

Committee Minutes

TRB Intermodal Freight Transport (ATO45) Committee Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 25, 2006
10:15 a.m. - noon
Shoreham Hotel, Exhibit Hall C
Washington, D.C.

1. Steve Kale, Chair of the TRB Intermodal Freight Transport Committee (AT045), called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees. Committee members and friends then introduced themselves.
2. Harold Cerveny was introduced as the incoming chair for AT045 (effective April, 2006). Mr. Cerveny is a Senior Associate at the Tioga Group where he is involved in freight transportation and logistics, and he is also a former long-time member of the committee.
3. Joedy Cambridge, the TRB staff representative, provided her report to the committee. First, she thanked Steve Kale for his years of service as the committee chair. Jocelyn Jones also made a presentation of a gift to Dr. Kale on behalf of the committee members.

The TRB 2006 Summer Conference and 31st Annual Summer Ports, Waterways, Freight and International Trade Conference will take place in La Jolla, California from July 9-11, 2006. Also, a freight demand modeling conference is to be held in Washington, D.C. in September, 2006.

The TRB 2006 Annual Meeting achieved several new highs, such as the number of registrants (9,500 as of December, 2005), poster sessions (88), workshops (73), and papers submitted for review (2,800).

4. Steve Kale covered items of Old Business for the committee. Minutes from the joint freight committee meeting at the 2005 Summer Meeting in Boston will be posted on the AT045 website.

Committee members are encouraged to submit problem statements in conjunction with the new *National Cooperative Freight Research Program*, and the *Triennial Strategic Plan Evaluation*.

The new TRB *Critical Issues in Transportation* document (2005), which includes greater visibility for intermodal freight transportation, was highlighted. The

committee needs to incorporate these critical issues into its strategic plan, panel and session development, research problems statements, etc. The TRB and Technical Activities Division will soon be updating its own strategic plan. TRB standing committees, such as AT045, will be expected to assist in the plan update.

AT045 currently has 29 members with a vacancy for a regular member. A rotation of a portion of the committee membership is scheduled for April of 2007. The committee, consistent with TRB guidelines, seeks to maintain a diverse membership, such as drawing from the private sector (e.g., shippers and transportation providers).

Regrettably, one committee member, Steve Eisenach, passed away in 2005. Steve was highly respected and well-liked throughout the transportation industry, and information about a fellowship established in his honor was distributed.

5. A guest presentation was made by Mark Carter of SAIC. The presentation was entitled, *TSA's Truck Security Pilot: Status Brief*.
6. Steve Kale reported that AT045 is co-sponsoring 6 sessions at the 2006 Annual Meeting. Committee members Suzanne Rhodes and Libby Ogard were particularly integral in organizing these sessions and workshops. Additionally, as a member of the Freight Systems Group, the committee is sponsoring or co-sponsoring 5 other sessions and the Freight Systems and Marine Forum.

AT045 members reviewed five papers for the annual meeting. Each paper received 4 or more reviews. Of the papers reviewed, 2 papers were accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting and possible publication in the *Transportation Research Record*, 1 was accepted for presentation only, and 2 were rejected.

Ron McCready provided an update on the *National Cooperative Freight Research Program* and the *Airport Cooperative Research Program*. Also, he reported that the *Methods for Forecasting Statewide Freight Movements and Related Performance Measures* project (8-43) has been completed.

Subcommittee reports were provided by Jack Klodzinski (Communications), Mark Jensen (Liaison), Suzann Rhodes (Meetings), and Tom Messer (Research).

Ted Dahlburg reported on the committee's successful fulfillment of its annual performance measures, which can be modified as needed.

Harold Cervený noted that there is a need to update research problem statements, and to move studies along faster. Paul Belalla noted that the committee has been effective in generating problem statements and that it had prepared a lengthy

working paper on freight research ideas.

7. Steve Kale reflected on his term as ATO45 Chair from 2000-2006, cited the committee's recent accomplishments and his personal highlights, and urged committee members to maintain or increase their involvement in the committee.
8. Paul Belella, ATO45 Vice-Chair, discussed the development of the committee's *Triennial Strategic Plan Evaluation*. This evaluation is required by TRB and helps set the future course and direction for the committee. Several committee members are contributing to the preparation of the evaluation.
9. Steve Kale and Harold Cervený, reported on a *Transportation Information Needs Assessment* being conducted by TRB. Committee members were urged to provide their input and participate in this assessment.
10. Among the announcements was a reference to a recently published Brookings Institute report, *Principles for a U.S. Public Freight Agenda in a Global Economy*, co-authored by Anne Strauss-Weider and Martin Robins.
11. Committee members were encouraged to attend the 2006 TRB Summer Meeting in California.
12. The meeting was adjourned.