Minutes of Committee
TRB Committee AP010: Transit Management and Performance
Tuesday, January 10, 2023
3:45-5:30 PM
Marriott Marquis (M3) Chinatown

1. Attendance (see separate document)

2. Agenda (see separate document)

3. General Items for the Record

   Frances Fisher, Chair, extended her apologies for not being present in person due to illness.

   TCRP Dianne Schwager (TRB) reviewed highlights from the TCRP Handout including a new conflict of interest policy for panelists that is more strict. She also reminded people to sign up for the weekly TCRP newsletter and noted that you should always consider resubmitting a previous proposal (as have more good proposals than money). Key upcoming dates are:
   - February 1st: TCRP panel nominations due
   - March 24th: TCRP synthesis proposals due
   - May 15th: IDEA proposals due
   - June 16th: TCRP project proposals due

   In terms of TCRP funding, the budget has increased by $1M so will be able to fund 1 or 2 more project per year for duration of legislation.

   Public Transport Group Brendon Hemily, Chair of the Public Transportation Group (12 committees), shared that the current meeting has over 11,000 attendees (compared to 14,000 in 2020 and 7,000 in 2022) and 5,000 papers (slightly lower than 2020). He encouraged people to review and update their demographic information to support diversity and inclusion efforts. He shared that the Triennial Strategic Plan initiative is on hold but TRB will be setting up a new standardized process and template. Finally, he noted that the changes to TRR has made it more competitive, with an impact factor of 2 (vs. 0.6).

   Ray Chan recognized and thanked Brendon for all of his efforts.

   FTA Tom Coleman (FTA/NTD) provided several updates as follows:
   - Federal Register Notice proposals
     - Safety & Security
       - Transit worker assault information
       - Fatality data from collisions with bus
     - Non-safety
       - Weekly ridership data
       - GTFS specification

        - Demand response modes
        - Emergency contact information
        - Vehicle fuel types
    - Census: New urban area data (previously urbanized data) 50K+ pop 2020 data just released (https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html and https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2022/12/redefining-urban-areas-following-2020-census.html)
    - Research future efforts will be on:
        - Real-time asset management program tool
        - Advance digital construction management program (bipartisan law mandate)

TRR Discussion. Paul Ryus (Associate Editor, TRR) shared that TRR does not have a 'handling editor' for this committee's papers. Paul also shared that TRR is trying to speed up the review process from 1 year to 6 months (July 2023 is this year's goal) but it is dependent on author and reviewer speed and availability. He also shared that about half of the papers received for TRR are not from the TRB paper process.
ACTION: If interested in becoming the AP010 TRR handling editor, contact John Dodson (jdodson@nas.edu).

4. Committee Program
    - Sessions/Meetings
        - Transit Data Challenge: Innovative Analytical Tools to Improve Public Transit hosted by Laura Moeini (WMATA). Frances reported that there were 100 people in attendance, 25 submissions, with 6 selected for presentation and 4 for poster. The Judge's choice was the 'Census Dashboard' by Sound Transit. The audience's choices were GTFS 2SVN for Accessibility by the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Customer Segmentation (WMATA). Frances shared one of the goals of the challenge is to involve people in TRB who aren't ready to write a paper. Frances thanked Laura and the other organizers.
        - Normalizing Data: Creating an Internal Data Culture hosted by Ray Chan. Ray thanked the invited speakers.
        - Best of Transit Management and Performance Papers hosted by Kostas Gkiotsalitis. Kostas acknowledged the speakers and said the session was quite full and with good questions.
    - Frances acknowledged that there was minimal time between the paper review deadline and lectern session deadline so the committee's sessions were not as structures/programmed as she would like for the future.

5. Committee Business

    a. Triennial Committee Member Rotation
        i. 1/3 of members (11) need to rotate.

ii. There is a 9 year limit (2 members have timed out, both from New York MTA: Mike Schiffer and Alla Reddy; continued representation from the MTA would be welcome).
iii. ACTION for Members: if you do not want to continue, please contact Frances.

b. Committee Recognitions
   i. Frances acknowledged and thanked Ray Chan for his service, contributions, and assistance with AP010 as well as AP090.

c. Paper Reviews
   i. Konstantinos Gkiotsalitis presented the Paper Review Update slides. He thanked Menno Yap and all reviewers for their work.
   ii. John Levin noted that one challenge to research to practice is the change in presentation/paper sharing from TRB. AP010 is committed to requesting if authors are willing to provide a summary or presentation of their work to share publicly.
   iii. Alice thanked Kostas for organizing the paper review process and mapping the topics to the strategic plan topics.

d. Research
   i. Ray Chan shared that usually AP010 has submitted 6 synthesis and 1-2 project proposals per year and have gotten 2 syntheses and 1 project per year. He shared that the recently awarded equity synthesis (Transit Agency Goals and Non-Traditional Performance Indicators Focused on Equity) was accepted on its 2nd submission.
   ii. Ray also clarified that if you write a synthesis/project proposal, you can still bid on it later.

e. Strategic Plan Topic Brainstorms (see below)

Brainstorm Breakouts

Supporting equity and economic opportunity with mobility (led by Siew Lim & Xavier Harmony).

