

**Minutes of the
Emerging Methods and Developments in Urban Activity
and Travel Analysis (A1C02(1)) Subcommittee Meeting**

Subcommittee of the Passenger Travel Demand Forecasting (A1C02) Committee

January 8, 2001, 1:30 p.m.

80th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board
Hilton Washington Hotel and Towers, State Room
Washington, D.C.

1. Copies of the meeting agenda were distributed to the attendees. A copy of the agenda is attached.
2. Introductions: All of the attendees introduced themselves. A total of 38 individuals were in attendance with 16 from academia, 12 from consulting agencies, and 10 from local, regional, state, and federal transportation agencies.
3. Activities at 2001 Annual Meeting: Subcommittee Chair Chandra Bhat reported that the subcommittee placed four calls for papers for the 2001 TRB Annual Meeting on the following topics: 1) Uncertainty Analysis, 2) Spatial Analysis in Travel Demand Modeling, 3) Allocation of Activities within Individuals in Households, and 4) Practical Implications of Activity-Based Modeling. The subcommittee received 24 papers in response to these calls, 20 of which were submitted electronically. Half of the papers were accepted for presentation. The sub-committee sponsored four sessions, two of which had already taken place on Monday morning. The other two were scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.
4. Smart Growth: Chris Forinash of the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Policy made a brief presentation on Smart Growth. Smart Growth includes mixed-use development with multiple transportation options, leading to beneficial traffic and environmental outcomes (air and water quality). Smart Growth is relevant to this committee because analyzing the effect of Smart Growth on travel demand has been examined in only a limited way in current modeling efforts. Further, there is a need for advances and insights into analyzing the travel impacts of Smart Growth-related development and evaluating alternatives. The EPA is interested in Smart Growth for several reasons. They would like to energize the private sector to clean up and redevelop brownfields, rather than building on outlying greenfields, because it is a more efficient use of the infrastructure. In addition, Smart Growth development could possibly lead to credits in Air Quality Conformity Analysis.
5. Other Ongoing Efforts: Maren Outwater of Cambridge Systematics provided a brief overview of two modeling projects. The first of these was for the Puget Sound Regional Council in Seattle. The objective of the project is to devise tools to understand the effects

of different regulatory, infrastructure, and pricing policies. The project is unique in that it addresses the integration of land use and transportation modeling. Design elements of the project include policy, data and visualization, commodity and freight transport, household activity, economic activity, and real estate development.

The second project was an Activity-Based Micro-Simulation Model for San Francisco. Features of the San Francisco model include:

- micro-simulation for all persons, by type
- tours as the key unit of travel
- application in a 9-county area, with the focus in San Francisco
- population synthesizer
- day pattern approach
- destination and mode choice models.

6. Emerging Topics: Frank Koppelman initiated discussion on this issue by raising the topic of data availability considerations vis-à-vis the level of detail of analysis. Supplemental sampling might be needed to prevent the size of data sets from becoming a limiting factor in modeling. In addition, it would be helpful if available data were advertised, to increase the amount of data available for research. Data on pedestrian trips would also be helpful. It was mentioned that it might be helpful to work with the Subcommittee on Time Use and Activity Patterns (A1C04(1), chaired by Ram Pendyala) on better data dissemination. Other data-related issues that were discussed included data archiving and transferability of data, and the possibility of holding a data archiving workshop. The Bureau of Transportation Statistics website was mentioned as a likely location to serve as a clearinghouse of data.

John Bowman identified the topic of new model forms within random utility models as another area of possible focus for the subcommittee. Part of the issue here is the availability, or lack thereof, of estimation tools within commercial software. It is important to estimate these models carefully and, to do so, the mechanics of the model must be understood. The possibility of an invited paper session on this topic was discussed.

7. Plans for 2001: Plans for the upcoming year include re-emphasizing the focus of the subcommittee on emerging methodological developments. As activity models have become more mainstream, there is a need for them to be transferred under the domain of the parent committee. This will enable the subcommittee to focus on new developments and innovations in modeling.
8. Conference Reports/News: Ram Pendyala gave a brief report on the IATBR conference held in July 2000 in Australia. He indicated that TRB Session 305 provides a summary of the important conclusions from that conference. Upcoming conferences that might be of interest include a conference on Transportation Planning Applications that will take place in Corpus Christi, Texas in April 2001, and a conference on Survey Method Innovations and Quality that will take place in South Africa in August 2001.

9. Eric Pas Fund: Frank Koppelman discussed the Eric Pas – IATBR Dissertation Prize, which has now been awarded twice. In addition, an endowed fund has been established in honor of the memory of Eric Ivan Pas for the purpose of increasing the scholarly collection of Northwestern University’s Transportation Library Collection.
10. There were no other discussions, so the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by: Jennifer Steed.

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