

**Minutes of the
Passenger Travel Demand Forecasting (A1C02) Committee Meeting**

January 15, 2002, 8 a.m.

81st Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board
Hilton Washington Hotel and Towers, Georgetown East 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 59 individuals were in attendance with 19 from academia, 22 from consulting agencies, and 18 from local, regional, state, and federal transportation agencies.
3. Membership of A1C02 Committee: The Chair, Chandra Bhat, reported that 6 new members were recently added to the committee membership. The new members are John Bowman, Mark Bradley, Chris Forinash, Bill Sermons, Venky Shankar, and young member Jennifer Steed. The committee currently has 28 members, including 12 from consulting agencies, 11 from academia, and 5 from local, state, and federal agencies. Chandra indicated that 1/3 of the membership must rotate out every three years. This rotation will take place in 2003, so Chandra will be contacting the committee membership regarding their continued interest in committee participation. The emeritus member designation was discussed (emeritus members must have 18 years or more of TRB service; nominations and approval of emeritus status must follow a formal TRB process). Anyone who would like to nominate someone for emeritus status should contact Chandra Bhat; nominations will be made through the committee.
4. New Subcommittees: Two new subcommittees were formed this year. The first is the Web Development and Maintenance subcommittee, chaired by Chris Forinash with members Murtaza Haider and Jennifer Steed. The goal of this subcommittee is to establish a web presence for the committee, and outline procedures for updating and maintaining the web site. The second new subcommittee is the Research Agenda Development subcommittee, chaired by Tom Rossi with members Keith Lawton and Venky Shankar. The goal of this subcommittee is to lead in the development of a research agenda for the committee, including involvement with NCHRP project development. The committee will be writing research statements to submit to NCHRP.
5. 2001 Meeting Report: All committee members should have received copies of the minutes from the 2001 meeting; these will also be available at the committee web site.
6. 2002 Paper Reviews: The committee and subcommittees received a total of 51 papers. Statistics on paper acceptance rates are printed in the agenda.

7. TRB Staff Report: Kim Fisher reported that 2003 is the membership rotation year and the triennial committee self-evaluation will also be due in 2003. Attendance at the annual meeting was expected to be around 7000 this year (compared to 8700 last year) due to concerns over travel; however as of Friday, January 11, there were 7200 people registered.

Almost 2000 papers were submitted to the TRB web site this year. There were a few difficulties with submissions because some authors had firewalls that prevented the submission from going through; if there are problems, contact Kim and she can submit the paper for you. Calls for papers from the committee should be submitted to Freda Morgan, Kim's assistant, so necessary information can be added. Calls will also be posted to the TRB web site.

The mid-year meeting of planning-related committees this year will be held in Providence, RI on July 10-13. The focus will be on planning, economics, and freight, and information is available on the TRB web site.

TRB will have a new headquarters in 2002, located near the MCI Center. Kim reported that TRB has also taken steps this year to increase accessibility at the TRB meeting, including eliminating head tables where necessary, widening aisles, including spaces for wheelchairs, and relocating the registration desk.

Kim discussed the NCHRP/TCRP program, the opportunity to provide problem statements to that program, and the importance of working with program staff to craft problem statements. Finally, Kim reported on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (sponsored by Johnson & Johnson), which researches health issues and has indicated an interest on the issue of how land use and transportation affect people's activity levels. The foundation has money for funding research and community programs.

8. Emerging Methods and Developments in Urban Activity and Travel Analysis Subcommittee Report: The Chair of this subcommittee, Chandra Bhat, reported that the subcommittee meeting would take place on Tuesday afternoon. The subcommittee wants to focus on methodological issues, since activity analysis has become more mainstream and would be covered by the parent committee.
9. Integrated Transportation and Land Use Modeling Subcommittee Report: The co-chair of this subcommittee, Eric Miller, spoke briefly about the subcommittee's activities. This subcommittee is new as of last year, and is chaired jointly by Eric Miller (from A1C02) and Doug Hunt (from A1D02). The subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday night. A very-well attended session sponsored by the subcommittee took place on Monday afternoon, and another session is scheduled for Thursday.
10. Research Agenda Development Subcommittee Report: Tom Rossi, chair of the Research Agenda subcommittee, solicited ideas for problem statements to submit to NCHRP. The submissions are due soon, but other ideas can be submitted to other venues at a later date. Several ideas were discussed, including:

- Market research for transit ridership forecasting – focused on increasing ridership and building better models
- Follow-up data on the rebuilding of I-25 and addition of light rail in SE Denver – effects on housing patterns, commitments before/during/after construction
- Creating a guide for MPOs/states for models to use to evaluate different policy changes, also determining policy changes that need to be evaluated.
- Side-by-side comparisons of old and new modeling methods, including differences in results and data needs, comparing forecasts vs. actuals
- Using good household surveys and GIS information to address emerging discussions on land use/neighborhood types and travel patterns
- Integrating travel demand models and microsimulation models
- Nonmotorized travel for recreational purposes
- How risk behaviors and “non-rational” decisions affect modeling work

