



DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the TRB Travel Forecasting Committee (AEP50)

Monday January 8th 8:00 - 9:45 ET
Liberty Salon O (M4) Marriott Marquis
Elizabeth Sall (Chair) Presiding

General Items for the Record

- [Attendance](#)
- [Agenda](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Triennial Strategic Plan](#) (Approved 2023)
- [Updated Triennial Strategic Plan Working Document](#) (Last updated December 2024)

Actions Taken

- Approval of the [2024 Minutes](#)

Introductory Activity

Elizabeth led the group in an activity designed to both introduce each other and welcome new attendees in small groups and identify how our community can have a positive impact on society. After responding to the below questions individually, groups of 3-5 were formed with incentives for finding and including people who knew fewer people in the room.

What work (in purview of committee) will have the most (positive) impact on the quality of our planet and the life that it supports in the next 20 years?

What work of the committee would you prioritize to accomplish this?

Themes from the whole group discussion that followed seemed to focus on:

- Interest in how travel forecasting can and should interface with resiliency planning; and
- The role of freight.

Committee Business

Participation

Elizabeth Sall discussed the existing committee organizational structure and leadership team and then introduced 16 new members of the committee as a result from the spring 2024 rotation: Abigail Donkor, Alex Bettinardi, Amy Hofstra, Andisheh Ranjbari, Atiyya Shaw, Baloka Belezamo, Bo Wen, Franchesca Taylor, Joseph Kaylor, Krishna Murthy Gurumurthy, Laura Luo, Latifa Oukhellou, Martin Milkovits, Michael Hyland, Ramin Shabanpour, and Ruijie Bian and welcomed Cinzia Cirillo as the incoming chair. Elizabeth discussed the diversity and backgrounds of the committee as a whole using a variety of metrics.

Strategic Plan

Elizabeth Sall discussed TRB's seeming rejection of our 2023 strategic plan (drafted in 2022 and submitted in January 2023) which she was notified of in July 2024; of particular note was TRB's decision to not continue any of our sub-committees despite our application to continue them in what we thought was in line with current TRB policy and TRB's decision to not continue them without any offer to discuss how they could be shaped to be better aligned with their goals. Elizabeth reported that TRB indicated that these topics were better suited for task forces or initiatives of the full committee and had offered (at that time) a longer full committee meeting time slot as a solution to making sure committee members had the necessary time they needed to discuss these initiatives in substance at the TRB Annual Meeting.

Elizabeth indicated that she along with various initiative leads had done a light update to the 2023 strategic plan to attempt to address comments from the section chair Martin Palmer and TRB Staff Anusha and asked the committee to review it and consider it as a plan for moving into the future. The working TSP document can be found at: <https://bit.ly/aep50-strategicplan>.

Paper Reviews

- Katie Asmussen, the committee's paper review coordinator (PRC), reported on the paper review process as her first year as the PRC.

2024 TRB AM Paper Review Results for AEP50

All of TRB		Our Committee
6300	Total Submissions	167
3200 (50.8%)	Accepted for Presentation	96 (57.5%)
599 (9.5%)	Transferred to TRR	11 (15.3%)

- Katie discussed how members can contribute to the paper review process:
 - complete review requests that you accept;
 - reject requests you cannot complete or think you may not be able to complete; and
 - use the full scoring range.
- Katie noted that in her first year as PRC she did not have time to get a handle on using Chandra Bot to identify Chandra Bot all-stars, but will work on learning about and using the system next year.

Communication

- Like Liu delivered a report about our outreach channels, their relative purposes and use over the past year, and the team that helped keep them going.
- Like noted that in order to receive our newsletter, you must sign up to be a committee friend through mytrb since that is how our newsletters are being sent out.
- Like also invited members and non-members to contribute, e.g. through writing TRB AM reflections. Contact Like if interested: likelikeliu@gmail.com

TRB Updates

- The committee welcomed our TRB Staff Liaison, Anusha, to update us about TRB administrative items including the increased focus on aligning TRB Committee activities with what is allowed under the purview of the National Academies.
- The committee welcomed Section Chair Martin Palmer and Group Chair Bob Hazlett to give some highlights about the increased focus on aligning TRB Committee activities with what is allowed under the purview of the National Academies.
- Elizabeth indicated that for the second year in a row we were given a small room typically used for sub-committees and were forced to turn away many hopeful attendees and left many committee members standing for the duration of the

meeting. Anusha indicated that space was at a premium at TRB without any indication that she would seek to resolve the issue in the future.

- Several former and current committee members and chairs expressed their distaste with TRB’s decision last week to cut our committee meeting time in half¹; eliminating the time we had planned to discuss topics that were previously discussed in subcommittee meetings. TRB staff indicated that the room was no longer available to the committee but did not provide a substantive answer as to why that was the case.
- Audience members asked if a decision had been made about how TRB would treat paper submissions next year. Anusha indicated that a decision has not yet been made.

Research

- Tierra Bills, Committee Research Coordinator (CRC) shared the committee’s updated organizational structure for research in order to make sure work was more evenly divided amongst members.

