

International Trade and Transportation Committee (AT020) Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: January 9, 2017, 6:00 – 7:50 PM

Location: Marriott Marquis – Washington, D.C.

Present: Pablo Achurra-Gonzalez – Imperial College London; Panagiotis Angeloudis - Imperial College London; Elisa Arias – SANDAG; Chris Bachmann – University of Waterloo; Oscar Bazán – Panama Canal Authority; Steve Beningo – BTS (Secretary); Maria Boilé – Hellenic Institute of Transport; Michael Bomba – University of North Texas (Chairman); Mary Brooks – Dalhousie University; Scott Brotemarkle – TRB; Agustina Calatayud - Inter-American Development Bank; Christopher Clement – U.S. Department of Transportation – Office of International Transportation and Trade; Silvana Croope – Delaware DOT; Michael DeMers – Arizona DOT; Anne Goodchild – University of Washington; Daniel Hackett – Hackett Associates; Frank Harder – Tioga; Jessica Huffman – ATRI; Mark Jensen – Cambridge Systematics; Shannon McLeod – WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff; Jean Pierre Médevielle – retired from IFSTTAR; James Sassini – Fugro Roadware; Doug Scheffler – U.S. Coast Guard; Rohan Shah – CDM Smith; Dan Smith – Tioga; Scudder Smith – WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff; Michael Sprung – BTS; Ahmadneza Talebian – University of Memphis; Isabel Victoria – Cambridge Associates; Juan Carlos Villa – Texas Transportation Institute; Jason Wang – Appalachian Regional Commission; Kostas Zavitsus - Imperial College London; Tahlis Zis – Technical University of Denmark

Minutes:

1. Introductions were made.
2. Scott Brotemarkle spoke on Transportation Research Board (TRB) activities. TRB will host an Innovations in Freight Data Workshop on May 17-18 in Irvine, California. He also stated that the NCFRP 48 Report on freight research to support MAP-21 implementation will come out soon.
3. Anne Goodchild, the Freight Systems Chair, told the committee that Freight Day would be on Tuesday. She also thanked paper reviewers and talk about a critical issues list.
4. Oscar Bazán of the Panama Canal Authority gave a presentation on the opening of the expanded Panama Canal. The expanded canal opened on June 26, 2016 to great fanfare, as shown in a video that was included in Oscar's presentation. There were 641 transits of the canal between June 26, 2016 and January 7, 2017. Sixty-seven percent of cargo vessels transiting the Panama Canal have an origin or destination in the United States. More vessels carrying liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied natural gas are transiting the canal. The Panama Canal Authority is also planning to build a new Roll-On, Roll-Off Terminal.
5. Scudder Smith presented on Scudder's Law. According to Scudder's Law, the value of a container forecast is related to the number and quality of explanatory factors that add

understanding and reduce uncertainty, but adding too much detail and complexity can be detrimental.

6. Maria Boilé discussed the paper review process for the 2017 Annual Meeting. Twenty-one papers were submitted, of which ten were selected for presentation at this meeting. One paper out of 15 was accepted for publication. Currently, there are more than 150 names in the paper review pool for AT020 – this list needs to be culled, as there are a lot of inactive people on the list. Also, if people sign up to be reviewers, then cannot review a paper, they need to let Maria know so that she can assign someone else to do the review.
7. Research coordination was discussed. TRB funding is linked to research needs statements. Some of the requirements have been reduced. Need specific paper ideas – don't have to link to funding this year.
8. Certificates were awarded to Maria Boile for her service as AT020 Paper Chair, Steve Beningo for his service as AT020 Secretary and to Juan Villa for his service as AT020 Vice-Chair. Juan Villa will become the Chair of AT020 on April 1.
9. Minutes of the previous two meetings were summarized and approved.
10. Michael Bomba made some general comments about trade. Trade is on the defensive. Trade is the best tool for reducing poverty. But we have not adequately considered the negative aspects of trade. Scudder Smith added that the relationship between trade and the economy can be clarified a lot. The new administration will seek to promote exports.
11. The topic of human trafficking was briefly discussed. It was noted that AT020 previously has had a person speak to the committee on human trafficking.
12. The location and date of the next AT020 meeting are yet to be determined. Irvine, California was suggested as a possible site for the mid-year committee meeting, in conjunction with the Innovations in Freight Data Workshop.