

Meeting Minutes for AHB45 Committee on Traffic Flow Theory and Characteristics

2015 TRB committee meeting (Washington D.C., January 13, 2015)
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0. Announcements
 - a. Transition of TFTC committee chair position: Chair Robert Bertini will rotate off committee on 4/15/2015 and Chair Soyoung Ahn will start the service effective on 4/15/2015.
 - b. Two new state DOT members join the committee: Dr. Zhongren Wang and Mr. Soumya Dey.
1. Chair report
 - a. TRB 2015 *"Corridors to the Future: Transportation and Technology"*.
 - b. All are encouraged to participate—no real difference between Member and Friend.
 - c. Celebrated 50th Anniversary of Committee last year.
 - d. Producing 2 TR Circulars and 2 Journal Special Issues.
 - e. Always possible to update paper reviewer pool (526 members).
 - f. Encourage State DOT and MPO involvement.
 - g. Subcommittees; Young Members; Products.
 - h. What's next for the Committee? To further discuss.
2. Blue Ribbon Award: Traffic Flow Theory and Characteristics Committee was selected as a 2015 Blue Ribbon Committee in the area of Community Building and Mentoring
 - a. Special thanks to Sue Ahn, Costas Antoniou, Samer Hamdar, Yanfeng Ouyang, Hani Mahmassani and Nathan Gartner who contributed to the nomination.
 - b. In future work, the committee aims to encourage involvement of young members and development of new products.
3. TRB report
 - a. The committee has been very active and visible over the past nine years. The number of paper submission and review for TRB keeps growing every year and the total number of sections, workshops, and meetings at TRB has significant growth as well.
 - b. Plan to form a subcommittee on connected automated vehicles to leverage TFTC in that arena.
 - c. New TRB venue: the committee suggested authors to put committee names on posters to differentiate different committees.
 - d. To involve young professionals, state DOT employees, professionals from outside the US and non-traditional stakeholders. Note that state DOT people can have a request and the TRB expense can be paid.
 - e. Suggest a TRB Webinar for 2015 (March 1, 2015 deadline)
 - f. Communications (TFTC website and social media, e.g., facebook page)

4. TRR update (discussion with Javy Awan)
 - a. Existing problems include: (1) slow process; (2) lack of time to make major revisions; and (3) impact factor diluted by large number of articles published in TRR.
 - b. Proposed solutions:
 - Provide TRR issue number in February for appropriate “in press” citations
 - Online appearance of unedited articles in Feb/March
 - Allow authors until January 15 to submit revised papers for TRR consideration
 - Consider splitting into different areas; e.g., Transportation Research Part X
 - Include a summary of results for papers not accepted for publication.
 - c. Response from the TRR publication division:
 - For author revision problem: TRB use the streamlined review process, which is set by technical division and it is beyond publication process.
 - Volume number not available until the whole process is finished.
 - DOI issue: hard to have early release, mainly to avoid trouble when people withdraw paper.
 - Acceptance list: it’s possible to post the acceptance list and then update the citation when the record is revealed. **Need to double check.**
 - Regarding whether to include the paper in the proceeding and publish the proceeding online, publishers have concerns (for papers after certain year, they can’t be published in other journals (like ASCE)).
5. US DOT/FHWA report(from James Sturrock)
 - a. Transportation systems simulation manual
 - Contract initiated. Next step is to draft framework and involve stakeholders to collect input (survey among DOTs was proposed).
 - Simulation task forced proposed and approved. Will have 20-25 members. Look for volunteers/diversity.
 - Synthesis Proposal due February 13, 2015.
 - Future funding via NCHRP process – need state DOT stakeholders.
 - The manual won’t advocate specific software, but need to involve vendors in the process to develop inclusive products. It will include multi-modal transportation. Research needs can be proposed.
 - b. On-going projects: (1) ATDM/DMA Testbed; (2) Traffic Analysis Tools Volume III Revision; (3) Trajectory Validation Engine Project (Mainly use existing data, new data collection efforts are not extensive); (4) Predictive Engine Project.
6. Subcommittee activities
 - a. Simsub:
 - Sunday workshop held, will create a TR Circular. Simsub report well developed. Sponsored webinars held in 2014.
 - Considering joint meeting with Simcat. Considering turning future Sunday workshop into publication, e.g., an e-circular.
 - New topics for next year to decide.

