

**86<sup>th</sup> Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting**  
**Washington, DC, January 21-25, 2007**  
**ADB20 Committee on Telecommunications and Travel Behavior**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, January 22, 2007, 12:15 pm– 2 pm**  
**Washington Hilton**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and introductions. The following were present:

**Members:**

Glenn Lyons	University of the West of England, Bristol, UK
Martin Dijst	Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Mei-Po Kwan	Ohio State University
Kevan Shafizadeh	Cal State Univ. Sacramento
Ed Weiner	U.S. DOT
Pat Mokhtarian	Univ. of CA Davis
Marcus Wigan	Napier Univ. Edinburgh
Christopher Ferrell	Dowling Associates
John Niles	Global Telematics
Joanne Pratt	Joanne H. Pratt Assoc.
Qing Shen	Univ. of Maryland
Cynthia Chen	City College of New York
Chandra Bhat	Univ. of Texas, Austin
Hani Mahmassani	Univ. of Maryland
Sangho Choo	The Korean Transport Inst.
Ram Pendyala	Arizona State University
Kevin J. Krizek	University of Minnesota
Frank Douma	University of Minnesota
Taihyeong Lee	Univ. of CA Davis

**Friends:**

Martin Lee-Gosselin	Université Laval, Quebec
Claudia Nobis	DLR Inst. of Transportn. Research U.C.L.A.
Jane Gould	Univ. of CA Davis
Gil Tai	ITS, UC Berkeley
Arnie Sherwood	Univ. of CA Davis
Wei Tang	Buez Allen Hamilton
Linda Sharpe	Resources of the Future
Elena Safirova	DLR Institute of Transport Research
Barbara Lenz	Kyoto University
Ryuichi Kitamura	Novax Industries Corp
David Atrika	U of Mich. Transprtn Research Institute
Lidia Kostyniuk	Arizona State Univ.
Mary Kihl	

2. Approval of 2006 Minutes (*thanks to Chris Ferrell*)

Minutes were approved.

3. Report on committee business (K. J. Krizek)

a. Paper reviews for 2007 meeting

- Kevin reported that last year there were 18 papers submitted to the Committee, the most ever. This year, there were nine papers. Not sure if this decrease was due to decreased interest in telecommunications and travel issues. Six of nine are being presented this year. TRR acceptance to be determined. Kevin asked if we should be alarmed at the drop-off. Pat M. suggested that we need to wait and see.
- Martin Lee-Gosselin suggested that we do a call for papers as a way of generating more paper submittals for next year. Kevin suggested that we will pursue post our calls with TRB. Should our call for papers be targeted to specific subject areas? The

- consensus was that the call should be merged with the panel session, focusing on hot topics in ICT.
- Kevan S. suggested that there be some way to indicate when submitting a paper that the paper should be considered from cross-listing with another committee.
  - Kevin posed the question of how we should organize future calls for papers. Should we do 4 or 5 different calls for papers, or one call with 4-5 bullets of call topics (topics from below)? If we do a focused session that doesn't get enough papers submitted, then we can always consolidate with other sessions. Kevin will distribute a "call for call for papers" (derived from John Niles' call for a panel session, see below) among the Committee members and will determine the course of action from there.
- b. Conference sessions

Poster session, Monday, January 22, 2007, 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM, Hilton

Podium Session: Information and Communications Technology, Work-at-Home Decisions, and Transportation Monday, January 22, 2007, 3:45 PM - 5:30 PM, Hilton

Panel Session: Major Disruptions to Personal Travel: Behavioral Responses & the Role of Telecommunications Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM, Hilton

c. Feedback from Tri-ennial Self-Evaluation (TSE)

The TRB review panel liked our TSE submittal. They had several suggestions to improve Committee operations:

- Encourage Committee chair to delegate for admin. responsibilities;
  - Diversity is a strength of the Committee. It should continue to be encouraged and enhanced;
  - There is a need to broaden the appeal of the Committee's activities beyond its academic base to attract local planning staff;
  - Need formal young members appointed to Committee. The Committee has none right now. Kevin encouraged to spread the word.
  - Committee has requested a scope change, and Chuck P. is following-up with TRB to determine its status. Kevin read the new scope as proposed.
- d. Membership status and emeritus members
- Congratulations to Hani S. Mahmassani and Patricia L. Mokhtarian who have recently been appointed as emeritus members of the Committee.

