

TRB Staff Report -- 2003 Annual Meeting  
January, 2003  
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Mark your Calendar- Next TRB Annual Meeting - January 11-15, 2004

### **2003 Annual Meeting Highlights**

Given the travel restrictions in many states and the federal government, we are expecting a fall-off from last year's record attendance of 9,100+ attendees. However, as of last week, we had over 7,700 people pre-registered for the Annual Meeting (approximately 10% more than last year). Over the past few years we have approximately 2,000 attendees who register on-site. So if this trend continues we should again end up with close to 9,000 total attendees.

This year's Annual Meeting program consists of almost 1,000 events, including 40 workshops, over 500 technical sessions, 350 TRB committee meetings, 150 meetings of affiliated organizations, and more than 2,300 presentations. More than 2,100 written papers were submitted and peer reviewed -- another record (1,947 in 2002).

Total # of Papers submitted	2157
Total # of Papers being presented	1382 (64%)
Total # of Papers in Podium Sessions	943
Total # of Papers in Poster Sessions	408 (30%)
Total # of Invited Presentations	997
Approximate number of speakers	2380

Without the Poster session format, we would have needed approximately 90-100 additional session rooms to present all the papers approved for presentations.

### ***Spotlight Sessions***

The 'theme' concept was so well received last year that the TRB Division A Council decided to continue it again this year -- with four theme areas receiving the special emphasis

1. Security, One year Later
2. Congestion, What does the Future Hold?
3. New Tools for Improving Safety
4. The Road to Reauthorization.

These subjects will be featured in sessions that cross all modes and disciplines.

### ***New Session Numbering Format***

In an attempt to bring a little bit of 'intelligence' to the Annual Meeting session numbering, the session numbers for this year are tied to the day of the week. Sessions are numbered as follows:

Sunday Workshops	Sessions 100-139
Monday, January 13	Sessions 200-375
Tuesday, January 14:	Sessions 400-583
Wednesday, January 15:	Sessions 600-750
Thursday, January 16:	Sessions 800-830

### ***Interactive Personal Program Planner on TRB website***

The web-based Interactive Program (which was so well received last year) was significantly enhanced for this year's Annual Meeting. This electronic Preliminary Program provides the following advantages:

- Instant access to the program regardless of time or place
- Customized searches by keyword, session number/title, paper title, or participant name
- Listings of all events within pre-defined major subject areas
- Various levels of detail ranging from event titles/times/location/agenda, to session details, to presentation details, to abstracts for written papers
- Ability to save for printing your own itinerary by adding selected events to your "shopping cart" or to save for downloading to your PDA.
- Daily updating of the Preliminary Program, so you always have access to the latest version

With this interactive planner, you can search on any word, subject, or person to find all sessions, workshops, and committee meetings that contained that word, subject or person. Once you selected a session, you could click to get a full listing of papers and speakers and another click will take you to the paper abstract. If you decided you wanted to attend that session, you could add it to your personal program for later viewing, formatted printing, or downloading to your PDA

Since 12/1/02 the interactive planner has had:

Total # visitors	87,400
Total page views	1,172,000
Average # of visitors/day	2,800
Average length of visit	8:30 minutes

This is approximately 25% greater than for the 2002 Annual Meeting

### ***Electronic Paper Submittal and Review***

For the 2003 Annual Meeting, TRB significantly enhanced the web-based paper submittal and review system that allowed authors to electronically submit papers to a website and for the online review of these papers.

In total, we received 2157 papers for consideration (over 200 more than last year) -of which only a handful were submitted via U.S. Mail. It would have been virtually **impossible to review and process** this many papers without the electronic submission/review tools. We will continue to enhance and refine the on-line system using the many comments and suggestions that we have received from authors, chairs, and reviewers.

### ***Annual Meeting CD-ROM***

A total of 1382 papers (96% of those being presented) are included on this years CDROM. The totals are as follows:

# of papers on CD-ROM	1,382
# of papers where original submissions (not re-submitted)	232 (16%)
# of papers that were revised and re-submitted	1,150
# of papers not on the CD-ROM	67

This year for those papers that we did not have permission to include on the CD-ROM, we included contact information for the corresponding authors.

