

Minutes
AP000 (3)/ABJ00
Joint Subcommittee on Transformative Trends in Transit Data
MM, Treasury (M4)
January 8, 2018
1:30PM – 3:15PM

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Dr. Lawson, Chair of the Joint Subcommittee on Transformative Trends in Transit Data (AP000(3)) opened the Subcommittee meeting with the reading of the new harassment policy, and then invited attendees to introduce themselves, including the area of transit data that was of most interest to them. Of the thirty-five persons attending the meeting, seven were members.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes:** Due to the lack of a Subcommittee Secretary, Dr. Lawson provided draft copies of the 2017 meeting minutes, and indicated that she would reach out to Committee Members for approval via email.
- III. **Reports**
 - a. **Chair's Report:** The Chair shared the Subcommittee Status with a Powerpoint. The first issue is the need for a new Secretary/Webmaster and invited anyone interested in these tasks to follow up. She also indicated that our Young Members Group Leader is unable to attend meetings, so we need another Young Member to take on this important leadership position. Thirteen of the twenty-three listed Subcommittee Members appear in the MyTRB listing. We are looking for new Subcommittee members to join for 2018-2019. Interested persons should follow-up with the Chair. The Subcommittee keeps a separate spreadsheet listing of the Subcommittee Friends list, as it is not yet possible to include Subcommittee Friends in the MyTRB software. We also need a volunteer to guide the development of Research Needs Statements as a Research Coordinator.

Special thanks were given to those who participated in the development of the call for papers, and to all the paper reviewers who participated with excellent quality and timely reviews. We received forty-three papers (including ten for presentation only and two for publication only). Four papers are to be presented in Session 696 and thirteen will be presented as posters in Session 649. The decision for the three papers for publication will be made by the end of January. The idea of creating a

Paper Review Team for 2019 was suggested and interested persons can provide contact information. We could also prepare for the next TRB meeting by assembling a Domain Experts list. There is a place in the MyTRB for this listing.

The criteria for the current paper review process includes an Overall Weighted Score of 65 or greater; an average presentation score of 3.3 or greater; being camera ready quality; and having no “fatal flaws” as indicated by the reviewers. The decision for the best presentation method is based on the content of the paper itself (e.g., highly technical would be best as a poster).

A request was made for more opportunities to liaison with Standing Committees and external groups. The Transit ITS Data Exchange Specifications (TIDES) group continues to make progress (e.g., a special meeting was held on Wednesday at 12:15 PM in the Woodley Park room to discuss TIDES activities). Potential task teams include: a research needs statement team; a paper review team; and an award recommendations team.

Two conferences of interest were mentioned: the 2017 Transit GIS Conference held in Washington, D. C., on September 6th thru 8th and the Census Data Conference, held in Kansas City, MO, on November 14th thru 16th.

- b. **APTA Update:** Brendon Hemily provided a brief update on APTA activities. He expressed continued concern that transit agencies are not taking advantage of the vast array of data that would be useful for operations and management. There are concerns in the transit industry over mobility on-demand being integrated into operations.
- c. **TRB Update:** Steve Andrie, TRB staff, provided updates on the TRB activities. There is an on-going effort to review committee structures and reevaluate direction. Committees are encouraged to make sure their membership is diverse and inclusive of under-represented minorities. TCRP representative, Mariela Garcia-Colberg, explained opportunities for funding, including synthesis projects, and on-going funded projects. She also referred to the concern over declining ridership numbers.

IV. **Emerging Transit Data Topic: Emergency Preparedness and the Role of Transit Data (GTFS-diff)**

- a. Aaron Antrim, Trillium, provided the background on a new form of GTFS that would be more flexible than standard GTFS, but less agile than GTFS Real-time. His presentation is available at https://docs.google.com/a/trilliumtransit.com/presentation/d/1Z6MXpMER8lbuBhY-zNVsjXg3HJX35b67GwNaNnshOE8/edit?usp=drive_web.

This effort will help transit agencies provide alternative routes during snow events and during special events. The Emergency Preparedness community has expressed interest in being able to provide community members with accurate alerts and guidance during emergencies and the development of GTFS-diff offers great benefits for such purposes.

- b. Boston's Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) is contributing to the development of this asset.

V. Update on Transit ITS Data Exchange Specifications (TIDES):

- a. John Levin, Metro Transit, provided an overview of the TIDES framework with a Powerpoint presentation and invited everyone to attend the Wednesday meeting. He also shared information on an application that visualized archived transit data. Lack of a source for funding continues to act a barrier to rapid progress on the TIDES' mission.
- b. Under John's leadership, a dedicated group continues to move forward, participating in through a Google Group.

VI. Updates on TCRP activities:

- a. Steve Yaffe, ART, distributed a spreadsheet of TCRP projects and described the ones most related to transit data issues.
- b. It was suggested that outreach by made to include public housing and other potential partners.

VII. Connected Transit Vehicles – Autonomous Shuttles – Show me the Data! Discussion:

- a. Chair Lawson asked attendees about their experiences with Autonomous Shuttles. Two descriptions were offered, both "small trip" examples where an AS provided very limited service. A round-table discussion followed that included what data might be available and be useful for transit planning and research.

VIII. New Business:

- a. Aaron Antrim led a discussion on additional issues with GTFS. A key issues is the length of time involved in various data products. A number of comments were made on the need for flexibility and how best to approach this issue. What are the tools and rules that need to be addressed? It is very useful to be able to tell a story with the data (e.g., on-time performance, ridership, accountability).
- b. It would be very useful to create an inventory of Github assets that was easy to find and useful for agencies and researchers. Currently, individuals have to hunt down resources and it is not possible to know if all available resources have actually been located for particular purposes.