- Priority of service restoration.
  - How do we pull back service? How do we adequately provide service given driver shortage?
- Equity vs. Title VI. There is a distinction. Equity has a broader definition. Ability to access opportunities, the thresholds are different.
- Equitable ways of providing transit – are people able to get to where they want to go?
- Equity and transit workforce development (Is there another committee working on this?)
- Rail equity committee – initiate conversation for collaboration.
- Connection between transit service and affordability housing.
- Communicating transit (equity) goals to community leaders and customers? How to we describe equity and how to we use it? How do we communicate the value of equity? Information helps guide future service and investment decisions.

- Agency examples
    - Equity map in Pittsburgh. Low income, low English proficiency, etc. (8 of them in total).
    - King County metro: how far would someone has to travel to reach a certain businesses (also Equity Cabinet)
- Working with employers. Businesses moving out of downtown (Chicago), would employers help facilitate? People need jobs, but don't have cars. We know where the jobs are. How do we coordinate the two parts. How do we discuss the markets that exist? How do we integrate them? How do we map them out? Housing costs are low, transportation costs may be higher.
- Fare products. Higher income riders have their fares subsidized by employers, whereas lower-income riders don't have employers who would do the same for them.

Preserving productivity, efficiency & safety in changing markets (led by Kostas Gkiotsalitis & Jordan Holt).

- Labor shortages / overtime (OT)
    - Productivity based on # of people
    - People aren't accepting OT
    - Higher safety risks with OT
    - Balance with OT and fatigue/safety
- Ridership is not at pre-Covid level, even if service has increased (fewer passengers per trips)
    - Don't expect to get past 80% of pre-Covid; need to partner with rideshare, bring in microtransit to fill gaps and set new baselines to judge ourselves and our services
    - Ridership has increased in India to pre-pandemic levels + customer satisfaction has increased
    - Changing ridership patterns have made project selection process more complicated (long lead times – ridership less of a driver for decisions about asset replacement)
- In past, had clear productivity rates for different service types – will need new metrics to inform conversations about productivity – what makes sense to operate. Hard to set a new normal – what approach makes sense?
- Project delivery – global supply chain issues, lack of people, harder to show that we are being good stewards of the capital program because it is taking a long time to do things
    - Less and less about replacement in kind, e.g. replacing diesel buses with electric buses
- Procurement issues
    - Impact on parts availability, strategy to procure parts and impact on service
    - What does this mean for planning, prioritizing and timelines
- Increase in Fare evasion: even if ridership returns to pre-pandemic levels, revenue will be below
    - Webinar – how to estimate

- Electric buses – need to add time to charge, so need more vehicles to keep the same level of service
- Schedule changes due to ridership changes – customize to M/F vs. TWT? Impacts on communication and scheduling resources?
- Five measures: Efficiency effectiveness, service quality, level of service, multicriteria assessment – comprehensive approach
- Operator assaults / employee assaults
    - Can increase the wage but can't change the job
- MOW – increased headway as opportunity to do retrain

Supporting energy efficiency and climate change mitigation (led by Steve Polzin, Marie Venner, Alice Grossman).

- Role of transit in energy and climate – industry cited as sustainable mode but performance measurement challenge
    - what reporting to board and stakeholders, how measuring/reporting?
    - Facilities/vehicles, impact on land use and development, etc.
- Transit trip vs. auto trip research comparison BTUs/emissions per passenger mile but not comparable
- Prospect of asking folks what doing / reporting – synthesis topic?

Leveraging and adapting to new technologies, tools, and data (led by John Levin & Ray Chan)

- Marc Ebuña (RIPTA) offered to share research done about structure and documentation for innovation/business analytics at transit agencies. Generally weak documentation except around monthly/annual data-focused processing for reporting.
- Issues/concerns
    - Customer privacy and retention policies for data (also relate dto cybersecurity, fare information)
    - Transit's role in connected vehicle future. Bus is already connected (TSP, control center, etc.)) but not spending money/research on topic or offering technology transfer.
    - Even if incorporating technologies, how do process of change/ ensure continuity?
    - Accessibility of TCRP reports (hard to locate if do not know number or title)
        - Google best option
        - https://www.trb.org/Publications/PubsTCRPProjectReports.aspx
        - https://trid.trb.org/
    - Accessibility of vehicles (for autonomous).