TRB Urban Freight Transportation Committee (AT025) Meeting

Friday, December 4, 2020

11:00 am – 1:00 am (Eastern Time)

WebEx Call: see calendar item for WebEx Link to Join (Or Dial 855-282-6330 [US]; Access Code: 145 667 0197)

(Please note that the WebEx Link in the calendar item includes Global call-in numbers, if needed)

Welcome, Member Roll-call, and Agenda Review (Bill Eisele) (11:00-11:10)

TRB Staff Report (Scott Babcock) (11:10-11:25 minutes)

Working on zoom meetings, will have direct links in system, only available 48 hours before start, don't share via email, can link people to online program, tell what meeting to look for, don't email zoom link for security to avoid zoom bombing.

Doing prerecording for all lectern sessions and about half workshops

Sent out prerecording instruction sheet to all presenters, on there showed how to record your presentation as a narrated PowerPoint or in a zoom meeting with yourself, or teams, or can contact vendor community brands, can schedule a time with them, if not comfortable recording on your own they will assist. Self-recorded. Will send email blast to all presenters reminding to prerecord, linking to TRB site where can upload their presentations. All presentations must be in mp4 format.

Reminder there was a demo last time. Communications throughout the platform, group text chat, 1:1 text chat/audio chat/video chat.

BE: when TRB 2021 Annual Meeting app ready? SB: mid-December.

EJW: when do presentations need to be uploaded? SB: Jan 2

ISD: deadline for posters? SB: should be uploaded before the meeting. No real deadline, not sure when site will close. Can upload pdf, ppt, video file.

FR: how long? poster size 200 mb videos. SB: anywhere from 20-40 min depending on content resolution

SB: for lectern sessions, defer to presiding officers, their presenters know how much time allotted. We send out participants info, need to go to MyTRB and accept. If confirmed at that time shown the duration we have put in the system. Sessions are 90 min long, 4 20s or 5 15s with a bit for discussion. If you have 4 presenters 20 min apiece, 40 min video have a problem. Urge presiding officers to let presenters know, prerecord, limited to X minutes.

Sushant: is there a guideline how long presentation optimal for reducing zoom fatigue? SB: no real research, you can limit more than needed. EJW; make sure not flat affect. SB: link to YouTube video on how to record yourself using zoom, how to record it, I went through real quick PPT, how to do that. Looking back on it, I could have been more dynamic. BE: we should already assume people have webinar fatigue, starting with that assumption, pithy, key points right at the front is a good idea. Attention spans impacted by being on zooms, having other distractions.

BE: midyear meetings? Any read on that? SB: officially closed until March, could be extended – seems likely. Revised room capacities for Beckman center

TRB Freight Group Update (Rick Bornhorst) (11:25-11:35)
Rick Bornhorst, Factor, Inc. freight systems chair.
TAC Reviewing TSPs, new template. Making sure scopes are well written, not overlap between committees, opportunities for connectivity with committees, be aware of partners within TRB structure.
Trying to be more inclusive, new blue ribbon category on diversity (no blue ribbon awards this year, partly pandemic, partly restructure) next year 4 categories from before plus new diversity category. Initially mainly based on membership as well as friends. As well as unique and innovative ways make friends more diverse.
Virtual plenary everyone registered
New coordinating councils – 4 of them, international, young members, rural, urban and city coordinating council.

Stephanie Dock DCDOT chair of urban/city coordinating council. Trb coordinator Jennifer Weeks. TAC perspective rep on Fred Wagner

BE: noted that we have updated TSP, already tried to hit key points.

