



TRB Urban Freight Transportation Committee (AT025) Meeting

Monday, January 14, 2019

1:30 pm – 3:15 pm (Eastern Time)

Marriott Marquis, Archives (M4)

Washington, D.C.

(Sorry, no dial-in option available)

Welcome, Introductions, Committee Overview and Agenda Review (Bill Eisele) (1:30-1:40)

Bill welcomed everyone to the committee meeting. He said two sets of attendee sheets would be passed around; he asked everyone to sign in. He also noted the lineup cards showing all of the Urban Freight Committee-sponsored sessions. Bill added that the Triennial Strategic Plan (TSP) can be found on the committee's website and serves as a guiding document for committee activities. Finally, he asked the attendees to introduce themselves. There were approximately 90-100 people in the meeting.

Bill briefly reviewed the agenda. He noted the committee is part of the Freight Systems Group in TRB, and noted the committee's scope. Various topic areas were identified and are included within the purview of the committee's activities. Bill showed some photos illustrating typical urban freight issues, and noted the challenges associated with those issues. He mentioned the committee's membership, including the committee's leadership. He noted the committee has many international members and a wide array of professional experience. Bill thanked all of the committee members for their efforts.

Bill briefly discussed the committee's funded research. Three (3) NCHRP projects were funded in FY 2017, NCFRP 49 (Understanding and Using New Data Sources to Address Urban and Metropolitan Freight Challenges – going through the publication review process), NCHRP 08-106 (Metropolitan Freight Transportation: Implementing Effective Strategies – published as NCHRP Report 897), and NCHRP 15-62 (Design and Access Management Guidelines for Truck Routes – ongoing). Bill reviewed some of the key dates for the committee in 2019; most of the dates related to upcoming meetings and research review efforts. He also highlighted the committee's website for the attendees.

TRB Staff Report (Scott Babcock) (1:40-1:50 minutes)

Deb Miller, the incoming Freight Systems Group chair (replacing Anne Goodchild), introduced herself and commended the committee for some of their efforts, including the 2019 annual meeting session lineup cards and committee member name tents. She mentioned she is on the committee recognizing TRB's 100th anniversary in 2021. Costs for the celebration are being funded through fundraising, and she encouraged attendees to become TRB Century Club members (more information is available here: <http://www.trb.org/Centennial/CenturyClub.aspx>).

Scott Babcock (TRB Program Officer) mentioned Deb's experience as the Kansas DOT Secretary and Surface Transportation Board member and highlighted how lucky the freight group is to have her leadership. He then provided an overview of TRB's current overall activities. Scott mentioned the automated vehicles being featured in the exhibit hall. He also mentioned that TRB has added a professional head shot photo booth. The

posters have been moved to Hall A, which is in the basement of the exhibit hall. Scott mentioned the 99th meeting will be held in early January 2020. He thanked the committee members and attendees for coming to the meeting.

Research Subcommittee Update (Erica Wygonik) (1:50-2:00)

Paper review process

Erica Wygonik, Committee Research Coordinator (CRC), mentioned the committee had a strong response for paper reviews this year. She discussed that a subcommittee was created to review the papers. A total of 41 papers were submitted for review. Erica provided a brief overview of the paper review process. She noted the papers are reviewed over a roughly one month process, after they are submitted and sorted by the appropriate freight committee.

Recognitions (Linsey Callaghan, Erica Wygonik and Bill Eisele) (2:00-2:10)

Erica then identified the outstanding papers that were submitted and reviewed. One paper was the *Demystifying Urban Curbside Freight Management: A Strategic Incremental Approach for Washington, DC*. Most of the paper's authors were in attendance at the meeting and were formally recognized with a "Best Applied Paper" certificate. The paper was co-authored by Soumya Dey, Benito Omar Perez, Laura Richards, Stephanie Dock, Alek Pochowski, Meredyth Sanders, Matthew Dars, and Eduardo Cardenas Sanchez.

A second paper, *Travel Time Differences Between Cargo Cycles and Cars in Commercial Transport*, received the committee's "Best Research Paper" Award, and the primary author (Johannes Gruber) was in attendance and recognized. Unfortunately, his co-author Santhanakrishnan Narayana was not able to attend the meeting.

