

**MINUTES**  
**TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD**  
**Business Meeting – ADC30**  
**Committee on Ecology and Transportation (ADC30)**  
**Business Meeting**  
**January 12, 2010 3:45 – 5:30 PM**  
**Minutes**

**Prepared and Submitted by:**

**Marcia Bowen**  
**Secretary ADC30**

*Marcia Bowen*

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**Marcia Bowen**

**January 2010**

**TRB ADC 30**  
**Committee on Ecology and Transportation**  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
**January 12, 2009 3:30 – 5:30 PM**  
**Hilton – Georgetown South**

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:45 pm. Tom Linkous, Chair, led the introductions. This year's Sunday work shop on Ecosystem Performance Metrics was very interesting and shows a wave of the future, attended by 20-25 people.
2. Keith Knapp is the TRB communication liaison. This will help us use new technologies that are being offered by TRB.
3. For this 2010 meeting, 3694 papers were submitted, and 2190 were presented at this meeting; there were 921 paper sessions and 1232 posters presented; 20 papers were presented in business meetings along with 17 others in other venues. There were 332 lecture sessions, 99 workshops and 444 meetings. Attendees were estimated at 8000, less than last year. Annual meeting patrons are helping to defray meeting costs. These include AECOM, Bentley, HNTB, Opinion, PB, QInetQ, Trinity, and Wilbur Smith.
4. Tom is recommending that we initiate pre-meeting conference calls in order to get our business done in the time allotted in the annual meeting. Tom will make sure that subcommittees have scheduled time during annual meeting so they can be effective in getting their tasks done.
5. We need to rotate 1/3 of committee membership (8 people) this year, and there is no flexibility in this; we have two young members and 1 emeritus member that do not have to be rotated. This will be a difficult decision, as only a couple of members have volunteered to rotate off. Tom asked for folks to let him know if they are interested in being on the Committee (or rotating off). Tom hopes that if members are asked to step down, they will continue as active friends and recognize that this is no reflection on their performance or importance to the Committee
6. TRB's Technical Activities Council has a new strategic plan that includes emerging critical and cross cutting issues. This will necessitate more committee collaboration to identify these issues. ADC10 has had an issues strategy meeting. Other Council goals include identifying, conducting and sharing relevant research.
7. Tom reminded the Committee that the Research Pays off articles in TR News are good vehicles to communicate research that has been recently completed.
8. This year, the annual meeting has 152 sessions that can be used as education units for certified planners.
9. The Committee approved 2008 Annual Meeting ADC30 Business Meeting Minutes.
10. Christy Gerencher, Senior Program Officer & Staff Representative provided an update on TRB news. Tom will be working on the Committee rotation, where 1/3 of the membership must be rotated off the Committee every 3 years. This allows new members to join. She reminded us about the upcoming mid-year meeting in Raleigh in June 6-10.
11. Kate Quinn, Section Head, updated the Committee on the Environment and Planning Section news. One new committee, Aviation Security and Management, has been created; the relatively new task force on Climate Change and Sustainability continues its work, acting in an advisory capacity to the TRB Executive Board. The 2010 mid-year meeting will be a mega-environmental meeting, hosted by CTE. It will be held in the Raleigh on June 6-10. There will be a Research Needs kickoff on Sunday, which will continue through the conference, with a wrap up of research needs and the conference in general at the end of the conference. The 2011 Annual meeting spotlight will be Transportation, Livability, and Economic Development in a Changing World. The conference will

capture the “Research Needs Conferences” of the past. CTE has a link to the conference. All of this conference’s presentations will be posted and available to attendees.