TRB Annual Meeting – AT025 Sessions/Activities (Bill Eisele and others) (11:35-12:00)
2021 Theme: *Launching A New Century of Mobility and Quality of Life*
Committee Meetings: Jan 5-8 & 11-15; Sessions: Jan 21-22 & 25-29; Exhibits: Jan 21-22 & 25-29

- Online Program here: http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting/AnnualMeeting.aspx
- (Session 1057) "Drone Delivery May be Useful, but Annoying: What Can be Done to Mitigate Noise Impacts to Ensure the Success of Drone Use?" Mon, Jan 25, 1000am-1130am ET (Erica Wygonik)
    - Overview of session, need drone delivery expert
- (Workshop 1024) "Food Deliveries in Times of Uncertainty," Thurs, Jan 21, 200pm-500pm ET (DJ Mason & Tamiko Burnell), with AT015, AT030, AT045
    - DJ: research workshop cosponsoring committee at015 freight planning and logistics, at030 ag and food trans, and at045 intermodal trans
    - John Tompkins (Minn doing to study supply chains, trucking routes), Mike Graham supply chain for Meijer private grocer in Midwest
    - Goal to develop research statements
    - Jolene Hayes at045 – working with Fehr & Peers communications group, offered her with the logistics of break out groups if she wanted to use those, technical help. As cosponsor more than welcome to tap her for help.
- (Workshop 1038) "Freight Planning & Operational Logistics for the 'New Normal,'" Fri, Jan 22, 1000am-100pm ET, with AT015
    - Sushant: 5 speakers locked in, folks from air freight talking about delivery covid vaccine, KAEL logistics. JB Hunt Adam Kalaon dir of ops experience with covid what's going on there, international speaker Georgia Ayfandopoulou HIT Greece their experience what doing there in terms of research. Chris Caplice MIT scenario planning for freight, Tom McQueen at015 talking about Georgia DOT handling covid related impacts.
- (Workshop 1033) "Breaking Down Silos to Embrace Life in a Multimodal Performance Based Solution," Fri, Jan 22, 1000am-100pm ET, with AKD10, ACH10, ACH20, ACP40, ACP60, ACS20, AJE40, AJL70
    - Physical infrastructure
- (Poster 1335) "Policy and Planning Applications Impacting Urban Freight Transportation," Wed, Jan 27, 400-pm-530pm ET (Ivan Sanchez-Diaz)
    - Presiding Johanna Amaya
    - 9 posters
    - (40+ submissions)

- (Poster 1423) “Tools and Techniques to Improve Home Deliveries and the Last Mile,” Fri, Jan 29, 1000am-1130am ET (Ivan Sanchez-Diaz)
    - 16 papers
    - Delivery pandemic delivery automation
    - Crowd shipping
- (Committee Meeting) Mon, Jan 11, 200pm-500pm ET (Eisele)
    - Committee review, business highlights, Recognitions
        - Need to finalize agenda. Goal tad over 2 hours. Looking for interesting private sector. Caroline Kieltyka (AASHTO) – getting an update from her. A few quick updates, try to keep to presentations, networking, less business stuff.
        - Bill’s email on the back. Reach out offline if you have speaker ideas we could consider for committee meeting.
- Freight Day (Fatemeh Ranaiefar)
        - Freight “Day” is over many days
        - Doing test to figure out how to handle questions– type in chat or raise hands? Trying to replicate normal freight day
    - Session 1096, Freight Day, Part 1: “Atypical Disruptions in Supply Chains,” Mon, Jan 25, 100pm-230pm ET
    - Session 1200, Freight Day, Part 2: “Atypical Disruptions Reshaping Marine Transportation,” Tues, Jan 26, 100pm-230pm ET
    - Session 1292, Freight Day, Part 3: “Transformative Technologies: Challenges and Opportunities,” Wed, Jan 27, 100pm-230pm ET
        - Neuro
        - Dan Smith of Tioga
    - Session 1389, Freight Day, Part 4: “Atypical Disruptions Reshaping Freight Systems,” Thurs, Jan 28, 100pm-230pm ET
        - Consumer behavior Jose survey and industry behavior dan Murray survey
        - Sara Hernandez trucking industry survey
        - Courtney Robinson air industry panel
- Forthcoming line-up card under development
    - coming
- Other questions, sessions of AT025 interest, etc.
    - None mentioned

