

TRB Committee on Freight Transportation Data (ABJ90)
2020 TRB Annual Meeting
January 13, 2020
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM
Marriott Marquis, Archives (M4)
Chair: Alison Conway

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

a. Attendee introductions. Attendance recorded on separate sheet.

b. 3 new members joined the committee:

- Gareth Robins, EROAD
- James Hinckley, US Census Bureau
- Monica Blaney, Transport Canada

Chair notes that there are a few slots available for new members to join, especially for young members (35 and under). Those interested are encouraged to support the committee by participating in volunteering activities.

Opportunities to volunteer will be shared by Alison via email after the meeting.

2. Agency Updates

a. Bureau of Transportation Statistics – Chester Ford, Julie Parker, and Rolf Schmitt.

Chester updates:

- FAF4 2020 data is available. This is the last update of FAF4.
- Next model will be FAF5, pending CFS availability. CFS is expected to be available in July, so FAF5 would be available in late fall/December 2020.
- A new Tableau interface is available since last week.
- Research is ongoing on an experimental dataset to break down CFS geography as much as possible. The topic will be presented at two #TRBAM Lectern sessions (1681 & 1725) on Wednesday, entitled “National Freight Research, Methods, and Tools to Understand Freight Transportation”. Feedback on CFS geography breakdown is requested. The experimental dataset can be shared by email, if needed (contact Chester).

Julie updates:

- Final tables of CFS will be available in July.
- CFS PUM file is expected to be released in August 2020, currently pending approval.

Rolf updates:

Two handouts are distributed among attendees, one about Recent BTS Products and Activities, and another one about VIUS. This update covers item 4 of the Meeting Agenda (VIUS presentation). Highlights:

- VIUS is back! Data collected in 2022 will cover 2021 activity. The survey will be adapted to consider new technologies, such as the use of electric vs. fuel use vehicles.
- BTS shifts to all electronic publications, to allow for continuous updates instead of annual updates. Suggestions are welcomed.

b. U.S. Census Bureau – James Hinckley

- There is a delay in CFS due to a delay in the Economic Census. Release will occur between now and November 2020, with industry level detail.
 - Transportation of hazardous materials (type, packaging, etc.) may fit into CFS moving forward. Exploratory work is ongoing.
 - Recruiting is in place for data scientists to work on VIUS. Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply.
- c. Statistics Canada – Larry McKeown
- Organizational update: moving forward it will look more like BTS.
 - New Transportation Data and Information Hub online.
 - Transportation Economic Account in place, including a measure of both own-account and for-hire transportation services.
 - Releasing of 3rd iteration of Canadian FAF.
 - National Travel Service provides new data on travelling of Canadians.
- d. Transport Canada – Monica Blaney
- Concordance tables were developed to match different commodity classification schemes; available to share.
 - Offered to talk during next 2021 Freight Data Workshop about Transport Canada & Statistics Canada’s 3-step process to estimate freight by mode from different datasets.
- e. BTS Freight Data Dictionary – Xin Wang
- Feedback requested on the next phase of the Freight Data Dictionary. Signing sheet is circulated for volunteers to join.
- f. FHWA – Vidya Mysore
- Truck payload factors were updated and are currently under review. They will be ready in 2 months.
 - FAF network assignment process is being updated, currently under calibration. It is expected to be finished in 2 months.
 - Future Freight & Logistics Survey project: exploratory research on the survey frame ongoing.
 - Encourage to attend #TRBAM sessions 1681 & 1725 “National Freight Research, Methods, and Tools to Understand Freight Transportation”.
3. **Presentation:** Freight Mobility Initiative at BTS: Using truck GPS data to estimate turn times at container ports and other potential applications. By Kyle Titlow, BTS Geospatial Analyst Fellow. After the presentation, Kyle requests feedback on the proposed methodology, other data sources to draw upon, and asks what other national scale projects the audience want to see developed from the data presented. Several attendees offered contacts with professionals.
4. **TRB Staff Update**
- a. Coco Briseno updates:
- The Technical Activities Council selected the theme for next year: “Launching a new century of enhancing mobility and quality of life”.
 - New TRB committees’ structure consists of a strategic alignment to promote and improve collaboration and communication among TRB committees. It will be implemented since April 2020. This is an opportunity for committees to re-shape its

purpose and strategic plans. Information on new structure, membership, etc. is available online at <http://www.trb.org/NewCommitteeStructure>

- b. Tom Palmerlee updates:
 - CFS workshop in April 2020
 - Freight System Resilience Workshop in September 2020
 - Innovations in Freight Data Workshop in June 2021
 - Congress just passed legislation to do policy study on freight resilience metrics within 12 months.

