



**TRB Urban Freight Transportation Committee (AT025) Mid-year Meeting**

Monday, April 8, 2019

10:30 – 12:30 pm (Pacific Time)

Conference Call: 1-866-528-2256 / Access Code: 1716247

Beckman Conference Center

Irvine, California

Balboa Room

**ATTENDANCE**

There were 46 persons in the room and probably about 20 more persons on the telephone. Nineteen (19) members attended either on the telephone or in person (see page 5). The last page includes the in-person sign-in sheet.

**AGENDA**

**Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review (Bill Eisele) (10:30 – 10:45)**

Bill Eisele welcomed everyone to the Urban Freight Transportation mid-year meeting. He provided an overview of the meeting agenda and planned discussion. He then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**TRB Staff Report (Scott Babcock) (10:45 – 10:55)**

Scott Babcock provided an update about TRB activities. He said there was a 3% decline in attendance, due to the government shutdown and the Sunday snowstorm. Revenues were probably similar to previous meetings, due to most of the non-attendees working for TRB sponsor agencies. Workshop proposals are due June 15<sup>th</sup>, and session proposals are due October 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated the committee's contribution to the Centennial Paper was very good. Bill noted he previously distributed the paper to the committee and its friends, and he thanked Joe Dack for leading the development of the paper and for the contributions of all the authors and committee members and friends.

**Special Guest – Ms. Avital Barnea, Program Manager for Freight, AASHTO (10:55 – 11:15)**

- **Update from AASHTO**
- **Future Collaboration Opportunities**

Bill stated he was pleased to have Avital Barnea at the meeting, and that the committee has an opportunity to strengthen its relationship with AASHTO. Avital then introduced herself, and thanked the committee for being invited to the meeting. She then provided a brief overview of AASHTO's organizational structure and goals. She noted historically AASHTO has been highway-focused, but has become more multimodally focused. Avital mentioned she's looking at freight from a policy perspective, across all modes. AASHTO also has incorporated freight into some of its other committees and initiatives. The organization has created steering committees for the different freight modes to better address freight needs in its member states.

Avital reviewed AASHTO's six freight group's goals. Those goals include supporting freight policy development, freight planning, emerging technologies, freight mobility, community and environmental goals, and regulatory policies and funding opportunities. AASHTO is conducting a scan of missing gaps of educational opportunities via webinars. The organization is also examining truck parking, improving environmental sustainability, and supporting freight-friendly policy recommendations. Its policy recommendations have been developed in a series of 16 white papers. Avital noted AASHTO supports TRB's and FHWA's research statements, and would like to develop its own statements in the future. AASHTO also advocates for the renewal of the NCFRP program. Tamiko Burnell asked if freight has its own AASHTO website; Avital responded it does. Eric Shen noted one of the AASHTO's regions is very large from a marine freight perspective, and asked if there was a way to make sure that region (western region) can appropriately address marine freight needs in AASHTO. Avital said that can be done.

Bill asked how the AASHTO freight committee fits within AASHTO's organization, especially relative to other groups that have some focus overlap. Avital said coordination should take place with both her and Matt Hardy, her counterpart at AASHTO for the Planning Committee. Bill added the Urban Freight Committee should examine its work, and see where it fits and provides coordination opportunities with the AASHTO freight committee and other relevant AASHTO committees. Avital noted AASHTO is examining its committee structure to determine who else could be friends of their committees. Bill said we (Urban Freight Committee and TRB freight committees in general) need to better coordinate with AASHTO, and better tell the freight story. Tamiko mentioned the Urban Freight Committee has probably done a better job than most other TRB committees in terms of identifying research needs and international coordination. Bill noted that the NCFRP provides a greater opportunity to focus on freight research needs and not have those needs possibly sidetracked by non-freight needs. The TRB Urban Freight Committee thanked Avital for her presentation.

**Problem Statement Development & Submittal Process (Bill Eisele and John Tompkins) (11:15 – 11:45)**

- **FHWA Workshop Feedback and Ideas (Tamiko Burnell)**
- **Identify (Prioritize) Statement(s) for Submittal (prioritization via survey)**
- **Identify Statement(s) Team(s) and Team Lead(s)**

Bill noted the committee has a prioritization process in place, and can use that to evaluate the problem statements.

Tamiko Burnell reviewed the workshop format and feedback, and described some of the general needs, in particular coordinating with private freight carriers and shippers, identified in the workshop. She also noted the international coordination that has taken place as part of the workshop development. She stated some of the primary focus areas identified included addressing urban freight congestion and conflicts with other modes (especially non-motorized transportation), data sharing, long-range freight plans and planning coordination between states and regions, incentivizing freight trip consolidation, integrating technology in freight transportation, building strong data sets, and impact of customer needs on technology development. With all of the identified needs, one of the key needs is identifying what work has been done and how to make that completed work more transparent.

Tamiko stated the focus this year for FHWA will be to make freight more multimodal, and how to implement different strategies. Various questions will be asked to determine what strategies were implemented and why they were implemented. Bill noted Tamiko's work helps identify what the big, overarching problems are. He also stated the NCHRP 20-114 report discusses the research roadmap.

Regarding the identification of future research needs for NCHRP pursuit, Bill suggested:

1. Wait to hear what projects are funded by AASHTO (because we supported 2 ideas last year)
2. Obtain the final draft of the Sunday workshop when it is completed in the near future
3. Review NCHRP 20-114 research topic areas related to urban freight
4. After 1-3 are available, poll the committee via survey for 1-2 ideas to develop as full statements for NCHRP.

