

## **TRB International Trade and Transportation Committee (AT020)**

### **Mid-Year Meeting**

**Date and Time:** June 14, 2022 11:00 AM – 12 noon Central Time

**Location:** virtual meeting

**Participants:** Juan Carlos Villa - Texas Transportation Institute (AT 020 Chair), Maria Boile – University of Piraeus (Vice Chair), Elisa Arias – Retired SANDAG (Secretary), Daniel Hackett – Hackett Associates (Committee Research Coordinator), Isabel Victoria-Jaramillo- Cambridge Systematics (Paper Review Coordinator), Irina Benedyk – State University of New York at Buffalo (Committee Communications Coordinator), Scott Babcock - TRB Staff, Mary R. Brooks - Professor Emerita Dalhousie University, Paul Bingham - S&P Global, Maximilian Bauernfend - EU Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA), Russell Adise - International Trade Administration, Maritime Services, Loretta Brown – Texas DOT, Travis Black – U.S. DOT MARAD, Marc Levinson, Paloma Salas - FOA Consulting. Mexico, Lefteris Sdoukopoulos, - Hellenic Institute of Transport, Daniel Covarrubias - Director Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, Texas A&M International University, Martin Rojas - IRU, Giacomo Yaquinto – Texas DOT, Steven Beningo, Brittney Gick - Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Don Kang – Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Sonal Gangawala - Environmental Specialist NYSDOT, Dara Schniederjans - University of Rhode Island, Rohan Shah - World Bank, Sara Davidson - ITS America, Mitch Kostoulakos - Ad Hoc Logistics LLC, Jolanda Prozzi - Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Scudder Smith, Elyakim BenHakoun - Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Mariela Rodriguez - San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), Claudia Lagos - Texas DOT, Cortney Robinson - International Civil Aviation Organization (United Nations), Aleksandra Maguire - S&P Global, Scott Sigman - Equanimous Advisory Service Enterprise (EASE). Attendees who did not enter their contact information in the chat are not listed.

### **Minutes:**

**Welcome:** Juan Carlos Villa, Chair International Trade and Transportation Committee, AT020, welcomed the participants.

**2023 Annual Meeting:** Scott Babcock, TRB staff, shared key dates related to papers for the 2023 meeting. The submission site opened June 1 and will close on August 1. Paper review will take place from August 15 to September 15, and Paper decisions will be sent between October 15 and October 30. The Annual Meeting in Washington DC will be held January 8-12, 2023. The TRB website will include the most up to date information. It is hoped that the 2023 Meeting will be as close as possible to the Meeting in 2020.

Each Committee will be allowed two sessions (1 hr. 45 min. each). The Committee meeting also will be scheduled for 1 hour and 45 minutes. There will be a Poster Hall, an Exhibition Hall, and the Chair Plenary session (no lunch). Workshops will be scheduled on Sunday and Thursday.

Committee Rotation: Char Villa explain the Committee rotation that will take place in April 2023. The Committee has 29 members, of which 9 have reached the term limit. Three members are no longer active. Mr. Villa stated that we need volunteers to replace those members leaving, ideally a balance of industry and academia. He urged members to invite colleagues to join the Committee.

Steve Beningo asked about the possibility of re-joining the Committee. Mr. Babcock indicated that members serve as individuals. Mr. Villa will look into this question and get back to Mr. Beningo.

**Committee Research Coordinator Update:** Daniel Hackett summarized the AASHTO/TRB Freight Research Roundtable held in July 2021. AASHTO has identified the following Top Research Issues:

- How to make strategic investment decisions by region (not state by state or port by port)
- Economic Methodology Baseline
- Container Availability & Manufacturing
- Ways to improve data availability and sharing
- Fuel Options for port operations as well as maritime vehicles
- Equity Impacts to adjacent communities

Some of these issues align with Research Needs Statements (RNS) already developed by the Committee. There is an opportunity to update RNS to better link to these top issues and also to support other Committees. Mr. Hackett mentioned that there is a RNS in progress related to Assessing the Impact of Covid-19 on Nearshoring.