- b. Subcommittee on Crowd flow dynamics, modeling and management
 - TRB special call for papers (one lectern section); subcommittee meeting and Sunday Workshop held.
 - Actively working with other disciplines (PED2014, etc.); seeking co-sponsorship from Network and Emergency Evacuation committees.
 - New webpage available.
 - c. New subcommittee formed on “on Traffic Flow Modeling for Connected and Automated Vehicles”.
 - Led by Stephen Mattingly. Members include Haizhong Wang, Samer Hamdar, Danjue Chen, and Alireza Talebpour.
 - Will plan on plenary section at Automated Vehicle Symposium 2015. Will initiate special call for paper for the symposium and also TRB 2016.
 - d. Research problem statement
 - To collaborate with the simulation task force. Accounting for connected and autonomous vehicles.
 - e. Paper review
 - Two special calls at TRB 2015.
 - To decide new special calls. Due May 2015.
 - Significant growth in paper received, reviewed in the past 6 years.
 - f. Chair letter (Welcomed and should continue).
7. TFTC activities at TRB 2015
- a. Six lectern sessions, 2 poster sections and four workshops.
 - b. Suggestion for future TRB: add committee name on posters.
 - c. Thanks to support of Richard Cunard.
8. Awards (note: only papers submitted to TRR are considered)
- a. Greenshields award 2014: Empirical observations of congestion propagation and dynamic partitioning with probe data for large scale systems (TRB Paper No. 14-0816). By Yuxuan Ji, EPFL; Jun Luo, Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology; Nikolas Geroliminis, EPFL.
 - a. Cunard Award for 2014: A Clustering Approach to Assess the Travel Time Reliability of Arterials (Paper 14-0390). By Etienne Hans, Nicolas Chiabaut, and Ludovic Leclercq from University of Lyon, France.
 - b. TRB Wide Awards: D. Grant Mickle Award, and Fred Burggraf Award. No winner for 2014. Will continue in 2015.
 - c. Increasing number of award-eligible papers.
 - b. Info for authors: please mention on the first page of paper if your are eligible.
9. Mid-year meetings
- a. 2015 ISTTT Kobe; 2017 ISTTT Chicago, 2019 ISTTT Switzerland.
 - b. Location for 2018 mid-year meeting? TBA, U.S., possibly Woods Hole or Irvine.
 - c. 2016 mid-year meeting in Queensland Australia. Majid Sarvi and Meead Saberi will chair the meeting.

- d. To have retreat in mid-year meeting? Monograph update in a different way (wiki page vs. formal website)? Need volunteers.

10. Outreach

- a. Outreach subcommittee: (1) Well established newsletter; (2) Activities with ASCE planned; (3) Identified three members from industry (IBM & Volkswagen America and Google); (4) Social media for communication.
- b. Webinars: (1) 45 since 2010; (2) TRB can open go-to meeting for us; (3) Suggest to present award winning papers and great paper in the connected-automated vehicle section.
- c. TFTC website: open to addition of new contents, e.g., course materials, data, valuable materials.

11. Strategic Planning 2015-2018

- a. Formally approved. 2nd approval from Stephen Mattingly and Mohammed Hadi.
- b. To think “products” and engage non-traditional partners/participants who can’t travel.

12. TFT Historical papers and classic paper retreat

- a. Historical papers
 - (1) Lists available via website on Google Docs. (2) 619 papers and 66 issues of HRR/TRR since 1963. (3) Papers and citation of TRR by TFTC committee available. (4) Statistics of ISTTT google scholar available (645 papers); (5) special report on TFT (1964, 1975, 2001). Maybe to enrich that by collecting classroom materials and recent books to enrich. Contact Samer Hamdar if interested.
- b. Classic paper retreat
 - Potential format: select some papers and assign each participant a paper and have them present the paper to the audience. To collect ALL papers.
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 - Participants: Gartner Nathan, Mohammed Hadi, Hani Mahmassani, Michael Zhang, and Christine Buisson (in charge).
 - Where and when? Suggested summer meeting (e.g., summer meeting 2018). Location is TBD. Potential places: San Luis Obispo and Irvine.

13. International Liaison

(a) NEARCTIS. Contact Winnie Daamen; (b) MULTITUDE summerschool (June 10-12). Contact Mark Brackstone; (c) MOCOPO Trajectory Data Enhancement. Need six volunteer teams. Contact Christine Buisson

14. Future meetings

- a. ISTTT21 August 5-7 Kobe, Japan
- b. Traffic and Granular Flow October 28-30 Nootdorp, the Netherlands
- c. AVS15 July 21-23 Ann Arbor

- The subcommittee on Traffic Flow Modeling for Connected and Automated Vehicles will coordinate the call for paper and plenary section.

15. Closing thoughts from Chair Robert Bertini

16. Adjourn