

Meeting Notes

TRB Committee on Intermodal Freight Transport (A1B05)

January 11, 2000
Washington, D.C.

Bill DeWitt, committee deputy chair, began the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m. with approximately 30 persons attending (see attachment for list of attendees). Bill noted that committee chair Gerhardt Muller would not be attending and that he would be stepping down as chair. Bill then introduced Steve Kale, who will become the committee's new chair subject to TRB confirmation. Steve is a Senior Planner/Economist with the Oregon Department of Transportation where he works with freight and intermodal planning.

Announcements. Bill briefly discussed

- the status of the "millenium paper"--it's done and available along with other TRB committee papers via CD ROM or at the following URL --
http://www4.nationalacademies.org/trb/homepage.nsf/web/millennium_papers
- upcoming conferences:
 - ✓ Global Intermodal Freight: State of Readiness for the 21st Century, February 23-26, 2000, Long Beach, CA
 - ✓ 25th Annual Summer Ports, Waterways, and International Trade Conference, July 16-20, 2000, Norfolk, VA

Gordon Fink, ITS America, noted that an ITS Intermodal Freight Technology Workshop would be held in Rosslyn, VA, June 13-15, 2000.

TRB Staff Report. Joedy Cambridge, TRB committee staff person, reported the following:

- Within 3-6 months, TRB expects to be able to host committee web pages; committees will be responsible for web page development and maintenance.
- For an issue in about one year, TR News is interested in a series of articles on intermodal freight; this could include a point-counterpoint focus.
- She was still accepting proposals for the Long Beach meeting noted above.
- Several TRB committees are interested in sponsoring a national conference on e-commerce.

In response to a request, Joedy said she would look into changing the Intermodal Freight Transport Committee's meeting from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at next year's annual TRB meeting.

Strategic Plan. Most of the meeting focused on a strategic plan for the committee. Bill began the discussion by reading the official TRB description of the committee. Mike Onder provided background on efforts to develop a strategic plan. Carl Sieberlich reviewed the history of intermodal freight committee work at TRB.

Paul Belalla presented a “strategic plan concept” that he, Jennifer Clinger, Bill DeWitt, Mike Onder, and Carl Sieberlich had developed. The presentation consisted of reviewing a PowerPoint slide presentation distributed to meeting attendees. Much of his presentation addressed the formation of subcommittees on

- Liaison with other committees (internal and external to TRB)
- Communications
- Research
- Membership

Advantages of subcommittees were identified as:

- give visibility to committee members,
- gain experience which may be useful to other TRB opportunities, and
- spread the committee’s work among members so none are overburdened.

Discussion and comments about the strategic plan concept included:

- Don’t devote a lot of time trying to avoid duplication with other committees . . . decide what to do, then do it.
- Be careful about trying to accomplish too much with the resources available.
- Providing opportunities to gain experience, especially for younger professionals, is a positive aspect of the plan.
- Be sure to establish responsibility for monitoring and evaluating results of the committee’s work.
- Define terms, roles, and responsibilities for members of subcommittees.
- The Research subcommittee needs the greatest member commitment due to the amount of time required to organize sessions, review papers, etc. for TRB meetings.
- Identifying funding sources should be included as a responsibility of the Research subcommittee.
- Keep in mind the need for research to “add value.”
- Keep ITS groups and the Maritime Administration apprised of the committee’s activities.
- Add the Long Beach meeting to the chart on the last page of the handout.

Adjournment. After discussion, Bill thanked the strategic planning group and meeting attendees for their efforts, encouraged attendees to send further comments to him and/or Steve Kale, and adjourned the meeting at about 9:15 p.m.

Intermodal Freight Transport Committee

Meeting Attendees

January 11, 2000

Terri Anomnachi	Parsons Transportation Group
Paul Belella	Booz Allan & Hamilton
Valerie Briggs	University of Texas, Austin
**Joedy Cambridge	Transportation Research Board
Maggie Cusak	New York Metropolitan Transportation Council
*Bill DeWitt	University of Maryland
W. Gordon Fink	ITS America
Chang Guan	SUNY Maritime College
John Helmick	U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Deborah Johnson	Bureau of Transportation Statistics
*Steve Kale	Oregon Department of Transportation
Jack Klodzinski	University of Central Florida
Tom Lindquist	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Ysela Llor	Florida Department of Transportation
Asher Markowitz	SUNY Maritime College
Michael Onder	U.S. Department of Transportation, FHWA
Stephen Petracek	Booz Allan & Hamilton
*Charles Poltenson, Sr.	Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
*Gerald Rawling	Chicago Area Transportation Study
Amelia Regan	University of California, Irvine
Robert Ritter	Eno Transportation Foundation
Ed Rosen	Intermodal Association of North America
*Carl Seiberlich	Transystems Corporation
*Bryan Stone	Stone Intermodal Consulting
Dave Strunk	Gulf Coast Alliance for Technology Transfer
Michael Walton	University of Texas
Roberta Weisbrod	Partnership for Sustainable Ports
*Chip Wood	U.S. DOT, Secretary's Office of Intermodalism
*Shmuel Yahalom	SUNY Maritime College
*Member	
**TRB Staff	