11. Web Development Subcommittee Report: Chris Forinash, chair of the Web Development subcommittee, gave a brief presentation on the work of the subcommittee. The current location of the A1C02 web site is at forecasting.regionomics.com, although it will probably be located at ce.utexas.edu/a1c02 in the future. Chris described the current content of the web site and emphasized the need for input from the committee members. Members will be asked to provide keywords describing their expertise, and the committee brainstormed for additional keywords that should be included. Members should also provide input on the layout and usefulness of the web site, additional content that should be included, and links of interest. In addition, any volunteers with web experience who would like to help maintain and update the web site should contact Chris Forinash or a1c02web@yahoo.com.
12. Electronic Paper Submittal and Reviewing: Committee members were, in general, very positive about the electronic process established by TRB for paper submission and paper review. There were isolated incidents of not being able to download papers for review, but TRB will be looking into this. Reviewers liked getting review information back, especially as a means of calibrating their reviews against other reviewers. TRB will be enforcing the 7500-word limit on papers in the future, possibly screening out those that don't meet the limit. The scales that are used in the reviews drew some discussion for not always being appropriate to the question being asked, and also for being positively biased (i.e. “good” being the neutral response).
13. Session Organization: There was a discussion about the organization of sessions and whether it might be appropriate for the committee to host poster sessions in the future. Some members were concerned about the stigma of poster sessions as opposed to presentations, and it was felt that if the committee did hold poster sessions, it would be important to apply the same high standards for accepting papers for poster presentation. A name change to “salons” or “interactive sessions” was suggested as a way to get rid of the stigma. Grouping posters by theme and providing a map at the entrance to the session were suggested to help attendees navigate the poster sessions. Poster sessions were praised for being conducive to graphical presentations and for the networking opportunities provided. Any suggestions on how to do poster sessions better may be directed to Chandra Bhat.

14. Conference Reports: A conference on Travel Survey Methods took place in South Africa in August 2001, and a book of the proceedings should be out by the end of 2002.
15. Announcements: The 2000 IATBR Eric Pas prize for the best Ph.D. dissertation in the area of Travel Behavior was awarded to Karthik Srinivasan from The University of Texas at Austin. Jonas Eliasson, who completed his Ph.D. from Kungl Tekniska Högskolan (Royal Institute of Technology), received an honorable mention. Nominations for the 2001 prize are due in March, and may be submitted in any language.

The 3rd Oregon Symposium on Integrated Transportation and Land Use Models will be held in July 2002.

A Memorial Book Fund has been established at the Northwestern University Library in memory of Eric Pas. The fund is working toward a \$10,000 goal, and contributions may be sent to Frank Koppelman. Checks should be made out to Northwestern University.

TRB will be holding a conference on Smart Growth and Transportation in September 2002.

16. Committee Activities: Several suggestions were made for calls for papers for the 2003 TRB Annual Meeting. These included uncertainty, and statistical methodology in modeling (perhaps a joint call with A1C04 and A5C11). The issue of the lack of transportation professionals was raised, and the possibility of working with companies on sponsorship/internship arrangements was raised. In addition, the idea of a workshop on activity-based travel modeling sponsored jointly by A1C02 and A1C04 was discussed. The workshop would aim to disseminate information on activity-based models to practitioners.
17. Other Business: A mentoring program was discussed. It was felt that this program could help new presenters prepare for their presentations, possibly by submitting their slides and notes for a blind review by one of the paper reviewers. Another suggestion was made for a brief session on Sunday for graduate students and young professionals, to inform them of the activities of the committee and how they can get involved. Bill Sermons volunteered to organize this brief Sunday session.

There were no other discussions and the meeting was adjourned at about 11 a.m.

Minutes prepared by: Jennifer Steed.

AGENDA
2002 BUSINESS MEETING - TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD
COMMITTEE ON PASSENGER TRAVEL DEMAND FORECASTING (A1C02)

Tuesday Jan 15th, 2002

8:00 AM

Georgetown East, Hilton Hotel

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Staff Report (Kim Fisher)
- 3) Committee Report
 - a) New members
 - b) New subcommittees
 - Web development and maintenance
 - Research agenda development
 - c) 2001 Meeting report
 - d) 2002 Paper reviews:
 - A1C02: 27 papers submitted directly to committee, 10 accepted for presentation (acceptance rate 37%)
 - A1C02(1): 8 papers submitted in response to subcommittee calls for papers, 4 accepted for presentation (acceptance rate 50%)
 - A1C02(2): 16 papers submitted in response to subcommittee calls for papers, 10 accepted for presentation (acceptance rate 63%)
- 4) Subcommittee Reports
 - a) Emerging methods and developments in urban activity and travel analysis report: Chandra Bhat
 - b) Integrated transportation and land use modeling: Eric Miller/Doug Hunt
 - c) Web development
 - d) Research agenda development
- 5) Review Process and Session Organization
 - a) Electronic review; any difficulties; suggestions?
 - b) Reviews of all referees sent to each reviewer; is this useful?
 - c) Presentation sessions vs. poster sessions
 - d) Other Issues
- 6) Conferences
 - a) Reports
 - b) Announcements
- 7) Committee Direction
 - a) Calls for papers? Suggestions from the floor
 - b) Research focus: Suggestions from members and friends
 - c) Other
- 8) Research in Progress and Late Breaking News – Short Descriptions From the Floor
- 9) Other Business

A1C02 Business Meeting
January 15, 2002
81st Annual TRB Meeting, Washington, D.C.

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