## TRIENNIAL STRATEGIC PLAN (TSP)


### PART 1: Intermodal Freight Transport Committee (AT045)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Code *</th>
<th>AT045</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee Name *</td>
<td>Intermodal Freight Transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Date(s) reviewed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Change, if proposed***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No. of official members approving change/total number of members **</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Scope *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intermodal freight transport includes all shipments that employ more than one mode in a single through movement from origin to destination, excluding local pick-up/delivery. Research focus includes intermodal freight transport, specifically rail-water, rail-highway, highway-water, and highway-air modal combinations, but other combinations may also be considered in the future. Consideration of rates, routes, services, transfer facilities, containers, and other items that impact the movement of freight in intermodal transport are included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Date(s) reviewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Change, if proposed ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No. of official members approving change/total number of members **</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* Show current, as it currently appears in the TRB Online Directory

** Includes Chair, Standing Committee Members, Emeritus Members, and Young Members

*** Show proposed, or Not Applicable
**PART 2: Committee History**

The Intermodal Freight Transport Committee was established in 1984, a few years before passage of the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. In its 20 plus years of existence, the committee has focused on a wide variety of intermodal matters reflecting the increased visibility and importance of intermodal, in general, and freight in particular. Our success in achieving this goal is dependent on maintaining a large and varied network of friends and members.

Members must follow [TRB membership guidelines](#) on committee appointments, AT045 guidelines on professional background, professional contributions and contributions to committee activities. This document also describes selection methods and member duties.

To assist with meeting its mission and accomplishing its goals, the Intermodal Freight Transport Committee has developed a set of **16 performance measures** under 5 categories. The committee regularly reports on progress in meeting the performance measures, and when needed, modifies its activities for the measures to better reflect changing priorities and resource availability.

In January, 2000, the Intermodal Freight Transport Committee developed a strategic planning concept. In 2003, the committee reviewed the concept and developed a more formal strategic plan which was presented to the committee at its January 2004 meeting. It was subsequently updated in March 2006. Most recently, the 2011 Triennial Strategic Plan charting the course of the committee through 2013 was approved at the January 2011 annual meeting.

### 2.1: Research Requests

The Intermodal Freight Committee has created a subcommittee that is responsible for identifying research needs and developing problem statements. The subcommittee is responsible for developing a Call for Papers abstract aimed at attracting paper submissions for publication and/or presentation at the Annual Meeting, as well as for identifying more specific research needs and developing problem statements for submission to TRB for funding through either the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) or the National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP).

**Call for Papers: TRB 93rd Annual Meeting, January 12-16, 2014**

The TRB's Intermodal Freight Transportation Committee (AT045) is interested in receiving research papers for the 2014 TRB Annual Meeting that focus on intermodal freight transportation, multimodal freight transportation, and integrated freight transport systems. In particular, we seek papers that consider ways to evaluate, understand, redesign, and seek to improve intermodal and multimodal freight transportation, at the operational, tactical, and strategic level. This work may relate to rail-water, rail-highway, highway-water, highway-air, and other modal combinations, infrastructure and policy approaches, national and international applications. The committee is interested in a wide range of issues, including, but not limited to efficiency, economic impact, environmental impact, freight network design, freight network flexibility and resiliency, intermodal facilities, level of service, security, labor, international trade trends, and smart growth policies. Additional topics may include:

- Intermodal terminal operations and planning
- Competition, cooperation, planning, groups/associations
- Containerized transportation
- Intermodal network design
- [De]regulation, standards, safety, and security
- Documentation, and data exchange
- Environmental impact
- Legal issues, liability and insurance
- Government involvement
- Future trends
- Infrastructure design
- Intelligent transportation systems
- Intermodal and multimodal cost/benefit analysis
- Multimodal carriers and operations
- Supply chains, trade flows
- Public/private collaboration

### Historical Paper Submissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Members in Attendance at Annual Meeting</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Visitors in Attendance at Annual Meeting</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Papers Reviewed</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number in Attendance at Mid-Year Meeting</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2013: Two papers were selected for presentation in a joint session that also included the presentation of two papers from the International Trade and Transportation (AT020) committee.

2014: Four papers were presented at the annual meeting.

2.2

Provide titles of new research need statements (RNS) posted in TRB’s RNS database (by year): Research needs statements have not been added to the RNS database since 2008.