Mr. Babcock provided information to search the Research Needs Database at <https://rns.trb.org/>. In order to get a user account that allows submission of statements, contact James Bryant at the address on the RNS home page.

No AASHTO funding is tied to the Committee's RNS, but there is an opportunity for NCHRP funding. There was discussion about similar issues in Europe and potentially extending the scope to access European institutions and research programs. Mr. Babcock indicated that the RNS database is not tied to funding but potential funding sources can be identified. NCHRP funding is tied to the US Department of Transportation (DOT) and the applications for funding have to be supported by State DOTs and their priorities. It was also mentioned that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) includes funding for the previous freight research program (NCFRP).

Mary Brooks mentioned that a trade and transportation topic that is gaining attention globally is market concentration of container shipping. There was support from Committee members on this topic.

Mr. Villa suggested working with Irina Benedyk to develop a survey for members to weigh in on topics of interest for new RNS, including Ms. Brooks' idea. He also mentioned that this topic could be addressed as a session with speakers at the 2023 Annual Meeting. Ms. Brooks requested information on guidelines to submit RNS. There was discussion about tailoring the AASHTO top research issues, some of which are very broad, to the interests of the Committee.

**Supply Chain Subcommittee:** Mr. Villa discussed the Joint Subcommittee of International Trade and Transportation (AT020), Intermodal Freight Transportation (AT045), Ports and Channels (AW010), and Urban Freight Transportation (AT025) Committees. Joe Bryan, AT025 member, is the Chair of the Subcommittee. Russ Adise also volunteered to help develop the scope and mission of the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee's two initial actions are envisioned as:

- Identifying potential best-practices and disseminating salient research related to improving voluntary, electronic data-sharing end-to-end across U.S.-international trade supply chain stakeholders to facilitate the advance positioning of resources, equipment, and labor that expedites the movement of international trade and reduces congestion.
- Identifying potential research to optimize key infrastructure, capacity usage, and system operations to improve international trade flows and domestic goods movement.

Volunteers for the Supply Chain Subcommittee were asked to contact Chair Villa, who will pass on the information to Subcommittee Chair Joe Bryan.

There was a question about considering participation of the Food and Agriculture Transportation Committee in the Subcommittee. Efforts from the Department of Commerce on supply chain and how they could relate to the Supply Chain Subcommittee were mentioned also. Discussions from an upcoming meeting among the Committees that make up the Subcommittee will be shared.

**Annual Meeting Planning:** Chair Villa shared the list of topics for the Call for Papers. He also requested suggestions for the Annual Meeting Sessions. One session could include presentations from papers received. The other session could include a panel of 3 to 4 speakers and a Q&A period to engage with attendees and develop research ideas.

A Call for Posters also could be done to market the Committee. In addition, a Sunday workshop to be co-sponsored with other Committees is under discussion.

Potential topics mentioned for a session by members included: Issues related to vulnerability of supply chains to international shocks such as grain, natural gas, and oil as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, labor shortages in supply chains beyond trucking, labor issues related to technology changes from diesel to electric, space-based applications for supply chains.

In addition to the line up for the Annual Meeting, Chair Villa mentioned also topics for Webinars to be held more regularly.

An upcoming report on the legal framework for air cargo digitalization from the International Civil Aviation Organization (United Nations) was mentioned, as well as the Federal Maritime Commission's efforts on data standardization, a webinar on the importance of exponential technologies that support goods movement and land ports of entry based on research by the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, Texas A&M International University, and research on resilience of land transportation of cargo in Mexico depending on the level of integration and trade intensity with the US by Mexican States by FOA.

Mr. Villa mentioned he will schedule a December pre-meeting to take care of Committee business prior to the Annual Meeting.

**Other Business:** Chair Villa requested topics and volunteers for meetings between July and December and for members to share information on conferences or workshops of interest.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Villa thanked the participants for attending the Mid-Year Meeting. Notes will be posted in the AT020 Committee web site (<https://www.trbtradetransportation.org>).