

Minutes of TRB Committee on Trucking Industry Research (AT060)

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January 12, 2009

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC

Michael Belzer, chair, and Randal Mullett, vice chair

1. Call to Order, History of the Committee Discussion, Welcome New Members, Self-Introductions - Distribution of Sign-In Sheet
2. Discussion of January and July 2008 Meeting Minutes – accepted as written
3. Review of TRB Projects – Elaine King
 - a. The link to the TRB Trucking-Related Summary is http://www.trb.org/committees/Truck_June_2008.pdf. The summary will be updated in February.
4. Discussion of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), the National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP), and the Hazardous Material Cooperative Research Program (HMCRP) – Randal Mullett
 - a. Deadline for submitting proposals for NCFRP is the end of July
 - b. Don Osterberg asked about the status of the Separation of Vehicles – CMV Only Lanes project (NCHRP 03-73)
 - i. Elaine indicated that the draft final report is due to the panel for review by March 15, and the project is scheduled for completion by the end of June 2009.
 - c. Tina Casgar stressed the importance of submitting research questions through the committee
 - d. Pete Swan commented that he doesn't believe the committee has done a very good job of submitting research questions to date
5. Discussion of the Research Needs Database – Elaine King (<http://rns.trb.org>)
 - a. Mike mentioned that there will be a brainstorming session in the later session of the meeting
 - b. The committee has yet to develop and post research needs statements to the database, which is made available free of charge to transportation research community. **Action Item** => The committee will post research needs statements to the database. Mike asked Jan Birdsey to undertake this responsibility. She will consult with her supervisor regarding the additional responsibility.
6. Trucking 101 review – presentation by Steve Burks
 - a. A link to the draft was sent out to committee members last week

- b. The concept is to combine academic and practitioner viewpoints
 - c. Steve requested that any feedback be specific – text and source
 - i. **Deadline for edits is January 31st**
 - 1. After all the additional edits are incorporated, the final version will be made available to the committee members for approval by March 1st. If committee members do not respond by March 1st, the committee chairman will assume that they approve it.
 - ii. Once approved by the committee, TRB staff will need a couple of months for review, editing, and preparation to be posted/published on the TRB website – earlier in the year is better for this process.
 - d. Question – does the Regulatory section cover the requirements for registration and operating authority?
 - i. Not in depth, but willing to accept additional text
 - e. Dan Murray suggested to augment the Safety section with information regarding the importance of car driver behavior around trucks
 - i. It was recommended that this become a research question, but willing to incorporate any text that is sent
 - f. Dan suggested to add information regarding size and weight and productivity, and more text on revenue
 - i. Dan will send some text
 - g. Tina suggested adding contact information for readers to get additional information
 - i. Tina will send a suggested list of web sites for various organizations
 - 1. ATA, ATRI, this committee, etc.
 - h. Any “Friend” of the committee can submit a request to Mike to receive a copy of the link to the draft
 - i. The committee unanimously approved moving forward as discussed
7. Institutional Arrangements in the Freight Transportation System (NCFRP 09) project status presentation and discussion – Mike Williamson
- a. Need more private sector involvement
 - b. Issues with MPO funding
 - c. Project purpose per Randy is determining what arrangements best facilitated getting projects completed, and which were more detrimental
8. NIOSH Trucking Research presentation and discussion – Jan Birdsey
9. Discussion of Summer meeting
- a. Potential coordination with the TRB Ports, Waterways, Freight, and International Trade Conference (Irvine, CA, May 4-6, 2009) or the TRB Joint Summer Meeting (Seattle, WA, July 19-22, 2009) or the International Conference on Efficient, Safe, and Sustainable Truck Transportation Systems for the Future (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, June 15-17, 2009).
 - i. <http://trb.org/conferences/2009/Summer/Announcement.pdf>
 - ii. <http://trb.org/conferences/2009/PWFIT/Announcement.pdf>

- b. The committee voted to plan to attend the International Conference on Efficient, Safe, and Sustainable Truck Transportation Systems for the Future (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, June 15-17, 2009)
<http://www.umtri.umich.edu/public/tsad/magictrucks/>
Belzer will contact the conference organizers to discuss how best to coordinate.
10. Discussion regarding the purpose of this committee – “What do we want to be when we grow up?”
 - a. Randy mentioned that the committee has been more reactive than proactive. We need to focus on being more proactive, and setting the future agenda
 - b. The mission of this committee is to develop a truck transportation research agenda, drawing upon the combined resources of existing TRB committees, and to look for new ways for TRB to engage the trucking industry through an inclusive forum of the appropriate stakeholders.
 - c. Scope: This committee is concerned with complementing relevant TRB freight committees by focusing on a broad range of issues related to the trucking industry that require a multidisciplinary approach to research. The committee focuses its efforts on cross-cutting industry issues, such as business economics, truck operations, supply chain logistics, shipper/carrier/consignee issues, and labor market and human resource issues. The committee encourages cooperative efforts with other relevant TRB committees through outreach and education efforts to the trucking industry and to public-sector agency officials. The committee also focuses on the development of a balanced public-private approach to trucking research.
11. Discussion regarding establishing research needs / proposals
 - a. Must be submitted by the end of July for consideration for NCFRP projects
 - b. The following ideas were discussed:
 - Assessing the safety aspects of creative pricing
 - Mike Smith
 - Economics of infrastructure
 - Practical implications for the trucking industry of a VMT-based revenue collection system
 - Efficient pricing models
 - Mechanics – separate from how funding the roads
 - Robert Clarke
 - How revenue will be allocated
 - Trucking labor markets – are they broken and how can they be fixed?
 - Externalities – fountains of revenue versus cost reimbursement
 - Benefit / cost
 - Retrospective economic analysis of major trucking regulation / policies
 - Tina Casgar
 - Lessons for a sustainable trucking industry
 - Tina Casgar

- Maximizing asset utilization
 - What is feasible? Where are the freight black holes?
 - Don Osterberg
- Productivity
- Economics of drayage
- How do we measure the carbon footprint
- Alternative energy options for the industry
- Prompting operating efficiency for the sake of fuel and carbon efficiency
- Roundabouts – built for cars or trucks?
- Size and weight issues (Mark Berndt mentioned that his committee – Motor Vehicle Size and Weight – will be interested in developing these topics, too.)
- Revisiting AASHTO Green Book Designs for Truck Dynamics
 - Dan Murray
- Efficiency of options for reducing carbon emissions – fuel, land use, network design, operations (consider land use planning decisions)
 - Joe Bryan and Eric Beshers
- Explore how to get better access to drivers for research / sampling methods for surveying drivers
- How to incorporate the driver perspective into every research topic

A Research Statement Sub-committee was formed:

Pete Swan, Chair
 Randy Mullett
 Dan Murray
 Tina Casgar
 Bob Clarke
 Mark Berndt
 Mike Smith
 Eric Beshers
 Kevin Neels
 Brenda Lantz
 Mike Belzer