## 12. Subcommittee Reports

- a. **Communication** - Marcia Bowen distributed minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting and minutes of the mid-year meeting in Duluth, MN. She reported that two newsletters were prepared spring and fall. The newsletters are timing is generally before the mid- and annual meetings. These are distributed electronically and posted on the website. She also updates the members and friends email list. Chris Gesing provided a website report. CTE has been helpful maintaining the website and posting material. We will continue to post presentations until told otherwise, and will continue to secure permission from presenters. Tom has received compliments from outside the group on newsletter The TRB communications liaison Keith Knap reported that TRB is exploring other modes of communication such as Twitter and has held webinars. He will provide information to Marcia.
- b. **Liaison** – Lars Carlson distributed a liaison form via email for liaison members to fill out when they attend liaison meeting; these will collated for the liaison report. He has received some feedback. Those attending other committee meetings need to send Lars the information and he will develop a newsletter article. The form includes a summary of topics discussed, items of interest, action items, and follow-up items. When several members attend, one person (the official liaison person) should prepare the form.
- c. **Programs** – Alex Levy (paper review coordinator) thanked the members and friends who volunteered to assist with paper review. Nine people reviewed the papers (Mary Gray, Trish White, Deb Nelson, Patty Cramer, Joe Burns, Bridget Donaldson, Sean Furness, Marie Venner). Alex and Joe Burns prepared a call for papers that was distributed. Alex reminded folks to distribute the call for papers widely, especially to others outside TRB (i.e. your workplace, your university or alma mater) because that improves the diversity of papers and presentations. Alex reported that the submitter can designate the Committee that the paper should be submitted to. Alex reported that the Committee sponsored one workshop and three paper sessions, Environmental Noise and Vibration; Landscape and Environmental Design; Noise and Hydroacoustics (with Transportation-related noise and vibration). Alex thanked Joe and Steve Earsom for pulling together an excellent and thought-provocative workshop.
- d. **Summer Meeting:** Susan Hagood indicated that there are a lot of holes to fill in the program and is looking for the committee’s input. She is recommending that we develop sessions that build from one to the next. Some thoughts so far:
  - Identification of problems for which there are no solutions
  - Brainstorming potential solutions for problems that have no apparent solutions
  - How geospatial information can be used to determine habitat connectivity
  - Implementation with cross cutting performance measures.These have been submitted to Kate; meanwhile we need to determine if we can support them.
- e. **Research** – Sandy Jacobson has asked to be rotated off the as chair of the research subcommittee and was not present. Patty Cramer will assume this position. Tom handed out guidelines on preparing material for the TRB research needs database as well as a calendar of deadlines for the various research needs

submittals (NCHRP, etc.). Keith Knapp attended a workshop on AASHTO research needs, which hold a lot of weight with TRB. Two syntheses topics that seem connected to this group are: best practices for aquatic organisms and fish passage and best practices for follow-through on environmental commitments. We can submit these topics for consideration with a 2-page research statement. Folks on the Committee have good links with AASHTO Standing Committee On the Environment (SCOE) but we could improve this by also collaborating with the Standing Committee on Design. Tom passed out copies of research needs generated from 2009 ICOET. Allison Barry has chaired this committee.

- f. **Steering Subcommittee:** Mary Gray was not present but she, Susan and Deb updated our strategic plan. It is currently in review by TRB, who will look at overlap between committees as well as opportunities for collaboration. The Animal-vehicle collision committee (part of safety), is listed as a dual committee. Deb pointed out that our committee has a great track record of collaboration (Environmental Analysis; Hydraulics, Operations, Noise, A/V collision). Deb also noted that friends can be involved in any subcommittee and should just contact Tom if they are interested. Opportunities include paper review, research needs, etc. Joe added that if members review other committee's papers, it is a great way to identify cross cutting issues. Chris is expecting that performance measures will need to be developed for the strategic plans.
- g. **AASHTO Center for Environmental Excellence (CEE) Update** – Katie Kurgin gave an update on CEE projects. Stormwater and 4(f) practitioner's guides have been recently prepared; upcoming guides include 404(b)1 and indirect/cumulative impacts. Handbooks on Endangered Species Act, recycled materials, and Environmental Compliance and Maintenance will be done this year. The publication "Above and Beyond" will be updated this year. CEE will also do a report on ORA projects and green things that are coming up as result of stimulus monies and NEPA streamlining. CEE plans to conduct 6 webinars that are climate change related; these can be viewed on the website or LIVE. CEE has been preparing workshops on climate change plan updates for on-site training at DOTs; 10 of these will be funded this year. There will also be a climate change symposium this year, perhaps in DC. FHWA/AASHTO/CEE had a webinar on new stormwater guidelines; also rail and NEPA webinar will be coming up. Tom had a summary NCHRP research projects completed and in progress.

