



### **TRB Urban Freight Transportation Committee (AT025) Meeting**

Monday, January 13, 2020

1:30 pm – 3:15 pm (Eastern Time)

Marriott Marquis, Chinatown (M3)

Washington, D.C.

(Sorry, no dial-in option available)

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

Bill asked attendees to introduce themselves. He also provided an overview of what will be discussed during the meeting.

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

Scott mentioned this is TRB's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year; the organization was founded in November 1920. He noted a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary book has been published, and is free to all full meeting attendees. The book is available in the exhibit hall, which will be open through 4 PM on Tuesday. As part of the volunteer structure reorganization, the total number of committees will be reduced from 212 to 175. He discussed some of the committee changes. Scott explained the TRB's trade journal, and said attendees can receive a free 30 day trial for the journal.

Bill then provided an overview of the committee officer membership and activities. He thanked those members for their leadership. He also mentioned a recently announced RFP from NCHRP based on a problem statement that came from the Urban Freight Committee, which was led by Peter Plumeau. Bill noted that 3 research statements were submitted in the FY2017 time frame have been recently completed as projects, including:

- NCFRP49 - Understanding and Using New Data Sources to Address Urban and Metropolitan Freight Challenges <http://www.trb.org/main/blurbs/179169.aspx>
- NCHRP 08-106 - Tools to Facilitate Implementation of Effective Metropolitan Freight Transportation Strategies <http://www.trb.org/NCHRP/Blurbs/178544.aspx>
- NCHRP 15-62 – Design and Access Management Guidelines for Truck Routes (in the publication process) (<https://apps.trb.org/cmsfeed/TRBNetProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=4047>)

Including the recent RFP, the committee has been involved with the development of approximately \$2 Million in research projects in the last few years.

Bill discussed key dates for the committee that will occur in 2020. Many of the dates relate to paper reviews, mid-year meetings for the committee, and preparation for the 2021 TRB Meeting.

Rick Bornhorst, incoming Freight Group Chair, explained his role for the TRB Urban Freight Committee. He also discussed how the committees are intended to interact with each other moving forward.

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

- Paper review process

Erica discussed the paper review process. The papers are received by August 1<sup>st</sup>, and distributed by the committee in mid-August. Committee members typically have about one month to review the assigned paper(s). She emphasized the importance of getting the reviews done and indicating whether or not a possible

reviewer can review a paper. Erica mentioned the review process changed this year, and focuses on whether a paper is worthy of being presented at the TRB Annual Meeting and/or publication. Qualitative comments have become even more important with the new method of paper reviews. Alison Conway provided some additional details about the paper review process; she stated a second round of reviews may occur. Erica indicated 50 papers were submitted in mid-2019 for the 2020 TRB Meeting, which is a new “high-water mark” for the committee. Due to the high number of papers, she said she’s looking for one more person to serve on the paper review committee.

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

Linsey announced the various Urban Freight Committee awards. The best paper award was given to Michele Simoni, Christian Claudel, and Erhan Kutanoglu for Robot Assisted Last Mile Delivery Systems. The other best paper focused on the Evaluation of the Potential Impact of Off-Hour Deliveries and was written by Irbahim Savadogo and Adrien Beziat. An award was also given for contributions to the 2020 Blue Ribbon Award Packet (6 individuals – Tamiko Burnell, Alison Conway, Bill Eisele, DJ Mason, Tom O’Brien, and Akiko Yamagami) and an award was given to the contributions to the successful identification and submittal of NCHRP problem statements (5 individuals – John Tompkins, Seckin Ozkul, Arturo Bujanda, Alireza Ermagun and Alison Conway).

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

- **2020 Theme: *A Century of Progress: Foundation for the Future***
- **See Line-up Card!**

Bill discussed the best paper sessions and poster sessions. He mentioned the Tuesday of the TRB Meeting is always designated as Freight Day, and added the committee is sponsoring two sessions featuring FHWA presentations on Wednesday morning. A couple additional sessions on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning are also sponsored by the committee. Bill referenced the line-up card, which included all the sessions and activities. Bill also noted contact information for all committee members is on the back of the agenda.

### **(Old) Business – Summary of Dec 6, 2019 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 (VREF Conference on Urban Freight 2020, October 2020, Gothenburg, Sweden)**
- **Committee Centennial Paper & TRB Century Club Membership**
- **TRB Critical Issues in Transportation (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/178402.aspx>)**
- **TRB TAC 2020 Blue Ribbon Award (Research)**
- **Rotation in April 2021**
- **Mid-year meeting**
- **Triennial Strategic Plan**
- **Resource Document**

Bill mentioned the committee had a meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The meeting minutes are on the committee’s website. He provided some highlights from the meeting. Mike Browne briefly discussed the 2020 VREF Conference, and he encouraged everyone to attend or support the meeting if possible. Bill noted the VREF Conference (even numbered years) and I-NUF Conference (odd numbered years) alternate every year, and tie closely to urban freight.

