

TRB AP055 Standing Committee on Rural, Intercity Bus, and Specialized Transportation

Mid-year Committee Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting, August 20, 2024, from 10:00 - 11:30 AM CST

In Attendance – [see list at document end]

Note: All meeting materials are posted in the committee [Google Drive](#)

I. Welcome:

Committee Chair Jill Hough welcomed everyone to the committee meeting. Attendees were asked to add their name and organization to the chat. Jill Hough announced the meeting minutes from our January committee meeting are on the Google drive. She briefly provided an overview of the TRB January 2024 AP055 activities.

II. Committee Coordinators Updates

Communications Coordinator(s), Jonathan Brooks and Thomas Craig - reported successful testing of a tool for submitting news and updates to the website. They encouraged others to use it. Contact jbrooks@thegoodmancorp.com or Thomas.craig@wsdot.wa.gov.

Paper Review Coordinator, Ranjit Godavarthy reported that AP055 received 18 papers this year and he assigned five reviewers to each paper. The deadline for the reviews is September 15. A reminder was given to check unfocused or spam folders for the paper review invites. Contact Ranjit.godavarthy@ndsu.edu if you have any questions.

Committee Research Coordinators, Krista Purser and Will Rodman, briefly talked about recently published and ongoing research of interest to the committee and talked about the upcoming research coordination calls to brainstorm new research ideas. The calls will take place:

- September 12th
 - 10 AM PT / 1 PM ET: Rural Transit
 - 11 AM PT / 2 PM ET: Intercity
 - 12 PM PT / 3 PM ET: Specialized

Committee members and friends are encouraged to contact Krista or Will with ideas.

- Krista Purser, co-coordinator, kpurser@kittelerson.com
- Will Rodman, co-coordinator, w-rodman@tti.tamu.edu

III. Subcommittee Updates

Paratransit Subcommittee (sponsored by AP055, AME50, and AP020) – Chair Erin McAuliff shared that she is working on the roster for the paratransit subcommittee. She is also looking to send out meeting

invitations for the subcommittee meeting to be held in September or October. You may contact Erin at erin.mcauliff@sfmta.com.

Intercity Bus Subcommittee Chair Kai Monast reported that the Intercity Bus Subcommittee is working with national RTAP to schedule an online discussion about industry trends for critical intercity bus facilities. It is scheduled for the afternoon of October 15. A second meeting will be held January 23, 2025. Kai also asked the committee to support the research committee's work on the intercity bus. Research on this topic is very important and we always need new ideas from the experts in this industry. You may contact Kai at kcmonast@ncsu.edu

IV. Other Reports & Discussion

Transportation in Military Communities Subcommittee - (sponsored by ADA20, AD035, and AP055) Chair Cory Hull – provided a few key updates. He reported the subcommittee will be having a panel session that focuses on mobility technologies in military communities at TRB 2025; the subcommittee has been introduced to some new stakeholders in the areas of veteran transportation, military quality of life that may contribute to our committee meeting in January. The best way to reach Corey is at corey@theray.org. Please reach out to Corey if you are interested in joining the subcommittee. Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/trb-transportation-in-military/home>.

International Association of Transportation Regulators (IATR) – Kim Ramkishun and Ben Listman presented on behalf of Matt Daus, the president of IATR. Kim and Ben presented on the Transportation Sector Study and IATR Conference. They reported a \$15 million grant was provided to study the transportation sector, with a focus on the future regulatory agency, TNC partnership updates, road safety, and accessible transportation. The 2024 IATR International Conference, co-hosted by Broward County, West Palm Beach, and Miami-Dade, will be held in South Florida from October 6th to 11th, with a dedicated day on non-emergency medical transport. A hackathon event will also be organized for programmers and students to develop innovative solutions for equitable electric vehicle infrastructure planning. The winners will receive a cash prize and the opportunity to present their projects at the IATR Conference in 2025. Contact: mdaus@windelmarx.com

V. Other Business

The **next AP055 Full Committee Meeting** is at TRB in January 2025. We will have a Hybrid meeting so participants can attend in-person or virtual. The date and time of the meeting is still to be determined.

AP055 will sponsor a workshop at the TRB 2025 meeting, titled: **Enhancing Suburban and Rural Mobility: The Role of Microtransit Mobility Hubs, and Other Emerging Innovations**. The Co-Sponsors include:

- AP045 – Committee on Passenger Intermodal Facilities
- AP020 – Emerging and Innovative Public Transportation Technologies Committee

Next Steps:

- Convene representatives from each committee, and other volunteers, to continue to expand on the idea and finalize plan by 1 October deadline
- Schedule – the Workshop will take place over four hours on Sunday afternoon.

Future Conferences – There was a brief discussion on upcoming conferences and the need for a Demand Response Transit conference (DRT).

- **RTAP/RIBT Conference** will be in Fall/Winter 2025. Route leaders volunteers welcome, contact Stephanie Gontermann at stephanie@isaacs-assoc.com.
- **National Transportation in Indian Country Conference (NTICC)**
(<https://www.ncai.org/event/national-transportation-in-indian-country-conference>)
- **TransEd Conference** - details are forthcoming in January, aiming for summer 2026 in UK.
<https://www.trbaccessmobility.org/transed-conferences.html>
- **Making Connections 2024 – The National Transit Workforce Conference**
(transitworkforce.org/mc24)
- **Demand Response Transit Conference** There was a brief discussion on the need to have a DRT conference. There is a group of people who will investigate having the conference in the Fall of 2026. There needs to be coordination across Public Transportation Group to hold conferences. It is anticipated that TRB Executive Committee approval is needed.

For questions, comments or ideas for AP055, please contact the Chair, Jill Hough, jhough@kfhgroup.com

The meeting was adjourned.

Attendees who signed-in via the chat feature:

- Jonathan Brooks, TGC (AP055 co-communications coordinator)
- Krista Purser, Kittelson & Associates, Inc. (AP055 co-research coordinator)
- James, KOSSIVI, Lorenzo,
- Jill Hough, KFH Group, Inc. (AP055 Chair)
- David Kack, Western Transportation Institute
- Bret Allphin - NADO
- Ben Listman, IATR
- Shayna Gleason, International Transportation Learning Center/Transit Workforce Center
- Don Chartock, WSDOT
- Will Rodman, TTI
- Heidi Ganum, Transpo Group
- Lorenzo Gonzalez, INTRANT
- Ranjit Godavarthy, North Dakota State University (Paper Review Coordinator)
- Thomas Craig, WSDOT
- Kim Ramkishun, IATR Membership Director
- Robin Phillips, National RTAP
- Todd Hansen, TTI
- Jonah Freedman, ITRE
- Kai Monast, NCSU/ITRE
- Kossivi Maglo, CUNY
- Brendan Finn, European SMARTA-NET Project - www.smarta-net.eu - brendanmfinn@yahoo.com
- Stephan Alexander Parker, Roadkill on a Stick Frozen Foods Publishing, 240-277-6640, roadkillopera@icloud.com, www.roadkillopera.com

Additional attendees based on screen snippet during meeting:

- Matthew Wilson, GDOT
- Steve Yaffe
- Dave Somers, USAging
- David Hadwiger
- Erin McAuliff, SFMTA
- Greg Cohen
- John Andoh
- Kathryn R. Leys