

The 2011 to 2014 Strategic Plan

TRB Committee on Transportation Asset Management ABC40

Draft Version, January 2011

Transportation Asset Management Committee - ABC40 DRAFT 2011 to 2014 Strategic Plan

Background

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) formed a Transportation Asset Management Task Force in 2000 in response to the growing interest in asset management. The Task Force became a formal TRB Committee in 2004. Since that time, the Committee has been involved in a variety of activities aimed at promoting the use of asset management principles, disseminating information on asset management, and identifying research needs to further develop the capabilities of the industry. These activities have included national conferences, peer exchanges, sessions and workshops at TRB Annual Meetings, and articles in national publications such as *TRNews*. Members of the committee have participated on international scans co-sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), served on National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) panels, and worked with other committees and organizations in support of Transportation Asset Management.

In the summer of 2010, the Committee hosted a summer meeting in Washington, DC to update the Strategic Plan. Nearly 30 Committee members and friends participated in the summer meeting, either in person or through the use of teleconferencing tools. The recommendations from the meeting are represented in this updated Strategic Plan, which includes changes to the previous Subcommittee structure and revisions to the Committee Vision, Mission, Scope, and Goals. The results of this effort will serve as a blueprint for the Committee over the next 5 years and will guide the development of annual Action Plans for each of the new Subcommittees.

The draft Strategic Plan will be reviewed by the Committee membership and friends at the 2011 TRB Annual Meeting. Following the Annual Meeting, the document will be finalized and the Subcommittees will be charged with finalizing and implementing their Action Plans.

Katie Zimmerman, Chair

Tom Palmerlee, TRB Staff Representative

Vision

The TRB Committee is a leading focal group for:

- Supporting asset management research,
- Promoting transportation asset management concepts, and
- Encouraging the implementation of asset management practices through training, education, and other forms of technology transfer.

Mission

Our mission is to foster the continued development and use of transportation asset management principles and practices to meet the growing needs of the nation's transportation system.

Scope

The Committee is actively engaged in activities to advance the state of the art and state of the practice in transportation asset management. Since transportation asset management is, by its nature, a collaborative process, ABC40 will work with other TRB Committees across all modes, with the AASHTO Asset Management Subcommittee, with the FHWA Office of Asset Management, and with other partners to help accomplish our mission. While ABC40 will primarily focus on issues related to the **implementation and use** of asset management concepts, **data** to support asset management, and **tools** to conduct asset management analyses, we will collaborate with and support the related engineering, economic, policy, and leadership issues that help to make asset management a success in transportation agencies.

Goals

To achieve its mission, the Committee has established the following goals:

1. Working in partnership with FHWA and AASHTO, provide service to TRB and other organizations to advance asset management needs, to disseminate new knowledge, to assist in the development of new and improved technologies, and to implement innovative practices that support the use of Transportation Asset Management principles.
2. Foster the continued enhancement of Transportation Asset Management through the identification and advancement of research activities.
3. Support the implementation and use of National Cooperative Highway Research Program efforts and other initiatives in this area.
4. Utilize communication strategies (e.g., conference sessions, workshops, peer exchanges) that facilitate the implementation of Transportation Asset management principles by delivering timely and appropriate information to TRB and to other members of the asset management community.
5. Ensure a qualified, diverse, and active committee.

Committee Structure

Standing Committees help TRB provide a forum for transportation professionals to identify research needs and to share information on research and issues of interest. Typical Committee activities involve participation in the TRB Annual Meeting, sponsorship of workshops and conferences, and identification of research needs statements. To assist in coordinating the Committee and Subcommittee activities in these areas, the following positions have been established:

- **Conference Planning:** The Committee co-sponsors an international conference on Transportation Asset Management on a periodic basis. In support of the conference, a conference organizing committee is established to develop the theme and program, to identify and recruit speakers, and to participate in conference activities. A new conference organizing committee is established prior to each conference. Ms. Francine Shaw-Whitson serves as the FHWA Coordinator to the conference organizing committee.
- **Paper Review:** The annual paper-review process for the TRB Annual Meeting is coordinated for the Committee by the Paper Review Coordinator, Jason Bittner.
- **Communications:** The Committee Communication Coordinator (CCC) helps establish social media outlets for distributing information to members, friends, and other industry stakeholders. David Blake has been appointed the CCC for ABC40.
- **Research Problem Statements:** Committees are responsible for stimulating research through the development and publishing of research needs statements. The Research Problem Statement Coordinator, Ken Petty, is responsible for posting the research needs statements identified by the Committee in the TRB Research Needs Statement Database. (<http://rns.trb.org/>).
- **Synthesis Studies:** Committees may also submit recommendations for synthesis studies to summarize the state of the practice in a particular area. The Synthesis Coordinator for the Committee is Omar Smadi.

The Committee also has a **Secretary** to prepare and distribute minutes of each Committee meeting. Zongzhi Li currently holds this position.

Members and friends of TRB Committee ABC40 actively participate in Committee activities through one or more of the Subcommittees. To further help the Committee achieve its goals, Subcommittees have been established in the following areas:

1. **Data:** Recognizing that asset management relies on quality data to support decision making, this Subcommittee deals with issues related to data quality, governance, integration, and access. The Chair of this Subcommittee is: Jack Stickel
2. **Tools:** This Subcommittee promotes the development and use of analysis tools that support asset management decisions in transportation agencies. Transportation agencies have many investment decisions; therefore, they rely on the ability to analyze the available options in terms of resource requirements, performance, and other attributes. The Chair of this Subcommittee is: Bill Robert
3. **Implementation and Use:** This Subcommittee helps facilitate the availability of information on asset management to increase the number of agencies who are successfully using asset management principles. While the availability of the Transportation Asset Management Guide – Volume 2 provides much of the technical information needed to support the implementation

and use of asset management concepts, there are still many technology transfer activities required to help put these concepts into practice in transportation agencies. The Chair of this Subcommittee is: Jeff Price (pending acceptance)

Each of the Subcommittees is responsible for developing and updating an annual Action Plan that specifically identifies the activities that will be completed during the calendar year. The Action Plans are due prior to each year's Annual Meeting and time will be provided at each of the Committee's summer meetings for the Subcommittees to work on items identified in their Action Plans. For calendar year 2011, each Subcommittee will include the following items in their Action Plan:

- **Recommend one session/workshop proposal for the 2012 TRB Annual Meeting.**
- **Identify and conduct a minimum of one webconference.**
- **Identify TRB co-sponsors for at least one of the outreach activities conducted by the Subcommittee.**
- **Identify and prepare at least one research problem statement.**
- **Provide a volunteer to serve on the organizing committee for the next International Conference on Transportation Asset Management.**

The activities of the technical Subcommittees will be conducted in cooperation with the Committee Chair and the Committee Coordinators, as appropriate.

Executive Team

The Executive Team shall consist of the Chairs of each of the Subcommittees, the five Committee Coordinators who are assisting with on-going Committee activities, and the TRB Representative assigned to the Committee. On a quarterly basis, the Executive Team will participate in conference calls to discuss Committee business and to monitor the Subcommittee's progress on various Committee initiatives.

Committee Communication

Members and friends of ABC40 will receive communication from the Committee Chair at least twice yearly, before the annual and mid-year meetings, to ensure that they have the necessary information to stay informed and to participate in Committee meetings. Other methods of communicating with members, friends, and interested stakeholders will be determined by the Executive Team based on recommendations from a survey of the membership.

In addition, the Chair of ABC40 shall participate in monthly conference calls with leadership representatives from FHWA and AASHTO to ensure coordination and collaboration of all activities related to transportation asset management.