

Tri-ennial Self Evaluation  
Intermodal Freight Transport Committee  
A1B05

Group 1 - Transportation Systems Planning and Administration

SELF-EVALUATION OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Please complete the entire form. It is understood that all committees are not equally involved in all possible activities and there may be "not applicable" sections. Diversity amongst committees is valuable. Other committees in Group 1 will be able to learn from your shared experiences.

COMMITTEE NAME AND NUMBER: **Intermodal Freight Transport A1B05**

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON: **Steven R. Kale**

DATE: **3/1/2001**

1. Committee Scope:

**The scope of this committee includes all aspects of research pertaining to intermodal freight transport. Attention will be given initially to rail-water, rail-highway, highway-water, and highway-air modal combinations, but other combinations may be considered later. As used here, intermodal freight transport includes all shipments that employ more than one mode in a single through movement from origin to destination; local pick-up and delivery by truck for other modes is not included. Consideration of rates, routes, services, transfer facilities, containers, and other items that impact the movement of freight in intermodal transport are included.**

A. Date that committee last considered scope?

**The scope was considered during the committee strategic planning process in January 2000. Committee members also had an opportunity to review and comment on a draft of this TSE.**

B. Does the current scope statement accurately reflect the committee's activities?

**Yes**

Should the scope be modified? **A few minor changes are needed.**

C. What changes are proposed and why are these changes necessary?

Proposed changes are shown below using Word's Tools Track Changes menu option.

The scope of this committee includes all aspects of research pertaining to intermodal freight transport. The emphasis is on rail-water, rail-highway, highway-water, and highway-air modal combinations, but other combinations are considered when appropriate. As used here, intermodal freight transport includes all shipments that employ more than one mode in a single through movement from origin to destination; local pick-up and delivery by truck for other modes is not included. Consideration of rates, routes, services, transfer facilities, containers, information systems, and other items that impact the movement of freight in intermodal transport are included.

Deleted: Attention will be given initially to

Deleted: may be

Deleted: later

2. Committee Goals

A. Current Goals.

In January 2000, the committee developed a Strategic Planning Process to guide the committee's work over the next few years. The process identifies five areas on which the committee intends to focus: internal TRB liaison, external liaison, communications, research, and membership. For each area, the committee has established a subcommittee. Each subcommittee will identify what it wants to accomplish. For example, an objective of the communications subcommittee was to develop a committee web site. This objective has been accomplished. More information about the Strategic Planning Process can be found on the committee web site at: <http://www.wilbursmith.com/a1b05/Strategic%20Plan.htm>

B. Identify planned (up to 2 years) activities to achieve stated goals.

Over the next two years, A1B05 subcommittees will be working to further develop their goals and activities. Examples include:

Internal liaison subcommittee: communicate with other TRB committees at annual and summer meetings. This includes attending annual and summer meetings of other TRB committees as well as working with other TRB committees on ideas for research topics and presentations at jointly sponsored sessions.

**External liaison subcommittee:** communicate with committees outside TRB at meetings and through other forums. This includes attending and participating in meetings such as those sponsored by ITS America and the Intermodal Association of North America. It also includes establishing links to international centers of transportation research and policy, and making information about transferable experiences available to TRB and other researchers in the United States.

**Communications subcommittee:** administer the committee's web site and develop a newsletter to further communicate committee activities.

**Research subcommittee:** help develop session themes and identify speakers for the annual and summer meetings, help coordinate the review of papers submitted for the annual meeting, develop research themes for the committee, and encourage the submission of research problem statements and proposals.

**Membership subcommittee:** define committee membership requirements, help recruit new committee members, and review and screen applicants.