New AEP50 Research Working Group Organizational Structure

Committee Research Coordinator (CRC)	<i>Tierra Bills</i>	Manage the committee's work directing research towards promising areas of impact.
Deputy CRC	<i>Andisheh Ranjbari</i>	Thought-partner to CRC; will lead various special projects.
Research Roadmap Managers	<i>Francesca Taylor, Latifah Oukhellou</i>	Work with partners to revise and update the research roadmap
Cooperative Research Coordinator	<i>Joseph Kaylor</i>	Manage interactions with NCHRP and TCRP programs; Track CRP calendar of opportunities, support with RNS
Research Initiative Leads	<i>Rebecca Bian, Atiyya Shaw</i>	Manage specific research initiatives and manage relevant outcomes (paper calls, RNS, TRB sessions, etc.)
Research Initiative Volunteers	<i>Many</i>	Supports research initiative leads in pursuing specific research initiative.

- Tierra reported on activities for 2024 including:
 - “Getting Comfortable with Uncertainty” call for papers
 - (Co)sponsorship of six workshops

¹ Our Committee Meeting had been originally scheduled to take place from 8:00 - noon in order to accommodate time for our initiatives to meet for smaller group discussions. On January 3rd 2025, or TRB Staff Liaison Anusha emailed the chair to let her know that the committee had a new meeting time: from 8:00-9:45 and declined to respond to emails requesting clarification on the decision.

- Tierra reported on recent CRP publications that may be of interest to the travel forecasting community, as compiled by our CRP Coordinator and new member Joseph Kaylor:
 - **Risks Related to Emerging and Disruptive Transportation Technologies: A Guide:** Covers EVs, connected autonomous vehicles, mobility on demand/mobility as a service, and advanced air mobility, etc.
 - **New Mobility Options in Travel Demand Forecasting and Modeling: A Guide:** Guidance on modeling micromobility, TNCs, and AVs on travel demand.
 - **Addressing Climate Resilience and Greenhouse Gases in the Transportation Planning Process:** Include helpful case studies for how travel demand models are used in GHG quantification
 - **Integrating Performance-Based Planning into Long-Range Transportation Plans and STIPs:** Includes information on the non-federally required performance-based standards for long-range transportation plans and STIPs
 - **Implementing Data Governance at Transportation Agencies:** Covers agency-led data governance strategies for transportation data.
- Finally, Tierra highlighted a request from the Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS) to fill out [SNAP Search Survey](#) through January 15th

Technology Transfer

- Elizabeth Sall reported on technology transfer activities in lieu of Gregory MacFarlane who chaired the former subcommittee. She reported that after deep discussions, she and Greg resolved that there were not sufficient volunteer resources to continue to review and curate the Travel Forecasting Resource (tfresource.org) and to redirect our committee's valuable volunteer hours towards something with a lighter touch but still delivered value.
- Elizabeth introduced the concept of quarterly "recent research notes" which would have rotating responsibility among members and friends to curate. Committee Member Michael Hyland will take responsibility for curating the first round with the topic "Equity" in Q1 2025. Please contact Michael with recent equity research you believe should be a part of his summary and/or with your interest to be responsible for this task in subsequent quarters.

Focus Area Initiatives

Focus area initiatives were each given 1-2 minutes to summarize what they have and plan to accomplish:

- Marty Milkovits reported on the Decision-making under Deep Uncertainty initiative including their book club (continuing into next year - with the report authors!), call for papers for 2025 TRB, and the Future Uncertain workshop that will be held Thursday at TRB. Marty indicated that the workshop should result in some research needs statements.
- Elizabeth Sall reported on the Equity initiative in lieu of Aditi Misra who was presenting at a lectern session and requested that those interested in helping Aditi should reach out to her or the incoming chair.
- Michelle Bina reported that the Statewide Modeling Initiative had developed a research needs statement and met virtually late in 2024. She indicated that in the next year she expects more virtual meetings and hopefully a peer exchange.
- Pedro Camargo indicated that the Integrated Modeling Initiative would be focusing on freight, particularly urban freight, in the near future and that they intended to plan a workshop for next year's TRB Annual meeting.
- Flavia Tsang reported she was seeking input on scoping the new Understanding AI's Role in Travel Forecasting initiative and was circulating posters and post-its to indicate the committee's specific interest areas in the topic and will derive a scope of work for the initiative from that.
- Elizabeth Sall noted that there seemed to be pertinent policy needs to stand up a focus initiative on the Role of Induced Demand on Travel Forecasting and requested that those interested in the topic discuss it with her or the incoming chair. She also noted that we would be sponsoring a lectern panel session Tuesday morning with this focus.

Recognitions

- Elizabeth Sall recognized the following individuals for their critical support throughout the year with committee business:
 - Like Liu
 - Alex Bettinardi
 - Abigail Donkor
 - Katherine Asmussen
 - Flavia Tsang
 - Michelle Bina
 - Matthew Stratton



- Pedro Camargo

Other Business

Announcements were made about:

- Forecasting Accuracy Research
- Travel and Tourism Data Program Needs Assessment
- Recent and upcoming products regarding freight from BTS

The business meeting was concluded at 9:46AM at which time we were asked to vacate the room by TRB Staff who indicated that the room was needed for something else. ²

Minutes Distribution List

1. Committee Chair
2. Committee Members
3. Section Chair
4. Group Chair
5. TRB Staff Representative

²Various committee members and friends stood outside the door of Liberty O for the next hour or so discussing what they had hoped to discuss as part of our originally scheduled agenda which ran until noon. At no point did another group occupy the room to hold a meeting. It was apparent that the AEP50 committee was being actively prevented from meeting to discuss the various topic initiatives (former subcommittees) and TRB staff declined to answer direct questions about why.