Problem Statement Development & Submittal Process (John Tompkins and Seckin Ozkul) (12:00-12:10)

- Statements Submitted, Teams and Next Steps
    - Overview: thanks to committee for survey responses. If anyone interested in these, speak up, especially COVID-19 topic. All 3 got submitted as RNS.
    - Have been able to get AASHTO support.
    - John Tompkins rotating off due to time limits, job is urban freight, he will stay connected to help with the process
    - “A Best Practices Handbook for Overcoming Just-in-Time Delivery Challenges,” (Lead: Alireza Ermagun; with Robyn Bancroft, Carole Delion, Heather Monteiro, Sushant Sharma)
    - “Communicating the Value, Interactions, and Impacts of Freight to Stakeholders),” (Lead: Laura Gilmer; with John Tompkins, Casey Wells, Verena Ehler, Alissa Torres, Sushant Sharma, Brian Hunter)
    - “COVID-19’s Influence in Shaping E-commerce and It’s Last-Mile Impact,” (Lead: Vijay Sivaraman)

Research Subcommittee Update (Ivan Sanchez-Diaz) (12:10-12:15)

- Paper review process feedback
    - We had 40 submissions (20% less, 10 papers less, reasonable given circumstances. Less reduction than TRB average)
    - 27 both for presentation & publication. 13 only for presentation
    - 25 accepted for two poster sessions. 5 transferred for publication to TRR
    - What went well, thank the work from subcommittee. New team this year, they did a great job, easier to start as CRC, good team, Gaby Johanna, Jeff Ang-Olson, Erica Wygonic. Helped for transition. Kept same process as before, even though changes at TRB, keep system EJW established, gave us some flexibility, still worked well. I would like to thank everyone who served as reviews, without wouldn't be able to conduct the process. We have some good reviews. Overall good response rate from reviewers.
    - What can be improved: two things we would like to improve: 1) only 2 reviews for some papers. Ok but that's only minimum, less feedback for authors. 2) improve response of reviewers. One thing that could help. Even if you can't accept review request, reject/accept fast. We can find another reviewer, easier at an early stage.

Membership Rotation (Bill Eisele and Akiko Yamagami) (12:15-12:20)

- Rotation in April 15 2021
    - Finishing process
    - Appreciate those who took survey, took review of the results seriously.
    - Goal is to balance researcher and practitioners, meet TRB diversity requirements, facilitate active participations from majority of members
    - Ready to forward TRB review and finalization, adoption of recommendations.

BE: thanks to Akiko. Thanks to Ivan Sanchez-Diaz, he mentioned Erica Wygonik and great team, also due to Ivan Sanchez-Diaz doing an excellent job in first year of that position.

Upcoming Meetings & Other Business (12:20-12:30)

- TRB Annual Meeting throughout January!
- http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting/ResourcePages.aspx
- Partner conference: VREF Conference on Urban Freight, 23-25 March 2021, Gothenburg, Sweden
    - Mike Browne: Work with Ivan Sanchez-Diaz, urban freight platform Volvo, Gen Giuliano with Tom O'Brein, Jose Holguin-Veras as well. We've welcomed Bill Eisele and previous chair Ted Dahlburg. Was supposed to be October, pushed to March, seemed a long time away, conscious March closer than one would like, although physical conference planned, will have to be distanced based way. We have about 100 abstracts submitted.
- Partner conference: FHWA Urban Freight Roundtable, March 11, 2021 noon-2:00 pm ET
    - TB: shifting, still planning urban freight roundtable, march 11. We will be able to extend opportunity to more folks, normally just 50-60 people room size limits. Can extend, we will watch for Michael Browne as well, we want to make sure we don't rob Peter to pay Paul. It could be possible we shift to April, or we do March, he does April.
- Other conferences?
    - INUF (Tom O'Brien): we are hoping that we will be in person in Long Beach in October for Biennial. Oct 4-8. Hotel contract negotiating. Abstracts 1st quarter. Happy to allow urban freight to sponsor or offer space for meetings.
    - Robyn Bancroft: happy to post on LinkedIn, topics of interest.
- Other business?

