



TRB Staff Report -- 2004 Annual Meeting

January, 2004

www.trb.org

Mark your Calendar - Next TRB Annual Meeting - January 9 -13, 2005

Be aware! -- the 2006 Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 22-26, 2006

2004 Annual Meeting Highlights

Given the travel restrictions in many states and the lack of a budget for the federal government, we are expecting a fall-off from last year's record attendance of 9,300+ attendees. However, as of last week, our advance registration was over 7,700 people pre-registered for the Annual Meeting (almost exactly what it was last year). So if this trend continues we should again end up with close to 9,300 total attendees.

The technical program for 2004 Annual Meeting is our largest ever:

More than 1,300 'events' will be held during the week:

- 60 Sunday Workshops
- 500+ technical sessions (Monday – Thursday)
- 350+ TRB committee meetings
- 150+ meetings of affiliated organizations

More than 2,450 written papers were submitted – another record. This is ~15% more than last year, when 2,100+ were submitted. In the operations area, over 350 papers were submitted – almost 20% more than last year.

Total # of Papers submitted	2450 (+14%) (2157 in 2003)
Total # of Papers being presented	1507 (61%)
Total # of Papers in Podium Sessions	1009
Total # of Papers in Poster Sessions	549 (33%)(408 in 2003)
Total # of Invited Presentations	1071
Approximate number of speakers	2575+

About 1/3 of the written papers approved for presentation have been scheduled in posters sessions. Without these poster sessions, over 120 additional session rooms would be needed.

If you remember, last year TRB was considering ending the Annual Meeting Wednesday evening. However, after conducting a survey of chairs, authors, and other meeting participants, it decided to limit the Wednesday evening sessions (which our survey's showed were more universally 'disliked' than the Thursday morning sessions).

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
- AND, if you pre-registered, you had access to the room names for sessions and meetings prior to arriving in Washington!! -- you could even click-on the room name and a map of the hotel would pop-up with an arrow pointing to the room location!

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 12/1/03 the interactive planner has had:

Total # visitors	166,330
Total page views	1,616,700
Average # of visitors/day	4,100
Average length of visit	8:15 minutes

This is approximately 50-100% greater than for the 2003 Annual Meeting

Electronic Paper Submittal and Review

For the 2004 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 on-line review of these papers.

In total, we received 2,467 papers for consideration (over 300 more than last year) – all via the website. 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 1486 papers (98.6% of those being presented) are included on this year's CD-ROM. The totals are as follows:

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|--|--------------|
| • # of papers on CD-ROM | <u>1,486</u> |
| • # of papers were original submissions (not re-submitted) | 274 (18%) |
| • # of papers that were revised and re-submitted | 1,212 |
| • # of papers not on the CD-ROM | 21 |

This year for the 21 papers that we did not have permission from the authors to include on the CD-ROM, we have included contact information for the corresponding authors should you wish to contact them for a copy.

Poster Sessions

The number of Poster Sessions continues to increase as committees and attendees respond favorably. This year there are 46 Poster Sessions in which almost 550 papers are being presented. Without these poster sessions we would have had to program 120+ 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, 358 papers were submitted (305 in 2003). Of this, 217 (178 in 2003) papers and 54 (84 in 2003) invited presentations were programmed in 37 (44 in 2003) regular 'podium' sessions and 12 (7 in 2003) poster sessions

The TRB publication budget for 2004 will allow the publication of approximately 28% or approximately 690 papers. So with 1500 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 28% 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:

Committee Structure Reorganization

Effective January 2004, the approximately 200 standing committees of TRB's Technical Activities Division have been reorganized into eleven Groups. Six of the Groups (~150 committees) have a major focus on highways. The remaining five Groups concentrate on a specific mode, i.e., public transportation, rail, marine, aviation, and freight systems.

The combined functional and modal structure creates the synergy among the groups to make it possible for TRB standing committees to address the wide variety of specific and cross-cutting transportation research issues.

As a result of this reorganization, **ALL** Groups, Sections and committees have been assigned new alphanumeric codes. The new numbering system allows for committees within Groups/Sections to be listed in a more logical flow by topic, rather than chronologically by date of committee formation as was done previously. In addition, the practice of referring to committees only by their number in correspondence and discussions is being discouraged.

The Traffic Operations Committees are largely unaffected by this reorganization. The ITS and Work Zone Traffic Control Committees have been moved to the Traffic Operations Section and the Visibility Committee has been relocated to the Users Performance Section.

TRB e-Newsletter

The weekly e-Newsletter has become a important tool for keeping the transportation community up to date on TRB reports and activities, as well as other news and information of interest. The distribution list has increased from 7,000 to 12,000 in last 12 months. If you are not receiving this newsletter, you should be. To SUBSCRIBE send an e-mail note to rhouston@nas.edu with "Subscribe TRB E-Newsletter" in the message's subject field.

In addition, the TRB website now includes excerpts from the TRB e-newsletter for major topic areas.

Addressing Critical and Cross-Cutting Issues Issues in Transportation

One of the primary benefits that we have already seen from the reorganization is an increased ability to facilitate cooperation among different committees, Sections and Groups

During 2003, we asked your committees to provide us with big issue policy and research study ideas and over 100 ideas were submitted.

The Technical Activities Council combined these into 30 themes, ranked them, and provided them to the TRB Executive Committee for follow up on possible funded policy studies, which they are doing. The Technical Activities Council is also using this list to select Annual Meeting spotlight themes, and to plan programs for future conferences and meetings.

The top rated issues that we have been focusing on include:

- Capacity (or congestion) of the transportation system: what does the future hold?
- Getting rid of the seams (integrating modes and institutions for a more seamless transportation system)
- Matching transportation systems to the communities they serve (context sensitivity, land use/sprawl, demographics, environmental justice, economic impacts, etc.)
- The growing shortage of transportation personnel: outlook, implications, experiences, and actions
- Making transportation investment decisions – art or science?
- Transportation and energy: options for the long term
- Balancing environmental and transportation goals
- Moving the goods: giving freight the attention it deserves
- Show me the money: meeting the long term funding needs for transportation
- Safety: future options that could make a real difference
- Security: where do we go from here?
- Renewing the aging transportation infrastructure

The spotlight themes for this meeting – security, funding, and renewal – were selected from this list

Over the last six months, a task force made up of selected Group Chairs and TRB staff has generated additional guidance to further facilitate cooperation and to help you to address critical and cross-cutting issues.

Recently Completed Policy Studies

- Recently completed studies include the following:
- Technologies to increase seat belt use
- Developing the transportation work force
- Cooperative solutions to airport research needs
- National freight data program needs
- Review of the federal program to establish standards for intelligent transportation systems
- Federal role in the marine transportation system is in review and should be completed in time for the Annual Meeting

Cooperative Research Programs

Currently there are more than 250 projects that are in progress involving more than 2000 panel members.

For 2003, funding for NCHRP projects has dropped by 12 percent -- matching the decline in federal-aid state planning and research funding. However, TCRP funding has

remained at the authorized levels. Since September 11, 2001, these programs have allocated more than \$6 million to address security issues confronting highway and transit agencies.

The first products from the Commercial Truck and Bus Safety Synthesis Program, sponsored by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, have been completed.

In terms of published products, 2003 was an excellent year -- 143 documents were completed and distributed.

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 5. 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 TRB website

If you require further information, please feel free to contact: Jon Williams, Manager, Synthesis Studies, 202-334-3245, jwilliams@nas.edu

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 1st for consideration.