4. TRB Strategic plan

a. Overview

- b. Additional input still possible: Kevin encouraged everyone to submit their comments on general Committee and TRB operations and they will forward to Kim. Frank Douma suggested that the paper submittal process might be a problem because it converts to PDF for you, adding an extra processing burden to the TRB server. Should TRB require people convert first to PDF? The Committee generally agreed that this was only possible if the person submitted had a PDF conversion program at their disposal. Therefore, the PDF conversion process using TRB's server should remain an option at the very least.

5. Discussion of future committee activities

a. Panel sessions for 2007 meeting

- Kevin described the objectives of panel sessions: one is to “relax” the paper requirements of the panel members, and the other is to focus the attention of the Committee’s work.
- John Niles suggested an e-shopping panel. He reported that he attended a panel session at another conference that brought in retail representatives to talk about e-shopping and how their industry is addressing the changes it is bringing. He suggested a similar panel session for next TRB. Bring in people who understand the strategies of the big retail players and how they’re approaching e-shopping. Discussion of different models for mixing brick-and-mortar approaches with online approaches. How are they keeping people coming to the stores/malls? Martin D. said we should also focus on the small shop keepers. Jane G. said it would be a good time to update everyone on the status of shopping online vs. retail.
- Glen Lyons suggested bringing in industry online “evangelists” for panel.
- Ed Weiner said that the differences between generations and how they use e-shopping are interesting too. As the younger generations move into the workplace, what is going to change in terms of their travel behaviors?
- Communications industry should have a representative as should the “startups” (formerly called).
- Pat M. suggested we focus on ICT effects on travel time (wait time). How is that affecting behavior?
  - i. Location-based services: what will it do to our behavior when we have real-time alerting of when services become available?
  - ii. Impacts of ICT on leisure activities?
- Chandra B. suggested looking at effects of congestion pricing on propensity to telework.
- Chris F. suggested looking at the effects of online entertainment (e.g., 2<sup>nd</sup> Life) on youth and travel behavior.
- Kevin summarized the discussion, slightly suggesting the idea that Niles presented received the most enthusiastic response, yet the other ideas were very closely related. He asked the Committee what would be the best outcome from these ideas. Research needs statement, panel or paper session?
- Evangelical Panel Session: John N. will put a framing paragraph together that somebody else will follow-up on to develop the panel. There will be a tie-in to the e-shopping idea.
- E-Shopping Idea: John N. says it would be most interesting to get members from the industry on the panel, as opposed to focusing on the user-end of the equation. John will put the paragraph together and will also list some names of potential speakers. Pat M. will help John put the initial list together of potential panel member contacts.
- Cynthia Chen knows of a site that links shopping opportunities to shoppers. Check with her for further details.

Panel Session related comment: Qing Shen updated on his efforts to get panel participants for this year’s panel session. Funding is a problem, so this limits their options. Together with Glen Lyons they approached many potential speakers, but they didn’t get much response/interest. Most of panel members are from this Committee.

b. Research problem statement (able to be input via web)

- Research Needs Topics: See notes above for potential topic areas. Cynthia Chen will take the lead in developing this as potential submittal to TRB. Kevin suggested Cynthia place a call to the Committee members to get additional

research ideas. Kevin and Cynthia will combine and synthesize for submittal.  
Final date around middle of February

## 6. Discussion of relevant projects

- a. WorldatWork's The State of U.S. Telecommuting 2006 (Joanne Pratt)
  - Tom Miller has been adding Work at Home information to his Internet survey. WorldatWork has taken over this effort. Joanne gave a summary of the data collected thus far.
- c. Marcus Wigan
  - Hani and Marcus are researching long-distance commuting. Anecdotally, they have been finding that video conferencing support for the project has been leading to substitution for face-to-face meetings. It has increased the international activities and coordination of the research effort. He would like to raise the issue for discussion. Hani confirmed that the amount of work that is being done in a collaborative fashion by using the video conference capability has indeed gone up. Are we seeing something that we should track?
  - John Niles says his panel presentation this year will touch on the issue of virtual/distributed teams tomorrow.

