

**AP000 (3) Transformative Trends in Transit Data:
Joint Subcommittee (AP000/ABJ00)**

Annual Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2015

3:45 PM – 5:30 PM

Marriott Marquis Hotel

Congress (M4)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Forty-two persons attended the meeting (slightly delayed due to fire alarm), including eight members and one friend of the Subcommittee (see Appendix A – TRB 2015 Meeting Roster).

II. Reports

a. Chair's Report - Kate Lawson [lawsonc@albany.edu]

The Chair shared a Powerpoint (see Appendix B – Chair's Report) provided information the number of members and friends and asked about the use of MyTRB. The Subcommittee sponsored a Call for Paper (see Appendix C – Call for Papers TRB 2015) and received twelve direct submittals. In all, forty-three were reviewed by teams of domain experts (e.g., published authors on the topics), statisticians, and practitioners. It was noted that TRB staff have commented that any papers accepted for presentation need to be suitable for the on-line paper distribution system in its original form. Although authors are requested to make changes and edits as per the reviewer comments, TRB staff have no mechanism to require changes be made before papers are made available on-line. There was some discussion on whether it was possible to encourage edits by not indicating any papers as being designated for future publication. Accepted papers had an average score of 4 or greater for presentation. Three of the 43 papers were presented in a Podium Session 223, with one additional paper. Seven papers were presented in the Poster Session 651. There was a short discussion on whether a paper review committee should be formed for the next TRB Annual meeting, as it is anticipated that more papers will be submitted on the topic of transit data. It may be helpful for new authors to have their papers previewed prior to August 1st by a group of volunteer editors to act as “coaches” to improve submittals.

b. Report on APTA Conference (Brendon Hemily, Chair, AP025)

[\[brendon.hemily@sympatico.ca\]](mailto:brendon.hemily@sympatico.ca)

Brendon provided an overview of the APTA Conference in Orlando, FL on November 7-8, 2014 (see <http://www.apta.com/mc/its/Pages/default.aspx>). The Workshop focused on:

- Identifying the state-of-the-art of Transit ITS,
- Building awareness and identify the potential opportunities offered by the connected vehicle developments that might be pertinent for transit in terms of enhanced safety and new mobility applications,
- Enabling a discussion among participants of potential benefits and challenges facing the transit industry with respect to ITS Transit.

There is an enormous opportunity to coordinate our subcommittee with the leadership of APTA going forward.

c. Report on growth of GTFS uses (Holly Krambeck, World Bank)

[\[rsouley@engr.uky.edu\]](mailto:rsouley@engr.uky.edu)

Holly and Li Qu provided exciting information on the progression initiative on Open Transit Indicators. The mission is to turn General Transit Feed Specifications (GTFS), GTFS – Real Time (GTFS-RS), and GIS census data into global transit benchmarks. The source code and manuals are available at <https://github.com/WorldBank-Transport/open-transit-indicators>. A demo site can be found at http://bit.ly/oti_demo (login and password = demo). For further information, join the GoogleGroup at open-transit-indicators@googlegroups.com. Li provided a short demo of the site.

III. Discussions

a. The role of our subcommittee to foster “interconnectiveness” of data challenges across the TRB transit community (Ken Cervenka, FTA)

Ken assembled a spreadsheet of the many TRB Standing Committees and Subcommittees, all of whom have some interest in transit data and should be considered as a strong linkage for our subcommittee (see Appendix D – List of Committees_Subcommittees).

b. Group Discussion on Research Initiatives for 2015

The meetings was opened to attendee participation to identify research ideas and areas to be explored for future activities by the Subcommittee. The discussion included the following topic statements:

- The National Transit Database is a well-established transit data sources, primarily gathering federally-requested data elements.
- A synthesis should be scoped to gather current State-of-Practice of new transit data sources. Previous research has been conducted on AVL/APC data through the TCPR program.
- There are issues with “findability” of new transit data sources.
- Research is needed on new ways to do old things; new sources; and ways to do things better with new data sources
- GTFS, as a major advancements (particularly with the World Bank Open Source resources)
- Open standards
- The emergence of geojson spatial files
- Areas of data reliability
- Surveys, traditional and new ways
- New analytics and techniques for analysis
- Call for a scan of best practices with new transit data sources and “lessons learned”
- Attention to potential funding sources for research on new and traditional transit data sources
- Agencies need to modify procurement practices and processes – particularity with respect to open source, open data
- Need to identify educational opportunities for learning how to use open source/open data, including workshops, websites, and materials
- Need to better understand transit operations data opportunities
- How can new transit data sources be made useful for performance measures?
- What are the sources for open source/open software to use open transit data?
- Call for future research with open tools, including a workshop – which could be scheduled as a TRB Sunday Workshop. Such a workshop would need to be planned and submitted by June 1, 2015. Upcoming Subcommittee phone conferences and outreach to members, friends, attendees, relevant Standing Committees and Subcommittees.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:30.