#### **Research Subcommittee Update (Erica Wygonik) (11:45 – 11:55)**

- **Call for Papers**
- **Other Activities**

Erica Wygonik provided an update of the research subcommittee activities. She noted the committee will announce a call for papers in the fairly near future, and asked the committee for editor volunteers. She also stated the review team did a very good job this past year in the lead up to the 2019 TRB Annual Meeting, and asked for more volunteer members. Erica mentioned the lift is not as big as it was a couple years ago due to an increase in subcommittee members. The deadline for paper submissions is August 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **2020 TRB Annual Meeting Plans (11:55 – 12:05)**

##### ***Century of Progress: Foundation for the Future***

- **Session Planning and Process (Barb Ivanov and Peter Plumeau)**
- **Workshop(s) (Tamiko Burnell)**
- **Committee Meeting (Bill Eisele)**
- **Freight Day Session Planning**

Bill discussed the focus of the 2020 TRB Meeting theme, which will be titled “Century of Progress: Foundation for the Future”. He noted Peter Plumeau and Barb Ivanov generally lead the session development. In 2019, there were so many good papers that two best-paper sessions were created. Gabby Giron will take over as a co-lead for the session planning, working with Barb. Barb then asked if any details have been developed for Freight Day. Bill replied he has a little bit of insight; the theme will be “Looking for Solutions to Persistent Challenges in Freight”. The solutions should include coordination with private, supply chain sector stakeholders, and provide support to practitioners. The call for Freight Day session proposals will be April 15<sup>th</sup>, with a closing date of May 24<sup>th</sup>. Bill also noted the freight committee chairs are looking for sponsors/coordinators to lead and organize the Freight Day sessions logistics. Alison Conway stated she thought it would be a good idea to focus on multimodal needs. Fatemeh Ranaiefar expressed her interest in being considered as a Freight Day 2020 co-chair. Bill thanked Fatemeh and indicated that he would let the Freight Group leadership know of her interest.

With the committee meeting, we will have the shorter time block (1 hour 45 minutes) again during the 2020 TRB meeting. A business meeting call will be held in December. The focus of the in-person meeting will be a non-committee member speaker; Bill may reach out to the U.S. Postal Service speaker originally planned to present at the 2019 meeting.

With the workshop, the focus will likely be on urban or suburban freight. Tamiko anticipates suburban freight will be a more difficult lift because the needs are in some ways more complex and varied. She added the plan is to train the facilitators in advance. Bill said the Sunday morning time slot seems to work for the committee. Scott Babcock said suburban freight was a good topic, but had concerns about focusing on the topic at the workshop. Matt Roorda (committee member and chair of the Freight Transportation Planning and Logistics committee) expressed interest in working on a session for Sunday

afternoon in association with the Urban Freight Committee. Bill suggested that such an arrangement could be created to have a theme throughout the day and for the workshops to tie to each other.

#### **Communications Subcommittee Update (Fatemeh Ranaiefar) (12:05 – 12:10)**

Fatemah Ranaiefar mentioned the committee's website is on the TTI website. There are various sections on the website, including a committee members section. Bill also encouraged attendees to become a friend of the committee, if they aren't already friends.

Bill noted the committee has started putting together a video, led by Mike Ruane, but he's swamped for time right now. Bill asked for volunteers to keep the effort going. Tom Murtha expressed interest in assisting. Bill thanked Tom and agreed to set up a call between Mike, Tom and Bill.

#### **Future Meetings and Other Business (Bill Eisele) (12:10 – 12:15)**

- **Friday, September 6, 2019 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Eastern Time (Conference Call)**
- **Friday, December 6, 2019 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Eastern Time (Conference Call)**
- **Resources Document Update (Miguel Jaller)**
- **Other Business?**

Bill stated the committee probably does not need a summer call; it can hold meetings in September and December. He added Miguel Jaller is in the process of updating the resources document; that hasn't been updated for many years. Tom O'Brien then discussed the METRANS/I-NUF Conference, which will be held from October 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. The conference will be held in conjunction with smart transportation efforts, which will be held earlier the same week. Abstracts for the meeting presentations are due May 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **"1-Minute" Announcements (All) (12:15 – 12:30)**

A paper on drone movements is in the process of being developed.

A couple of TRB research papers, one on vehicle size and weight, one on freight resiliency, are currently planned.

Alison Conway noted she is presenting at a Vision Zero conference, and that there is a lot of interest in freight-related safety issues among bicycle/pedestrian stakeholders.

Joe Bryan mentioned the IMO fuel mandate will take effect in 2020, and everyone should keep an eye on the impacts. He noted many ocean carriers will likely switch from bunker fuel to much lower emissions but higher cost diesel fuel. There are also concerns about diesel price spikes. (More information can be found in the following link:

<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Sulphur-2020.aspx>)

Tamiko noted the FHWA off-hours delivery primer will probably be completed by summer 2019.

Robyn Bancroft noted the Ohio Conference on Freight will be held in August in Cleveland. Bill said he thought the Ohio conference is a great regional freight conference and encouraged attendance. Others agreed.

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

Bill Eisele, Chair, [bill-eisele@tamu.edu](mailto:bill-eisele@tamu.edu), 979-317-2461; <https://urbanfreight.tti.tamu.edu/>

## AT025 TRB Urban Freight Transportation Team

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

Those who attended the meeting (in person or on the call) are shown in **yellow**.

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*TRB's Urban Freight Transportation Committee (AT025) is concerned with the study and research of urban freight transportation topics and issues, including urban transportation system demand and economic relationships, right-of-way issues, pick-up and delivery needs, terminal transportation needs, institutional challenges, and new technology, with an emphasis on providing support to practitioners.*

Attendees (in the room)

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