## 7. Research roundtable

- John: Pat and John's study (in last year's meeting minutes) is done but not ready for publication yet.
- Chuck P.: looking at work from home data from ACS and found that Marin Co. has the highest rate of any U.S. county. Region is about 5% working from home. This is the "usually working at home" question.
- Mary Kihl: She teaches online and the number of people enrolled is growing rapidly. Interested in others' experience with this phenomenon.
- Pat M.: Just collected e-shopping data (in-store, catalog as well). Around 900 sample size. Have data on preferences, behaviors, pre-purchase info. Gathering, etc. Also asks if purchased from an auction vs. regular e-tail site.
- Ed Murakami: FHWA now looking into if road-pricing will have an effect on telecommuting. Telecommuting is now an official federal initiative for (transit, technology, tolling, telecommuting) reducing congestion.
- Jane Gould: interested in how travel time affects telecommuting choice.
- Martin D.: expanding field work to look at workers and ICT as well as ICT and accessibility.
- Glenn Lyons: Presenting a paper on displacement of work activities in space vs. time as a result of ICT. Twice as many people in their data were practicing part-day home working as opposed to all-day home working.
- Martin Lee-Gosslin: Network for Centers in Excellence is supporting research on mobile ICT and mobility effects. Looking into survey methods to handle mobile ICT.
- Qing Shen: Has a student doing dissertation on travelers' responses to real-time transit info.
- Ram P.: IT revolution in developing countries is having a large effect on lifestyle and working patterns. He's trying to put an international team to look at these effects. What are the sustainability outcomes?
- Sangho Choo: Korea's leading ICT use; he has collected a new dataset and will publish soon. Also researching on PDA and mobile phone use.

## 8. Announcements and other business

## 9. Adjourn

Kim's TRB update:

- Emphasized importance of getting new members/attendees involved in TRB committees.
- Research Needs Statements Database: We have TRIS, which is completed research, RIP which is research in progress. Research Needs Statements DB: New database for research proposal problem statements. Each committee will have one representative to populate the database by June 1, 2007. Kim will contact Kevin to coordinate for our Committee. It is important to put the most critical research needs only on this DB. State DOTs, Universities, etc. will use to determine where the research is needed.
- 9,300 pre-registrations for TRB, typically get 1,700 registrations on-site, so we'll set a record this year again.
- 3,200 papers submitted this year, another record and 2,000 were submitted on last day which brought the server down, and deadline was extended. They're trying to figure out how to handle next year. TRB may institute multiple deadlines, one for each topic area. They may try to borrow server capacity as well.
- Two twists on the poster sessions this year
  - Hybrid poster session: about 14 or so people make 5 min. presentations before the open poster sessions. Chandra B. says the Telecommunications one went very well. Room was packed.
  - Poster session with a twist: Hand the microphone from one poster presenter to another and so on down the line. Kim asks for feedback on how this one goes.
- January 13-17 will be 2008 meeting dates. "Partnerships for Progress in Transportation" is the theme for next year. TRB will also have commercial exhibits next year. This is an effort to address financial strains at TRB.
- TRR Access 1996-2006 will be available when you sign up to submit a paper. Citation rates are critical to TRB, and the numbers are low for TRB papers. This is an effort to improve citations and access. Click TRR tab after you sign up for paper submittal.
- Online subscription service for TRR is in the works (same years avail.)—pay per paper, or monthly access, etc. Trying to transition away from paper journals.
- Question to Kim. Is there guidance on good posters? Yes, there is a link TRB sends those who sign up to do posters. They're considering an award for best poster to encourage people to improve the quality.
- Question to Kim from John Niles: Is there a session TRB gives on how to be a good moderator? Kim says they're trying to put together a brochure on the best practices of TRB participation. She will look into the option of having sponsors run sessions on teaching good techniques (as suggested by John).
- Kevin asked Kim if TRB is still soliciting input on the Strategic Plan. Kim says that if anyone has any corrective comments, they should submit them.