

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR PAPERS IN A NEW BOOK COMPARING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS' PERFORMANCE AND POLICIES**

The International Transportation Economics Association (ITEA) is serving as a point of access to the transportation economics international community to recruit authors of papers for a new book comparing transportation systems' performance and to provide constructive policy recommendations.

The motivation and importance of such a book is readily apparent. Transportation economists throughout the world have conducted countless studies in their own countries of the performance of the transportation modes and infrastructure facilities as well as public policies to improve those services. However, they have not conducted a worldwide comparative study of the performance of transportation systems and policies toward modes and infrastructure.

Such a comparison would be very useful for identifying strengths and weaknesses of transportation systems and policies. For example, (1) Would a market-oriented perspective provide policy guidance that would be helpful for all countries to improve their transportation systems?; (2) Where and why would this perspective be inappropriate for a country or countries?; (3) Are some parts of particular countries' transportation systems good examples for other countries to help improve their systems?; (4) Are there common weaknesses and strengths of all countries' transportation systems or do all countries' transportation systems have different strengths and weaknesses?; and (5) Are there any countries whose policymakers seek to maximize welfare with their transportation policy decisions and do we know why they behave this way?

To address these and other questions, we are inviting people from countries all over the world to submit a proposal to assess a subset of the modes and infrastructure facilities that comprise their country's transportation system. The paper could be narrow and focus on the performance of a single mode and travel environment (e.g., urban automobile travel) or a single transportation infrastructure facility (e.g., urban highways), or broader (e.g., the urban and intercity passenger system). No one is precluded from assessing all the modes and infrastructure facilities in a country, but that would be an ambitious undertaking.

The goal of the paper should be to provide an economic assessment of the performance of the component(s) of the transportation system under study that draws on the relevant scholarly and descriptive evidence. Authors can judge performance in terms of how the welfare of the travelers and shippers who use the system is affected and more broadly in terms of how employment, trade flows, urban agglomeration, and so on, which depend on the transportation system, are affected. Transportation externalities also should be considered. An ambitious undertaking would be to judge performance in terms of how a country's overall economy is affected by its transportation system. Basic institutional material should be included to enable readers from other countries to understand the transportation performance issues assessed by the paper. New scholarly evidence is welcomed, but not required.

Proposals can be any length provided they clearly explain the transportation modes and infrastructure facilities whose performance will be assessed. It also would be useful to identify policies that will be considered for improving a mode's or infrastructure's performance.

The proposals will be read by the lead editor of the volume, Clifford Winston, and a coeditor who will be handling proposals for the transportation system's geographic location. Authors should understand that they are not competing for space in the book and that the editor and coeditors will strive to make constructive suggestions for both the proposals and eventual papers.

To give people adequate time to think about this project and prepare either a solo authored proposal or recruit coauthors and write a joint proposal, the due date for all proposals will be April 1, 2025. However, the editor will get back to authors who submit proposals on a rolling basis, so authors who submit proposals at least a few months before the due date can expect to hear back from the editor before April 1, 2025.

Authors will be expected to present drafts of their papers in sessions that parallel the teaching sessions that precede the ITEA conference in the summer of 2026. Authors will therefore have an opportunity to get feedback to help them prepare the published version of the paper. The exact dates and location of the 2026 ITEA conference are being worked out. Tentative plans have been made for Elsevier to publish the volume.

Please feel free to ask questions and to submit your proposal to Cliff. His email is [CWinston@brookings.edu](mailto:CWinston@brookings.edu)

We look forward to hearing from you!