill previously distributed.

- **Lineup Card Forthcoming (Bill Eisele)**

Bill plans to prepare a card that shows all the various freight sessions that will occur at the TRB Meeting. It will be distributed via email and the website, and copies will be available at the annual meeting.

- **Other activities (of interest to our committee)?**

Tamiko Burnell mentioned there will be a workshop entitled, “Smart Initiatives and ITS Applications for Efficient and Sustainable Freight Mobility” hosted by the Freight Mobility Research Institute (FMRI), and she is interested in a speaker from our committee. Bill asked Tamiko to send her details, and Bill will send this along to the members and friends, who can then respond to Tamiko with interest, and Tamiko will coordinate with the organizers. The workshop will be held on Sunday 1/13 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM in Convention Center 144C.

Erica Wygonik noted there will be a Wednesday session from 10:15 AM to 12:00 PM entitled, “Delivery by Drone: Benefits, Impacts, and Regulation” focused on using drones for delivery that may be of interest to committee members. It will be held in Convention Center 145B.

#### **Other Committee Activities (12:00 – 12:20)**

- **Committee Centennial Paper (Joe Dack)**

Joe is leading the effort to develop the committee’s centennial paper that will celebrate TRB’s centennial anniversary, with assistance from various committee members. The first draft is expected to be completed by the end of CY 2018. Committee members should provide comments by the first half of February.

- **Problem Statements Submitted & Process (John Tompkins)**

John discussed the 2020 NCHRP proposals. Two problem statements were ultimately submitted on behalf of the committee:

- *“Engaging the ‘Right’ Players to Expand the Playbook of Workable Urban Freight Solutions”* (statement development led by Allison L.C. de Cerreno of the TRB Strategic Management Committee)
- *“Guidebook on Integrating Freight Movement into 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communities Land Use, Design and Transportation Systems”* (statement development led by committee member Peter Plumeau)

The statements were also supported by Tennessee DOT, Texas DOT and Minnesota DOT.

The next step is to wait and hear how these statements are ranked by the AASHTO Special Committee on Research and Innovation. Statements accepted for the RFP process are typically announced in the spring.

A third area of freight data was identified, and the committee will work closely with Alison Conway (Chair of the Freight Data Committee) to develop that statement for the call next year.

Bill thanked the committee members, friends and leaders of these statement initiatives for assisting to put the “R” in TRB! He was complimentary of the fact that we have 2 very good statements with some strong initial state DOT support.

- **Blue Ribbon Honorable Mention Award (Bill Eisele)**  
Bill mentioned the committee received an Honorable Mention Award in the Leadership area, and it will be recognized at the annual meeting. He thanked Akiko Yamagami, Alison Conway and Tom O’Brien for their assistance in developing the application, and he thanked Anne Goodchild (Freight Group Chair) for endorsing and submitting our application. Bill thanked all the members and friends for their contributions in making our committee a model for Leadership!
- **Resources Document Update (Miguel Jaller)**  
Miguel mentioned the document is being updated, and the plan is that the document will be available at the TRB Meeting for initial review and comment.
- **Upcoming Recorded TRB Webinar – “New Evidence-Based Methods for Cities to Actively Manage the Final 50 Feet of the Urban Goods System to Gain Productivity” (Barb Ivanov)**  
Barb discussed an upcoming, recorded TRB webinar that will focus on the last 50 feet of the supply chain deliveries. It will likely be recorded in February 2019 and made available by TRB.

#### **Communications Subcommittee Update (Fatemeh Ranaiefar) (12:20 – 12:35)**

Fatemeh did not have an update, and Bill requested members to keep an eye on the website, which will be updated in advance of the upcoming annual meeting. Bill turned things over to Mike to discuss the video.

- **Video Update (Mike Ruane)**  
Mike noted the video project has been dormant in recent months due to professional changes in Mike’s career. Mike also mentioned the impending retirement of Ted Dahulburg (former chair of this committee). He stated the video will be targeted towards city and municipal officials to help them better understand urban freight movements. Various narratives are being developed, and the video will be divided into three focus areas, including an overview of urban freight needs, curb management, and a call to action. The plan is to storyboard 1-2 modules for the focus areas. Mike asked if anyone knows professionals who can provide technical support. Bill said he might be able to get support from TTI. Bill noted the committee needs to think about if this is something the committee still wants to support. Mike and Bill agreed to have an off-line discussion about next steps and soliciting leadership interest from others who are involved in the project.
- **Website Updates**
- **Other Activities**

#### **Future Meetings and Other Business (Bill Eisele) (12:35 – 12:45)**

- **Monday, January 14, 2019 from 1:30 pm – 3:15 pm Eastern Time (at TRB)**
- **Summer 2019 Mid-Year Meeting Location**
- **TRB Monday Evening Dinner**
- **Critical Issues in Transportation (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/178402.aspx>)**
- **Other Business?**

Bill noted that based on overwhelming committee feedback, the 2019 Mid-Year Meeting will take place at the Beckman Center in Irvine, CA in association with the “Innovations in Freight Data Workshop” being held April 9-10. The committee meeting would most likely take place on the day before the workshop (Monday, April 8).

Bill mentioned the committee will hold a Monday evening dinner during the TRB Meeting, similar to past years. The dinner will be held at the Old Ebbitt Grill at 6 pm. RSVP is required (contact Bill). Bill thanked committee member Gaby Giron for leading up the efforts for our reservation.

Bill briefly discussed the Critical Issues in Transportation document. He noted the document is organized around 12 topical areas, one of which is specifically goods movement, and all of which are related to the activities of the Urban Freight Transportation committee in some way. The document is available here: <http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/178402.aspx>, and Bill encouraged everyone to review the issues identified in this document in advance of the annual meeting. Bill noted that this document will be particularly helpful in informing the committee’s Sunday morning workshop on research needs.

**“1-minute” Announcements (All) (12:45 – 1:00)**

- **3<sup>rd</sup> VREF Conference on Urban Freight, October 17-19, 2018, Gothenburg, Sweden (Recap)**
- **8<sup>th</sup> METRANS International Urban Freight Conference, Oct 16-18, 2019, Long Beach, CA**
- **TRB Century Club Membership**
- **TRB Annual Meeting – January 13-17, 2019 – Review the interactive program!**
- **Other**

Mike Browne provided a brief review of the VREF conference. About 200 people from 28 countries were represented. The presentations from the second and third days and the abstracts from the first day were placed on the VREF website (<http://www.vref.se/urbanfreight.4.75d335e1145f6aef2e3c9f8d.html>). Attendees and speakers Bill Eisele and Barb Ivanov commended Mike on organizing a great conference.

Tom O’Brien provided information about the 8<sup>th</sup> METRANS International Urban Freight Conference, which will occur in October 16-18, 2019 in Long Beach, California.

Bill gave some brief comments about the TRB Century Club Membership, which is being developed in response to TRB’s 100 year anniversary. More information is available here: <http://www.trb.org/Centennial/CenturyClub.aspx>. He also encouraged members to view the TRB Annual Meeting interactive program. Brittany added the TRB Meeting mobile app will also be launching soon.

Peter Plumeau (EDRG) mentioned that he recently completed a new report for the FHWA Office of Economics on transportation’s role in firm site selection decisions. The report is available here: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/economic\\_development/site\\_selection/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/economic_development/site_selection/).

*Questions? Want to be more involved? Contact us!*

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## AT025 TRB Urban Freight Transportation Team

(**Bold** indicates 2018 new team members)

(**Red** indicates – attended the call)

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