### ***Poster Sessions***

The number of Poster Sessions continues to increase as committees and attendees respond favorably. This year there are 48 Poster Sessions in which over 400 papers are being presented. Without these poster sessions we would have had to program between 90-100 additional sessions to accommodate this number of papers.

Based upon author/attendee comments, the poster format continues to be well received as it provides authors with an opportunity to interact directly with interested attendees in a more personalized setting than is possible through the conventional podium lecture format.

### ***Paper Submittals and Publication Limitations***

In the Traffic Operations area, 305 papers were submitted (307 in 2002). Of this, 178 (164 in 2002) papers and 84 (90 in 2002) invited presentations were programmed in 44 (46 in 2002) regular 'podium' sessions and seven (5 in 2002) poster sessions

The TRB publication budget for 2003 will allow the publication of approximately 33% or approximately 700. So with almost 1400 papers being presented -- there will be a number of tough decisions that must be made regarding publication recommendations. Committee chairs are requested to provide to TRB their ranked publication recommendations, with no **more** than 33% of the papers received by the committee being accepted for publication.

### ***Research Showcase Exhibits***

Plan to visit the Marriott Exhibit Hall to peruse TRB and TRB sponsors' showcasing their recent research projects and products. While in the Exhibit Hall, stop by the TRB booth and check-out the TRIS Online and other TRB products.

### ***Other TRB News and Items of Interest:***

#### **2005 Joint Midyear meeting**

There will be an opportunity for a joint mid-year meeting in 2005 outside of the DC area for all TRB committees who wish to participate. Committees are asked to discuss this during the Annual Meeting and inform TRB staff of their plans to participate by the end of January. Potential benefits to committees will include synergy with other committees that they may not regularly come into contact with, and the opportunity to help shape the program. It is not anticipated that this will be an annual event - the decision on whether and how often to repeat this event will be made based on the experience of this initial effort.

#### **Summit of TRB Volunteer Leaders and TRB Reorganization of the Committee Structure**

More than 40 leaders of the TRB Technical Activities Division gathered in Washington, DC, in March 2002 to review TRB activities and programs. Meeting over two days, they developed over 100 recommendations on standing committee structure, committee

management, the Annual Meeting and other convening activities, papers and publications, communications, and new initiatives.

Since the summit, the Division A Council (DAC) has combined these into 65 potential action items with priorities and time frames. A number of these have been completed, and many more are underway or ongoing.

### **Committee Structure Reorganization**

One of the highest priority action item generated by the March Summit was to "review and evaluate the existing committee organizational structure and, if needed, reorganize Groups and Sections based upon the inherent matrix structure of transportation."

The Division A Council (DAC) and TR13 staff evaluated a number of options within the context of our mission. As a result, the DAC has approved the revision of the existing Division A organizational structure. The changes will revise some of the current Groups as well as add several new Groups for the non-highway modes. This will give these modes a direct voice at the Division A Council table.

The Traffic Operations Committees are largely unaffected by this reorganization. The ITS Committee will be moved to the Traffic Operations Sections and the Visibility Committee will probably be moved to the Safety and Human Performance Section. What you can expect is that there will be a 'renumbering' of the Committee identification numbers. How this will be done is still to be determined.

### **Addressing Critical Issues in Transportation**

One of the action items generated from the March 2002 Division A Summit was to provide a stronger spotlight on "Critical Issues in Transportation" that have been designated by the TRB Executive Committee. During 2002, standing committees were canvassed to identify what has recently been done, what is underway, and what activities are planned by committees in addressing each of the "Critical Issues in Transportation". The results were summarized and comprise the Division A section of the 2002 TRB Annual Report, which is also being published in TRNews.

In addition, as part of TRB's strategic plan, the TRB Executive Committee is in the process of developing a list of "big issues" for consideration as TRB self-initiated policy studies.

In response to a request, more than 30 recommendations were submitted by chairs of Division A standing committees, and Division A Council has culled these down to 11 candidates that will be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration this week.