5. Committee Business

- a. Overview of TRB Annual Meeting Events. ABJ90 committee sponsored 1 poster session and 4 lectern sessions, one of them (1515) co-sponsored by several standing committees:
 - Poster session 1409: Innovative Research and Applications for Freight Data Collection and Analysis.
 - Lectern Session 1514: Innovations in Freight Data Collection, Analysis, and Fusion to Address Persistent Freight Data Gaps.
 - Lectern Session 1515: Developing an Innovative and Transformational Strategy for the Connected Truck Extended Ecosystem.
 - Lectern Session 1705: Freight Data Users Forum: Good Practices, Innovations, and Next Steps in Freight Performance Measurement.
- b. Research Statement Update – Mario Monsreal
Alison communicates the target for this year is to produce research needs.
More representation from State DoTs (freight data users) on the committee would be preferred. It is noted that most DoTs have Chief Data Officers. A survey among them might be applicable.
Mario will circulate research needs topics for feedback, namely:
5 research ideas were proposed in 2018:
 - Data fusion and merging
 - Technology integration for data collection
 - Business models for data availability
 - Data estimation techniques and methods
 - Metadata (ontologies) and Big Data techniques9 research ideas came up during the Freight Data Workshop in Irvine, CA in April 2019:
 - Commodity flow data – New ways to obtain visibility of what's inside trucks
 - O/D data – Higher resolution, higher frequency update
 - Facilitating data processing/handling and reporting (visualization)
 - How to access larger data sets from the private sector
 - Data standards to build analytical tools
 - Expand data applicability to decision-making (now is very focused on exploratory and descriptive analysis)
 - Tie/Merge different data types (e.g., industry with land-use)
 - Better data for truck parking
 - More advance in automated data collection

- c. 2020 TRB Annual Meeting Paper Review Report – Stephanie Finch
 - 15 papers received; 10 papers approved for presentations; 2 papers moved forward on the publishing process (TRR). All papers but one were about truck data.
 - New TRR process highlighted, including changes in editorial decision making, with the purpose that TRR operates like other journals, and the target to improve the quality of reviews, which varies greatly between committees. Some of the changes include:
 - Each paper must be reviewed by only 2 experts (not 3).
 - Resources are being developed as for how to make a good review.
 - All communications are made electronically through TRB/Editorial manager (no offline communication)
 - Best practices to follow as a reviewer:
 - If the paper is not about your field, please let the review coordinator (Stephanie) know.
 - Don't ignore requests.
 - Update your contact info on both MyTRB and the Editorial Manager (SAGE)
 - Identify and update your areas of expertise.
- d. Committee Website Update – Dan Seedah
 - Website is working! <http://trbfreightdata.com>
 - Current content sample: #TRBAM Highlights, Upcoming committee meetings and events, Meeting Minutes, Freight Data Sources, Sample data visualizations (more can be submitted).
 - Members please send suggestions on data content, and historical committee documents to Dan: dan.seedah@jacobs.com
- e. Centennial Paper Update – Alison Conway
 - Centennial paper development is ongoing, and will be updated via the committee website.
- f. Upcoming Events:
 - Commodity Flow Survey Workshop (April 2-3, 2020, Washington, DC). Currently looking for speakers. Volunteers are needed for recording. State DoTs or local government officials willing to record may have their fee waived. (Update by Chester Ford)
 - Innovations in Freight Data Workshop (June 2021, Irvine, CA)
 - Next Committee meetings: in person, potentially during CFS workshop (April 2-3, Washington, DC). Conference call during Summer for 2021 Annual Meeting planning.
- g. Committee Triennial Strategic Plan (TSP) Update – Due in 2021
 - STP will be updated during 2020. Last version developed in February 2018. Scope will be primarily updated.
 - Members of the taskforce on Big Data are requested to participate in the TSP update.
 - There is a process in place (developed by members of the TRB Data group) to develop the TSP and identify opportunities for collaboration. Next steps of this process is still pending.
 - The TSP should be uploaded to the committee website.

Meeting Minutes were recorded by Magdalena Asborn, University of Arkansas