Finally, Erica thanked everyone who was on the paper review subcommittee; there were four members on the subcommittee, and they were formally recognized during the meeting and given a certificate of recognition for their great work and valuable contributions to the committee. This included Jeff Ang-Olson, Ivan Sanchez-Diaz, Jason Wallis and Michael Browne. Bill commended Erica for her efforts as the committee CRC and research paper coordinator.

Before Bill could move on to the next part of the meeting, Peter Plumeau stopped Bill and announced that Freight Group chair Anne Goodchild and TRB Staff Officer Scott Babcock wanted to present Bill with an Outstanding Leadership Certificate of Appreciation for his committee leadership. Because Anne and Scott were not at the meeting, Peter presented the certificate to Bill.

TRB Annual Meeting – AT025 Sessions/Activities (Bill Eisele) (2:10-2:15)

2019 Theme: *Transportation for a Smart, Sustainable, and Equitable Future* - See Line-up Card!

Based on the lineup card, Bill reviewed the various urban freight sessions still coming up during the meeting. He mentioned a Barb Ivanov-led session on autonomous vehicles (Freight Day Session #3). He also briefly reviewed the other sessions.

(Old) Business – Summary of Dec 7, 2018 Business Meeting & Other Highlights (Bill Eisele) (2:15-2:25)

- See meeting minutes available on website (<http://urbanfreight.tti.tamu.edu>)
- Problem statements submitted
- Partner conferences (International Urban Freight Conference, October 16-18, 2019)
- Mid-year meeting location – April 2019 (Innovations in Freight Data Workshop)
- Committee Centennial Paper & TRB Century Club Membership
- TRB Critical Issues in Transportation (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/178402.aspx>)
- Blue Ribbon Honorable Mention Award

Bill mentioned the two problem statements that were submitted by the committee into the NCHRP process in mid-October. The statements were as follows:

- *“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 21st Century Communities Land Use, Design and Transportation Systems”* (statement development led by committee member Peter Plumeau)

Bill noted that AASHTO will rank the statements in the mid-March timeframe.

Alison Conway then discussed the Innovations in Freight Data Workshop in Irvine, CA (April 9-10) and that the AASHTO Special Committee on Freight will also be meeting during the workshop (April 8). This will be the second such workshop; the first was held in 2017. She added that the Urban Freight Committee will hold its “mid-year meeting” the day before the workshop begins (April 8), and that there will be coordination opportunities between AASHTO and TRB attendees.

Gen Guliano talked then discussed the 2019 International Urban Freight Conference (I-NUF Conference) that will be held October 16-18 in Long Beach, CA. The call for papers has already been released. Special sessions will be held during the conference, and student activities will also be held.

Michael Browne briefly reviewed the VREF (Volvo Research and Education Foundation) Conference on Urban Freight 2018 held in Gothenburg, Sweden in October 2018. Michael discussed that attendance was good for the conference, that many members of the committee attended the conference and that it was overall a very good conference. Barb Ivanov made a point to express to Michael how well run the conference was, and that it was an excellent conference.

Bill briefly echoed Scott Babcock’s and Deb Miller’s prior remarks encouraging Century Club Membership, and he encouraged everyone to review the TRB Critical Issues in Transportation.

Finally, Bill mentioned that he attended the Sunday TAC/Section Chairs Lunch to receive the Committee’s Blue Ribbon Award (Honorable Mention) in the Category of Leadership (Contributing to Improving the Management and Operation of TRB Committees) for “engaging a passionate global membership and disseminating urban freight innovation to stakeholders.” Bill complemented the great work of the members and friends of the committee for their efforts, which were recognized by the Blue Ribbon Award selection committee.

Bill then moved into the planned presentations from guests.

National Freight Fluidity Monitoring Program Implementation (2:25-2:40)

Ms. Marygrace Parker, Director, Freight and Innovation in Transportation, I-95 Corridor Coalition

Marygrace mentioned she and Chandra Bondzie with the FHWA Freight Office are leading the national freight fluidity monitoring program initiative. Marygrace reviewed the initiative, mentioning the following items:

- *What are we measuring?
- *How much are we measuring?
- *How are index supply chains being chosen?

