

AT020: PRE-ANNUAL MEETING CALL
Minutes of the Meeting held on
Tuesday, December 12th, 2023 from 4:00 – 5:00pm ET

Note: This meeting was held virtually via Zoom. There were 21 attendees at peak attendance, and the session was not recorded. These minutes are the record.

Attendees: Chris Bachmann (University of Waterloo), Daniel Hackett (Hackett Associates), Irina Benedyk (SUNY at Buffalo), Claudia Lagos, Isabel Victoria-Jaramillo (Cambridge Systematics, Inc.), Walter Kemmsies, Maximillian Bauernfeind (EU Space Agency), Ron Erdmann, Mitch Kostoulakos (Mitch Kostoulakos, Ad Hoc Logistics LLC), Steven Polunsky (Washington State Department of Commerce), Ron Boenau, Zhaojun Wang (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.), Vince Mantero (USDOT Maritime Administration (MARAD)), Daniel Petrenko (Transportation Committee in Mt. Vernon), Emily Hashimoto (Goldman Sachs), Sara Davidson (Senior Technical Lead at ITS America), Mary Brooks (Dalhousie University), Mohammad Askariyeh (TTI), Jean-Paul Rodrigue, Lefteris Sdoukopoulos (Hellenic Institute of Transport), Paul Bingham. Attendees who did not enter their contact information in the chat are not necessarily listed.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Aided by PowerPoint slides, Daniel Hackett (Committee Chair) welcomed the attendees. He provided an update on the forthcoming meeting registrations, noting that the 2023 Annual Meeting had about 12,400 attendees, and the 2024 registration is “running well ahead of last year”. He reminded attendees that there is no cost to attend Committee Meetings.

II. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Aided by PowerPoint slides, Daniel Hackett (Committee Chair) facilitated the discussion of committee business:

2023 Mid-Year Meeting minutes

Daniel reviewed the 2023 mid-year meeting, which was held virtually and had approximately 40 participants. The meeting featured two presentations: “From Globalization to Regionalization: The Evolution of U.S. Cross-Border Trade” by Daniel Covarrubias and “The Cross-Border Markets: an intermodal perspective” by Lawrence Gross.

Research Needs Statements

Daniel noted the committee has not published a Research Needs Statement (RNS) in a little over a year. There is a need to prioritize and identify new research focus areas, as well as decide on whether previous RNSs are still relevant. Daniel asked whether we should do this by survey or in-person discussion at the January meeting.

Action Item: it was determined that Daniel Hackett and Daniel Covarrubias should make a survey ahead of the January meeting to collect preliminary thoughts, and then a discussion and potential ranking of RNSs should take place at the meeting in January.

Daniel later mentioned that we are not trying to attach RNSs to funding, which significantly reduces the requirements. Similarly, there is no longer need for circulation to other committees for support.

Papers Submitted

Daniel turned over the meeting to Isabel Victoria-Jaramillo to discuss the papers submitted to the committee for presentation at the TRB Annual meetings. Aided by her own PowerPoint slides, Isabel reminded attendees that reviewing papers is a core responsibility of the committee (including committee friends). Historically, the committee has been handling 4-7 papers per year. Each paper is assigned 4+ reviewers (at least 3 reviews completed for each paper). She then presented historical data from 2019 to 2023, showing the number of papers submitted to the committee and those accepted for presentation. Overall, there has been somewhat of a decline in papers submitted to the committee. This year, 4 papers were submitted and 3 were accepted for presentation.

This led to a broader discussion among committee members of what can be done to motivate researchers to submit papers to our committee. This led to several questions: are there overlaps between committees (e.g., cross border trade impacts on climate change – does it go to us or another climate change committee)? What are the criteria used in the TRB screening process to assign papers to committee? Are they relying on keywords, and if so, what are the keywords for our committee? Are there papers rejected from other committees based on content/topic (rather quality) that should be coming to our committee? Daniel also informed the committee that we could have a separate and specific call for papers aside from the general TRB call for papers.

Action Item: Daniel will follow-up with Scott Babcock about the question raised related to the pre-screening process done by TRB to assign papers to committees.

Young Members Council

Daniel informed the committee that we have 4 slots for young members, with the 1 currently filled and 3 vacant. He encouraged attendees to reach out to potential young members. The young members act as liaisons with the young members committee.

Ron Boenau suggested to consider reaching out to members in other transportation associations (e.g., ITE, ASCE, etc.).

Daniel later mentioned that the committee will aim to provide time at committee meetings for young members (particularly students) to present their research.

The committee was also looking for supply chain subcommittee liaison. Isabel asked if, and Daniel confirmed that, it is now an official subcommittee.

Action Item: Walter Kemmsies volunteered to act as our supply chain subcommittee liaison

Webinar topics

Daniel explained that there are three windows for webinar proposal submissions over the course of the year. Assuming it takes 1 or 2 cycles for an acceptance, it takes work over approximately 8 to 12 months to put together a webinar. Currently, the committee has generated four ideas: global disruptions and impacts on IT&T; technological advances to expedite freight cargo; technological advances to mitigate trade disruptions; and non-intrusive inspections at port of entry.

To increase our chances of success, we may need to look at previous webinars and make the case that our webinar is a “follow-up”.

III. 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Aided by PowerPoint slides, Daniel Hackett (Committee Chair) facilitated the discussion of the forthcoming 2024 Annual Meeting:

AT020-sponsored sessions

Our committee meeting is on January 9th, from 3:45 – 5:30pm in Marriot, Chinatown (M3). Our other sponsored sessions were outlined on the slides shown by Daniel.

Daniel highlighted the Freight Systems and Marine Transportation Unconference. The first unconference was held in 2023. This is a participant driven event. Organizers pose framing questions and organize activities to stimulate discussion with the goal of identifying topics ripe for further formal research needs. The 2023 unconference was designed for participants to reflect on how the discussions impacts their work, whereas this year an additional goal is to increase the actionable items for TRB resulting from the unconference.

Ron Boenau asked whether workforce development (a key topic area from the 2023 unconference) is coming up in conversation (i.e., is it not a hot topic?). Daniel confirmed that many participants in the 2023 unconference expressed concerns about workforce development (both private and public sector), especially related to young colleagues.

Social Event

Daniel Hackett asked whether the committee members are comfortable with an indoor sit-down restaurant for the annual meeting social event, or whether a “beer garden format” is preferred. Ron Boenau confirmed that a sit-down dinner worked for him. Irina Benedyk suggested a one-question poll ahead of the meeting might be needed.

Action Item: Daniel Hackett to send poll to committee members regarding social event format.

Other

Daniel Hackett asked whether there was any other committee business:

- Chris Bachmann announced the CTRF annual conference is upcoming in Kelowna, BC ([2024 Annual Conference | Canadian Transport Research Forum \(ctrf.ca\)](#))
- Maximillian Bauernfeind announced the Transportation Research Arena (TRA) 2024 is upcoming in April in Dublin, Ireland ([TRA 2024 | Transport Research Arena | RDS, Dublin \(traconference.eu\)](#))
- Vince Mantero posed in the chat that USDOT published a National Freight Strategic Plan back in 2020 (<https://www.transportation.gov/freight/NFSP>) that USDOT's Office of Freight is tasked with updating. This could be a question for Allison at our upcoming committee meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes will be posted in the AT020 Committee web site (<https://www.trbtradetransportation.org>).

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