Innovations and Observations in Urban Freight Movement (12:30-12:50)

- Open discussion – noteworthy practices, innovations or other recent observations
    - Mike Browne: Gothenburg. In Central London, brought together a bunch of people to talk freight problems central London. He is still chair. Development has been to rethink use of street space. Some streets in central London, wider London either no vehicle or no delivery, lots of space tables. In first iteration, freight was left off the table for discussion. Caused complications, more recently, not formally consulting with freight, but stakeholder engagement.
    - Stephen Holliday with Louisiana DOT and Development: truckers one of fist groups to have vaccines, FDA approval. Working on raising priority. Jason's Law survey.
    - Tom Murtha: freight issues in Chicago have become more important for the region. Evaluating vehicle class counts since pandemic, and how it has affected truck volumes since beginning of March. Happy to hear feedback that folks have on this. Also curious whether people look at that COVID tracking data that we have on rail and truck systems, whether other efforts like that in other regions people can verify that we've seen. Increased truck volumes relative to pre-covid world.
    - https://www.chicagobusiness.com/crains-forum-freight/crains-forum-freight
    - Our COVID-19 transportation system impact tracking page: https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/updates/all/-/asset_publisher/UIMfSLnFfMB6/content/covid-19-federal-legislation-analysis-and-transportation-system-impacts.
        - BE: trying to do in Texas to evaluate vehicle volume distributions throughout the day. Morning peak not gone, but lighter, and daily pattern almost like a typical truck pattern where we see vehicles ramp up, flatten off, with a smaller peak in afternoon.
    - ISD: we had project start before pandemic, on marginalization of certain communities, didn't have access to home deliveries. Lower income, young older, further from city. How those didn't have good access to prescription drugs brought to them for home delivery, had to go a few KM away. With pandemic got better access. logistics companies expand services further from city center.
    - James Shankel: Is there a distinction between retail and manufacturing--or any other end uses associated with truck and rail in goods context?
        - TM: we don't at this point.
    - Paul Bingham: shift in provider mix for last-mile deliveries in pandemic. Capacity constraints traditional integrated including Amazon. Creativity out of desperation to bundle serve smaller retailers, make use of last-mile for residential, door dash and uber freight context delivery mechanisms. Seems like it will stick.
    - BE: there is certainly more appreciation for trucks, freight and understanding how your stuff gets to you.
- Chat window:
    - James Shankel: Also wondering if focus on "no contact" is expected to be long term...or even perhaps permanent?
    - Tom Murtha: Paul's comment is consistent with our finding that single-unit truck volume increases are greater than the combination-truck volume increases.
    - James Shankel: Related to consumption behavior resulting in notable changes as to how retail purchases are being fulfilled, is there any research as to how distribution facility planning and operations is occurring and trending?
    - Stephen Holliday: In the Federal Highway Administration's 2019 Jason's Law truck parking survey, 79% of 524 truck stop owners and operators indicated they do not plan to add more truck parking, according to slides shown during a National Truck Parking Coalition meeting Tuesday as the FHWA gave a preliminary overview of the results.

- Stephen Holliday: The survey also showed that, between 2014, the last time data for a Jason's Law report was collected, and 2019, new parking-space shortages emerged throughout the entire I-95 corridor, in the Pacific corridors, in states surrounding the Chicago region and in other major freight corridors. And some areas that were found to have shortages in 2014 have not improved, including the I-95 Mid-Atlantic and north regions, the Chicago area, and in California.

Questions? Want to get more involved? Contact us!
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AT025 TRB Urban Freight Transportation Team
Yellow highlight indicates the members present for the meeting

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