*How is data being collected?

*What are the outputs?

The goal is to create a database and visualization tool to track cost, reliability, and travel time for multimodal freight movements. Data sources include leading U.S. company supply chains, NPMRDS, Chainalytics data, STB Waybill Data/FRA data, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Joe Bryan discussed the software platform tools, Tableau and FHWA HEPGIS, both of which are existing FHWA freight management platforms. The software platforms meet key criteria, including processing large data sets, accessibility to internal and external users, and ability to restrict data access when necessary. Joe illustrated outputs from Tableau, using a Midwest grocery chain as an example. The GIS output can show a planning time index and cost index. Joe mentioned that the real value is the opportunity to identify the performance (and bottlenecks) which can occur in metropolitan areas. The tool will be able to connect the commodity flows and system performance to each other. The focus will be on travel time, travel time reliability, and cost.

Marygrace mentioned the status and next steps, including two planned pilot workshops in New York and Chicago.

Chip Millard asked if the effort will examine seasonality as part of the research. Marygrace said it will not, but that it could be done as part of the follow-up. The goal of the study is to get a baseline for an entire year that gives everyone an idea of the "baseline" conditions. She added the real key is to make sure the project benefits private-sector companies to improve conditions, so they can improve their supply chains.

The slides used by Marygrace and Joe will be made available on the committee website.

United States (US) – European Commission (EC) Urban Freight Twinning Initiative (2:40-3:05)

Ms. Tamiko Burnell, Transportation Specialist, FHWA Office of Freight Management and Operations

Tamiko provided an overview of the US-EC Urban Freight Twinning Initiative. The goal for twinning is to share information. She mentioned some of the initiatives that have occurred in recent years, which have included 12 peer exchanges around the world involving 200 different participants representing 15 different countries. Tamiko noted the effort has helped positively benefit the Smart Cities and Megaregions effort. She added that urban freight research topics have been identified through the twinning initiative.

Through the twinning initiative, Thursday TRB roundtables have been held the last four years, including this year. The group also participated in I-NUF, CIVITAS, an Urban Freight Peer Exchange in Baltimore, and site visits to EC project sites. An Urban Freight Compendium has been created to make sure the research projects are not lost; a 2017 compendium was created and a 2018-2019 compendium is in the process of being created – both as a result of the Sunday workshops whose primary sponsor is the TRB Urban Freight Committee. The Urban Freight Peer Exchange in Baltimore was a 2-day event that included an on-site visit for attendees. It also included an information exchange, and EPA and Department of Energy became more involved in the broader effort. AASHTO will also become more involved in the initiative. Various publications have been created, including a Primer for Improved Urban Freight Mobility and Delivery and a Public Roads article focused on urban delivery. Three international webinars have been created as a result of the twinning initiative.

Tamiko briefly reviewed the results of the Sunday workshop. Despite the partial government shutdown and poor weather, 42 people attended. A total of roughly 60 research ideas were identified. Many of the ideas were focused on data. A draft version of the research statements identified in the workshop will be sent to the committee members, to make sure the ideas were properly identified and to allow new ideas missed during the workshop to be identified.

The slides used by Tamiko will be made available on the committee website.

“30-second” Announcements (adjourn by 3:15 pm) (3:05-3:10)

Bill mentioned the committee is developing a Centennial Paper as part of TRB’s centennial celebration, and he ask members to contact Joe Dack if they are interested in participating. Erica Wygonik encouraged everyone to attend the Wednesday session she would be chairing related to drone deliveries. Alison Conway mentioned the Freight Data Committee meeting, and there will be a focus on data related to e-commerce. Other committee members also discussed some of their upcoming meetings and initiatives. Bill encouraged everyone in attendance who isn't a friend of the member to go to mytrb.org, create an account and log in to become a friend of the committee.

Group Photo (3:10-3:15)

The TRB photographer attended the meeting and took several photos of the committee meeting and membership after the meeting.

Questions? Want to get more involved? Contact us!

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AT025 TRB Urban Freight Transportation Team

(**Bold** indicates new team members as of April 15, 2018)

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