

International Trade and Transportation Committee (AT020) Minutes

Washington DC

Date and Time: June 18, 2018, 10:15 AM – 12:02 PM Eastern

Present: Elisa Arias – SANDAG (phone); Chris Bachman (phone); Irina Benedyk – Purdue University; Steve Beningo – BTS (Secretary); Paul Bingham – Economic Development Research Group; Scott Brotemarkle – TRB; Noel Comeaux – Healthy Communities/AP08S; Maxim Dulebenets – Florida A&M University and Florida State University; Daniel Hackett – Hackett Associates (Research Coordinator); Isabel Victoria-Jaramillo – Cambridge Systematics (phone); Marc Levinson – Congressional Research Service; Donald Ludlow – CPCS; Shannon McLeod – WSP; Mario Monsreal – Texas Transportation Institute; Matthew Rooney – George W. Bush Institute; James Sassin – LNB; Juan Carlos Villa – Texas Transportation Institute (Chairman - phone); Ping Wang – Texas A&M University at Galveston; Chris Wilson – Wilson Center; Emily Hashimoto, and Alina (please provide last names, if known)

Minutes:

1. The meeting began with a welcome from AT020 Committee Chairman Juan Villa, followed by introductions.
2. New members Irina Benedyk and Maxim Dulebenets introduced themselves.
3. Daniel Hackett discussed research needs statements. He would like members and friends to submit research needs statements that briefly describe the research that we would like to see achieved. He hopes that research needs statements will impact paper submissions for upcoming TRB Annual Meetings. Topics for research needs statements that were proposed were: Risks to Global Trade, The Relationship Between Investments, Measuring How Logistics Infrastructure Drives Economic Growth, The Efficiency of Border Crossings, and Logistics Capacity Issues for Liquid Chemicals and Petrochemicals.
4. Chris Wilson presented a NAFTA Negotiations Update. Drivers of these negotiations are automation, globalization, and the election of Donald Trump. There is a shift in the United States from seeing Mexico as the sole challenge to a revised NAFTA deal, to seeing Canada as a challenge as well, over issues such as softwood lumber. The farm community is nervous, as they tend to bear the brunt of retaliation in trade wars. Several chapters of a revised NAFTA have already been completed.
5. Matt Rooney talked about a border infrastructure bank. He said that the United States has no mechanism for prioritizing border infrastructure projects.
6. Workshop proposals for the Sunday of the TRB Annual Meeting were discussed. There is a proposal for a Sunday Afternoon workshop on a globally harmonized greenhouse gas calculation methodology.
7. Freight Day ideas were discussed, as was session planning for the TRB Annual Meeting.
8. AT020 members are encouraged to keep their TRB profile up to date.

9. Scott Brotemarkle gave the TRB Update. The next TRB Annual Meeting will be held January 13-17, 2019. TRB is starting to plan for its Centennial in 2020. TRB is hosting a Port Data Portals Webinar on July 23, 1:00-2:30 Eastern. Regarding 2019 Annual Meeting Deadlines: The Workshop Deadline was June 15, the Paper Deadline is August 1, and the Session Planning Deadline is October 1.
10. Steve Beningo summarized the minutes of the previous two AT020 meetings.
11. Juan Villa would like to have another AT020 webinar. Meeting attendees were encouraged to send possible webinar topics to Juan.
12. Some meeting participants discussed projects that they are working on.
13. The next AT020 meeting will be held during the TRB Annual Meeting in January 2019. Juan Villa plans to ask TRB staff for a morning AT020 meeting.