C. Identify envisioned (3 -5 years) activities to achieve stated goals.

**During calendar year 2001, the committee will further develop specific activities for the three-to-five year period.**

### 3. Committee Organization and Membership

A. Number of members at current time?

**Twenty-eight (28) Note:** this total includes people who TRB recently invited to join the committee. The total includes two international members and one "under 30" member. The membership roster is updated periodically at: <http://www.wilbursmith.com/a1b05/members.htm>

B. Geographical distribution (how current membership is distributed across the nation and worldwide).

**District of Columbia (4), Florida (2), Illinois (2), Maryland (3), Massachusetts (1), Minnesota (1), Missouri (1), New York (3), Oregon (1), Pennsylvania (1), South Carolina (1), Texas (1), Virginia (3), Washington (2), Italy (1), Switzerland (1)**

**Note: this includes people who TRB recently invited to join the committee.  
The total includes two international members and one “under 30” member.**

- C. Professional category distribution (how current membership is distributed across professional affiliations).

**Academia (5), Associations (2), Consulting/Engineering (7), Federal Agencies (3), Local/Regional Agencies (6), Other Private Sector (2), State Agencies (3)**

**Note: this includes people who TRB recently invited to join the committee. The total includes two international members and one “under 30” member.**

- D. Number of friends listed as associated with the committee?

**The committee web page lists about 25 friends at the following URL:**

<http://www.wilbursmith.com/a1b05/friends.htm>

**Additionally, TRB maintains several hundred names on a combined friends' list with other marine and freight committees.**

- E. Level of individual member involvement (high, medium, low).

**The level of involvement varies by committee member. A number of members with low involvement rotated off the committee when their terms expired on January 31, 2001. New and recently re-appointed committee members will be expected to maintain a high level of involvement in committee activities.**

- F. Committee morale (high, medium low).

**The committee morale is medium. Morale is expected to improve as subcommittee activities increase and with the recent addition of new committee members.**

- G. List subcommittees and their chairs.

**Internal Liaison: Anne Aylward  
External Liaison: Gerhardt Muller  
Communications: Arno Hart and Ed Rosen  
Research: Paul Belella and Mike Onder  
Membership: Jennifer Clinger**

4. Paper Review: Please list number of papers reviewed by committee during the past 2 years.

**1999 (for 2000 Annual Meeting): Five (5)**

**2000 (for 2001 Annual Meeting): Six (6), of which two were co-reviewed by other committees.**

5. Interaction with Other TRB Committees and Technical Societies

- A. List other TRB committees and task forces which your committee maintains a formal liaison representation.

**A1B01 Inland Water Transport  
A1B02 Freight Transportation Planning and Logistics  
A1B07 Urban Freight Transportation  
A1B08 Ports and Channels  
A1B09 Freight Transportation Data  
A1B11 Military Transportation  
A1B55 Agricultural Transportation  
A2M03 Intermodal Freight Terminal Design and Operations  
A5006 International Trade and Transportation  
A5T56 Critical Transportation Infrastructure Security**

**Note: this list may change as the work of the Internal Liaison Subcommittee evolves.**

- B. List outside organizations which your committee maintains ongoing liaison representation.

**Eno Foundation  
Intermodal Association of North America (IANA)  
ITS America**

**A1B05 and some of the other TRB committees listed above**

- have been involved in the USDOT/USACE initiative titled “Marine Transportation System and its Intermodal Connections,” and**
- worked together on the TRB National Conference titled “Global Intermodal Freight: State of Readiness for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”**

- C. Shared activities during the past year (examples should include co-sponsoring sessions, information exchange, research, etc.).