Bill stated the committee recently completed its committee centennial paper. He also briefly overviewed the TRB critical issues in transportation, mentioning goods movement was one of the 12 critical topics. Bill stated the Urban Freight Committee won the 2020 Blue Ribbon Award on the topic of research, which is one of four Blue Ribbon Award topics. He added the committee won an honorable mention award in 2019 in the leadership category. Bill noted how the committee tries to engage and involve young members. He also reviewed the Committee’s Research Needs Development Process, which was displayed in a graphical flow chart. Tamiko Burnell noted the need to better identify what research areas need to be addressed in urban freight transportation.

Bill said a committee rotation will be coming up in April 2021. He stated Akiko Yamagami will conduct a survey of the friends of the committee to determine who wants to join the committee.

Bill mentioned Freight Day planning is already starting for the 2021 TRB Annual Meeting. Fatemah Ranaiefar will be the chair for 2021 Freight Day.

Bill discussed the Committee mid-year meeting options. He said his initial thought is to hold the meeting in June. He also said there are four options, two of them particularly possible. The two most viable options would 1) tie to the Marine Group's Marine Technology Conference in June, or 2) tie the Commodity Flow Survey Workshop in April; Miguel Jaller provided some details about the CFS Workshop. Caroline Kieltyka also stated AASHTO's Joint Policy Conference in late September and early October is also a possibility. The committee members discussed the options; various attendees provided feedback. No decision was made. Bill stated a new Triennial Strategic Plan needs to be developed. He stated he thought the committee was in good shape in terms of developing the new TSP, and he plans to circulate a draft for comment in mid-March.

### ***AASHTO Update (2:25-2:35)***

#### **Ms. Caroline Kieltyka, Program Manager for Freight, AASHTO**

Caroline provided an AASHTO update. She briefly discussed AASHTO's organizational approach and goals. She stated freight is part of the Transportation Policy Forum, but also interacts with other AASHTO groups. Freight has three specific groups – Special Committee on Freight; Committee on Planning, Freight Planning Task Force; and the Working Group on Freight Operations. The Special Committee includes various modal groups. The Special Committee has six specific goals. Caroline provided some background on the NCHRP Program and how it relates to AASHTO; the research needs to be of importance to state DOTs, and also of national importance. The research proposals can only be submitted by a state DOT, AASHTO Councils and Committees, and FHWA, and they need to be approved by the AASHTO Board of Directors, with NAS and FHWA also approving.

Caroline discussed some of AASHTO's other activities. They include Surface Transportation Reauthorization, MPO outreach, webinar series development, truck parking, economic impacts of freight system improvements, and the National Freight Strategic Plan. She also mentioned the 2020 Joint Policy Conference, which will take place from September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup> in New Brunswick, NJ.

### ***Last Mile Challenges – The USPS OIG Perspective (~15-min presentation / ~20-min discussion) (2:35-3:10)***

#### **Mr. Jean Philippe (JP) Ducasse, Specialist, Office of Analytics and Research, USPS Office of Inspector General**

JP Ducasse discussed some of the assets and vulnerabilities of the USPS network. The USPS has limited investment resources, high and fixed labor costs, and is legally prohibited from offering non-postal services. The agency is facing growing competition in the last mile for package delivery.

The USPS OIG has developed many white papers examining last mile deliveries. According to the research, more people like the idea of autonomous mobile robots for delivery than dislike it. Also, same-day delivery is not likely to become common for most deliveries; many customers like free, next-day deliveries and in-store pickups. Most people are not willing to pay more for same day delivery; over 40% of the population is not willing to buy for same day delivery regardless of the cost. The USPS believes it needs to focus on strengthening its next-day delivery services.

In terms of environmental impact, a majority of the population has at least some concern about the environmental impact of deliveries; concern is greatest among millennials and urban residents. The top concern areas are packaging waste and air pollution. Many people want the USPS and other companies to devise solutions that cut packaging waste. The means to achieve this could involve government policies, packaging, last mile initiatives, and carbon dioxide compensation programs. Some of the last mile initiatives

involve sharing facilities with shippers, micro-hubs, and same day pickups and deliveries along fixed routes. Many people also support cheaper, slower, and more environmentally friendly delivery processes.

USPS has also found in its research that some people have interest in the social aspects of postal deliveries (qualitative value added).

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

Tamiko reiterated everyone should provide comments about the National Freight Strategic Plan. She also mentioned attendees are welcome to submit topics for the Talking Freight webinars. Joe Bryan stated the Wednesday morning FHWA session will include a presentation on freight fluidity. Fatemah Raniefar discussed the Freight Day highlighted sessions.

**Group Photo (Members) (3:15-3:18)**

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

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

## AT025 TRB Urban Freight Transportation Team

**Yellow** = in attendance for the meeting

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**Approximately 80-85 total attendees; 25 full members.**