### 13. Organization Updates

**CTE:** proceedings for 2009 ICOET will soon be posted on the website [www.icoet.net](http://www.icoet.net). Deb Nelson is chair-elect for fall 2011 ICOET meeting in Seattle area. CTE is conducting a climate change workshop March 2/3 with NC focus but applicable to other states. USEPA, NCDNR, NCDOT are sponsors. CTE is working with FHWA on the CSS National Dialogue to develop solutions. Five national workshops have been scheduled, two already held (Portland, Austin); and the next to be held on February 4 in Charlotte, followed by March 16 in Rutgers NJ and April 22 in St. Paul MN. These workshops will be webcast with participation available. See website [css.nationaldialogue.org](http://css.nationaldialogue.org). New staff member Lee Laine has returned to CTE, and will focus on sustainability, livability, CSS.

**Defenders of Wildlife:** Trish White reported that Division Street has been chosen to be part of Washington DC Environmental Film Festival, with NAS hosting. This venue will provide great visibility for the film. Trish asked for help with outreach.

14. **WTI:** ARC is holding a North American Wildlife Crossing Structure competition. A handout was circulated, as was a synopsis of the Wildlife Vehicle Reduction study.  
**Agency Updates** – FHWA, USFWS, USFS, USEPA, USEPA –**FHWA:** Dave Carlson FHWA discussed Sustainable transport and climate change initiative, including CSS National Dialogue’s Austin workshop report entitled A Greenprint for Conservation and Oregon DOT’s workshop on SlopesIV program on streamlined permitting. FHWA’s Report on State Liaisons, funded by Volpe program, was published last October; a webinar will be held on February 18 to present the results of study and its recommendations. On the subject of transportation and climate change, National Park Service and NOAA are doing a study on Cape Cod MA, looking at mitigation, adaptation, and infrastructure preservation. The Sustainable Highways project is developing tools and programs; ASCE and ITE are having conferences on sustainability this year.
15. **USFWS:** Sean Furniss USFWS handed out a powerpoint on dust suppressants and their environmental impacts. USFWS received a 1.2m grant and have been testing effects of dust suppressants on trout. Dust suppressants are unregulated materials, with over 400 products on the market; the contents are often proprietary so the risk is difficult to assess. 10 products were examined, 2 killed all aquatic organisms that they came in contact with; three more relatively toxic. USFWS has prohibited use of dust suppressants on all of their roads (25% of unpaved roads use them). Field testing will be conducted in 2011. Without the use of suppressants, DOTs are having a hard time meeting air standards.
16. **Future Meetings**  
ICOET 2009 – Duluth, Minnesota, September  
2010 – TRB Section/Group Meeting Mega Meeting
17. **Subcommittee meeting time (Steering, Research Needs)-time did not allow this to continue.**
18. Tom passed out draft emerging issues draft, very draft. Tom asked members of both Research and Steering Committees to review these- research committee specifically to see if there are research topics. Tom will communicate with the chairs to get this done. Tom only got 8 responses and hoped for more, including friends. Members can still respond. Tom will resend with a deadline of three weeks to both members and friends. These are very simple and short ideas, only one paragraph. Shari Shaftlein is going to be commissioning a series of white papers by Volpe of research needs; our feedback will provide input to her. Tom asked for a point person to stay after the conference to work with Sherri. Susan Hagood volunteered. In past, TRB has held research needs conferences, culminating in white papers in terms of emerging issues and research needs. After this year’s mid-year meeting, the four groups will prepare white papers that take the place of the conference. Alex will need to develop a call for papers that includes the research needs statements and the theme of 2010 meeting.
19. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45.

# TRB TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

## Attendance Roster

### ADC30 Ecology and Transportation Committee

Monday, January 11, 2010, 3:45pm- 5:30pm, Hilton, Georgetown South

Thomas E. Linkous, Westerville, Ohio, presiding

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Name		Member <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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