

Transportation Research Board

Committee AT045 Intermodal Freight Transport

Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 9, 2006, 2:00-3:45, room: Scripts 1
Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines

Harold Cerveney, The Tioga Group, presiding

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of Agenda (addition of new items)
3. Review and approve minutes of January, 2006 meeting

Due to the absence of the Committee Secretary and a computer glitch - minutes were not available at the time of the meeting. Once the minutes are available they will be e-mailed to the committee members for review, additions, corrections and approval. They will then be posted on the committee web site.

4. TRB Staff Report (Joedy Cambridge)
 - Need to decide annual meeting sessions
 - Next summer meeting is likely to be in Chicago, Ill.
 - The Freight Cooperative Research Program is in progress - the oversight panel is being formed. A solicitation has gone out to some associations looking for research ideas. Approximately \$2.6 million/year will be available to the program.
5. *Presentation (Anita Vandervalk): Brief overview of the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) Reassessment Project (10 minutes)* - The presenter was unavailable.
6. *Presentation (James Brogan): Overview of NCHRP Project 8-53, Integrating Freight into Transportation Planning and Project Selection Processes (15 minutes)*
 - 20-25 case studies and interviews
 - Currently putting together a guidebook
 - Would like to recruit members of the committee to provide review and feedback to the guidebook. **Anyone from the committee who is interested should contact Jim!** (jbrogan@camsys.com)
 - Due to be completed by January, 2007 - So we will look to Jim for an update at the annual meeting.

Questions during the discussion that followed Jim's presentation.

How is the private sector being engaged? A: Through the public agencies and their outreach efforts.

Will states be given options? A: Yes, within various categories the guidebook will present options for different types of situations. The front end of the guidebook will discuss why to do freight planning and then go into approaches.

Did you have any innovative findings in terms of project selection? A: Found that there is not much in the way of standardization. The best results come from those who have: 1) Developed a relationship with the private sector; and, 2) have been able to sell freight to policy/decision makers.

How do you measure success? A: From the public standpoint - has the freight community had a chance to be at the table and influence the process / project.

7. Presentation (Mark Jensen): Kansas City SmartPort (10 minutes)

- Handout - Mark, walked the committee through the slides in the handout, noting that this project touches upon many of the same issues raised in the previous discussion about freight planning and programming.
- The project involved the use of ITS technology to improve freight efficiency across modes in the Kansas City Area. The technology tracks containers from the time they leave the port.
- The project has attempted to quantify the operational efficiency improvements, but there are also supply chain visibility benefits.
- If anyone wants to view the full report - email Mark and he will send it to you (jensenm@saic.com).

8. State of TRB 2006 Midyear Report

- TRB funding from FHWA's may be \$1.1 million annually less than anticipated in the TRB 2007-2009 triennium budget. This reduction in funding is the result of higher earmarked programs in SAFTEA-LU than originally calculated which caused a drop in program funds for FHAW. TRB Staff has been identifying cost savings & revenue enhancement options to mitigate the consequences of the funding shortfall.
 - a. This item raised a discussion regarding meetings and meeting locations - for example, university campuses may be good locations for summer meetings where meeting space may be less expensive.
- **The Subcommittee on Planning and Policy Review (SPPR) would like to solicit input from TRB standing committees on the following questions:** (Comments from the limited discussion during the meeting are detailed below, additional comments and observation are requested for inclusion in the committees response to SPPR. Forward comments to Harold.)

b. What does TRB do best?

c. What could TRB do better?

- i. Annual meeting session planning. The coordination between committees is lacking, inefficient and ineffective. Last year many speakers were not aware they had been invited even a few weeks before the meeting. Maybe each committee should take the point on just one session, and then have some broader committee plan the shared sessions.*

d. What else can TRB do to meet your needs?

- i. Research solicitation - to bring the private sector to the table the solicitation process for freight research needs to be expanded*

e. What products, services or activities could TRB provide that would be of direct benefit to constituencies in your sector or area(s) of interest?

f. Do you feel that your sector or area of interest is adequately represented and involved in TRB? If not, what constituencies should TRB reach out to in order to improve this?

- TRB 2007 Annual meeting spotlight theme – “Transportation Institutions, Finances and Workforce – Meeting the Needs of the 21st Century” Annual Meeting Sessions - Harold would like a volunteer subcommittee to help take charge for the committee.

One issue discussed was how many sessions should we co-sponsor, or is there a session or sessions that we should take on our own?

A number of potential ideas were raised that came out of the International Freight Committee:

- Land use
- Alternate trade routes
- Truck Size and Weight

Libby, Harold and Dan Murray volunteered to help coordinate sessions.

Tina Casgar noted that she had sent out a “strawman” with suggested joint sessions, that she hopes to discuss the joint committee meeting on Monday. Tina asked members of the committee to review her suggestions for session topics and provide feedback.

9. Member Updates (All, time available)

10. Any Other Business

- The TRB is forming a new web site that will house research problem statements from all the committees. The TRB staff has requested that each committee nominate a research coordinator: **Mark Jensen volunteered.**

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