1. Transportation funding - the future.
2. Study why the nation's efforts to reduce drinking and driving have stalled over the past few years and what needs to be done to get us back on the right track.
3. Intercity rail passenger issues - how to pay for it, how to structure it, what services should be provided, which level(s) of government should shoulder a bigger burden?
4. Congestion - what opportunities are there for making the best use of ALL elements of the transportation system?

5. Alternative delivery systems for transportation facilities due to reduced agency staffing. Study should include all aspects including design, construction, maintenance, and encompass more than innovative contracting.
6. Design/build/own/operate approaches to civil facilities. Pros and cons for the civil engineer, agency, and for the users/public.
7. Identify institutional changes needed to incorporate asset management information and decision making processes into state DOTs and local governments.
8. Identify institutional reforms needed to mainstream intelligent transportation systems and to develop a more specific orientation toward operations in state DOTs.
9. Umbrella study on the issue of driver distraction with a view toward recommending policy regarding in-vehicle electronics.
10. How changing technology (fuel cell/electric vehicles, flotillas of adaptive speed-control vehicles, ITS systems, etc.) and human adaptation (trading off living space for commute time, telework, increased willingness to use public transit, etc.) could combine to drastically change how people commute/travel in the not-so-distant future.
11. Barriers to putting research results into practice. Overcoming legal and insurance challenges and quantifying economic loss through business as usual practices.

### **Electronic Outreach**

The Transportation Research E-Newsletter is TRB's new mechanism to help facilitate the exchange of research results and other information among transportation professionals. It regularly covers transportation research developments in the United States and abroad. To join the over 7,000 subscribers to the E-Newsletter send a e-mail note to Russell Houston at [rhouston@nas.edu](mailto:rhouston@nas.edu).

### **Research in Progress Website**

In July 2002, TRB released a new Research in Progress website, which provides a searchable database of more than 6,600 new or recently completed transportation research projects. The site also allows state DOT's to add, modify, and delete information on their active projects directly on the Web. A current awareness subscription service alerts new subscribers of new research in subject areas of their choice.

### **Cooperative Research Programs**

The scale of NCHRP's program is tied to the size of the federal-aid highway program, and under TEA-21 provisions, the program grew steadily through FY 2002. In FY 2002, NCHRP had its largest budget ever -- in current year dollars, \$31.5 million.

The Transit Cooperative Research Program is funded through annual appropriations, as authorized by TEA-21. In the past, the appropriations bills have diverted some of those funds for other purposes, but in FY 2002 TCRP was fully funded at the authorized level of \$8.25 million. Even so, the budget is less than the program's first year budget (FY 1992) of \$8.92 million. In constant dollars, the FY 2002 program is 28 percent less than the 1992 program.

Both NCHRP and TCRP have programmed more than \$2 million each for quick response research projects and the dissemination of information on security topic. Some of these products are already available and include guidance for vulnerability assessments, procedures for communicating about threats, and guidance on updating emergency response plans.

With support from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), TRB has begun a commercial Truck and Bus Safety Synthesis Program. This program has launched its first three studies, with products to be available in early 2003.

### **TRB Committee Submittal of NCHRP Research Problem Statements**

TRB committees are again being requested to submit one or two high priority research problem statements to the Group Council for review, prioritization, and submittal to the NCHRP program for consideration. Please review recent Research Problem Statements and submit them to TRB prior to February 1 st for consideration.

### **Submittal of Synthesis Project Topics**

Now is the time for committees to submit topic proposals for a Synthesis of Practice from either the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) or the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP). These projects are not research based -- but rather determining and reporting on the current state of the practice. Each year, NCHRP picks 12 new topics and TCRP picks 4. These result in widely-used reports on current key topics in transportation.

Submissions are due to NCHRP by January 31 and to TCRP by March 31, 2003. Instructions and an electronic submission form are available on the TR13 website

### **New Building Being Constructed for TRB**

Construction of the new National Academies building, located in downtown Washington D.C. has been completed and TRB moved into our new offices back in July. The site is located near the new MCI sports center and has excellent access to the Metrorail system.