- Co-sponsor of Annual Summer Ports, Waterways, Freight & International Trade Conference.**
- Participant in joint call for papers on Issues Affecting the Transport of Agricultural Commodities, 2001 TRB Annual Meeting**

6. Business Meeting Attendance

A. Annual business meeting attendance: **29 (2000); 31 (2001)**

B. Summer business meeting attendance: **30 (2000)**

7. Annual Meeting Sessions Sponsored

A. Number of annual meeting paper sessions sponsored?

**Sessions are a combination of paper and non-paper presentations and panels and are often co-sponsored with other committees.**

**In 1999 the sessions focused on**

- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges for the Intermodal Freight Industry;**
- **Intermodal Freight Connectors: Do They Connect? and**
- **Transportation Capacity Issues (2-part super-session co-sponsored by several committees).**

**In 2000 the sessions focused on**

- **E-Commerce and Intermodal Freight Transport: Where and How Do They Connect? and**
- **What Is the Next Step for Intermodal Freight Transport in the Supply Chain?**

**In 2001, the sessions focused on**

- **NAFTA Intermodal Freight Activities (two sessions);**
- **European Freight Developments (co-sponsored session); and**
- **Marine and Intermodal Freight Research (co-sponsored poster session).**

**Additionally, the committee annually co-sponsors a Marine and Intermodal Forum.**

B. Number of annual meeting conference sessions sponsored?

**See 7A above.**

8. Identify Additional Activities Sponsored during the Past Year.

- **Global Intermodal Freight Conference in Long Beach, CA in February 2000.**
- **TRB Summer Conference in Norfolk, VA in July 2000.**
- **Contributions to TRB/ORNL workshop on “Implications of the New Digital Economy on Transportation” in Oak Ridge, TN in September 2000.**

9. Identify Additional Activities Scheduled for the Next Year.

**The committee will be participating in the 2001 Summer Conference of the TRB Planning, Economics, Finance, and Administration committees. The committee also may be participating in planning for several future conferences, including a national conference on e-commerce, a conference/workshop on Department of Defense needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a railroad research conference, and a large joint summer meeting with the TRB planning, environmental, and economics committees. Various committee members have been, and are expected to continue, participating as guest presenters in the FHWA-sponsored teleconference discussion series on "Let's Talk Freight."**

10. Technology Transfer

**A1B05 solicits exhibits and demonstrations on projects and new technology to augment formal presentations at Summer Conferences.**

A. Is the committee planning to publish documents within the next two years?

**The committee may be involved with the publishing of documents resulting from conferences as noted in 9 above. The committee also may be involved in the publishing of intermodal presentations and papers submitted for the 2001 annual meeting. This could include the preparation of papers for the Transportation Research Record.**

B. Workshops proposed.

**The committee may be involved in workshops as noted in 9 above.**

C. Conferences Proposed

**The committee will be involved in the 2001 Summer Conference of the TRB Planning, Economics, Finance, and Administration committees, and possibly in other conferences as noted in 9 above.**

11. Research Needs (Developing Area in Group 1)

A. Please list your most recent submissions of Research Problem Statements. **None**

B. Number of Research Problem Statements developed in the last year? **None**

C. Number of Research Problem Statements under development? **None**

D. Number of Research Problem Statements funded during last three years? **None**

**Note: As shown in 2B above, the committee recently established a Research Subcommittee. Formation of this subcommittee is expected to facilitate the submission of research problem statements.**

**Two committee members currently serve on a panel for NCHRP project 08-39, "Financing and Improving Access to U.S. Intermodal Cargo Hubs." One committee member serves on the panel for NCHRP Synthesis Topic 31-09, "Truck Trip Generation Data."**

12. Please Detail the Proposed General Committee Directions for the Next Three Years

**See 2B above. Additionally, the committee will be participating in the 2001 summer conference for TRB Planning, Economics, Finance, and Management committees. Interest in the activities of these committees reflects the desire of A1B05 members to encourage state and metropolitan planning committees and organizations to focus more attention on freight-related issues.**

13. General Remarks and Comments Offered by the Committee

A. Should your committee continue in its present form with its present title? **Yes**  
If no, please explain.

B. Should it be reoriented, restructured, or retitled? **No**  
If yes, please explain.

C. Should it be merged with one or more other committees? **No**  
If yes, please explain.

D. Does the existing Section under which the committee is organized consist of the proper committees and is its title appropriate? **Yes**

E. Any other comments considered appropriate by the committee. **None**