2.3

Provide title(s) of RNS submitted for funding consideration:

2010:
1. Assessing Potential Roles for Freight Utilizing Excess Capacity on a Future High Speed Passenger Rail System
2. Analyzing Potential Impact of Oil Spill on the US Gulf Coast’s Intermodal Logistics
3. Sensitivity Analysis of the Panama Canal Expansion Impact on the U.S. Intermodal Freight System
4. Creating Freight Efficiency Measures to Track Complete Goods Journeys Intermodally (across “Modes and Nodes”)

2011:
1. Intermodal Freight Methodologies and Data Collection for GHG Accounting
2. Development of Benefit/Cost Methodology to Evaluate Intermodal Freight Corridors. **Funded by NCFRP (NCFRP 46: Benefit-Cost Methodologies for**
3. Sensitivity Analysis of the Panama Canal Expansion Impact on the U.S. Intermodal Freight System
4. Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Analysis of 21st Century Intermodal Facility

2012: None submitted (due to NCFRP being defunded)

2013: (submitted to NCHRP):
   1. Synchronization of intermodal operations - a strategic framework

Reshoring and Its Impact on Transportation Infrastructure & US Economy

2.4 Provide titles of synthesis topics submitted (by year): None

Sessions and workshops sponsored/cosponsored at the Mid-Year meeting, including name of co-sponsoring committee(s) if applicable (by year):

2.5 Provide title(s) and presenter(s) for informal presentations made at Annual Meeting and Mid-Year Committee meetings:

2011 Annual Meeting:

2012 Annual Meeting:

“Lessons Learned in Humanitarian Logistics Following the 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan” – Professor Eiichi Taniguchi, Kyoto University

2013 Annual Meeting:
MAP-21 Freight Requirements, Ed Strocko
Lessons from Europe to develop national freight network, Lori Tavassy

2014 Annual Meeting:
Ms. Elly Sinaga, Vice Director General for R&D of the Indonesian National DOT presentation: “MP3EI: the vision on Indonesia’s national multimodal logistic system”.
Osama Tomeh, Freight Division, Abu Dhabi DOT, “Abu Dhabi Multimodal Freight Master Plan”

2.6
Membership Make-up: Please see Attachment C provided by TRB for summary details.

NOTE: Comment on demographics, balance or lack of balance of membership. Provide an action plan to address any deficiencies.

2.7: Special Publications and Conferences/Workshops


**Sponsored by:** the Metropolitan Policy, Planning, and Processes Committee (ADA20); Joint Subcommittee on Mega-regions (ADA20(1)); Intermodal Freight Transport Committee (AT045); Marine-Group (AW000); Urban Freight Transportation Committee (AT025); Freight Transportation Data Committee (ABJ90); Trucking Industry Research Committee (AT060); Freight Planning and Logistics Committee (AT015); Truck Size and Weight Committee (AT055)

**Attendance:** over 80 participants

**Description:** The format included three formal presentations as well as both large group facilitated discussions and small table group discussions to identify research needs focusing on freight movements in and through mega regions.

**Summary:** The workshop began with a presentation on “Freight Mobility in the Mega Region” by Dr. Catherine Ross. Dr. Ross facilitated a discussion with workshop attendees regarding the definitions of a) mega region, b) freight corridor, c) metropolitan freight corridor, and d) inter-mega region freight corridor. Next, Dr. Genevieve Giuliano provided an overview of national and international freight transportation planning practices for mega regions. Lastly, Dr. Elizabeth Deakin discussed the obstacles to, deficiencies inherent in, and benefits of integrating state and MPO planning practices. After the presentations, the participants broke into eight different groups to discuss proposed research needs tied to the movement of freight in and through mega regions. Each table reported its findings through a spokesperson.
PART 3: Committee Future Outlook Statement and Committee Three-Year Plan (Limit 1,500 words total)

**Committee Future Outlook Statement**
The Intermodal Freight Committee’s future outlook is not much different than the past. The committee has been instrumental in bringing ideas from various stakeholders representing practitioners, policymakers, and educators. The sharing of ideas and knowledge has proven to be invaluable to members and friends of the committee, as well as to others who have had the opportunity to utilize research coming out of this committee. The committee’s success has been due in part to the following three key goals:

- **Ensure geographic and technical diversity**
- **Encourage more industry participation**
- **Continue to partner with other committees on joint task forces, workshops, and annual and summer meeting session planning**

**Committee Three-Year Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Mission</strong></th>
<th>Develop and advance research on intermodal freight transportation systems to support informed decisions within the United States and worldwide.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. **Goal**: Develop valuable research to support improvements in national and international intermodal freight systems.

**Strategies**:

1. **Develop, advance for funding, review and present research on intermodal freight systems. Action items** –
   a. Develop an annual Call for Research Papers and post it on the TRB website by May 1st
   b. Author Intermodal Research Problem Statements and submit to NCHRP for future funding by July 1st (see 2.a)
   c. Review TRB-assigned Intermodal Freight Research Papers, beginning in July, and submit reviews to TRB by October 1st

2. **Identify and define Emerging, Critical, and Cross-Cutting Issues**
   a. Distribute an annual survey to committee members to identify and define these issues
   b. Use these issues to seed workshop topics, conference sessions, research statements, and calls for papers

3. **Identify mechanisms to encourage international collaboration in intermodal freight transport research.**
   a. Appoint liaisons to the International Research and Technology Transfer Subcommittee and International Activities Committee
b. Ensure that at least one member attend the International Participants' Reception at each of the Annual Meetings.

c. By 2015, submit at least one research problem statement with a focus on international intermodal freight.

4. Work with TRB Freight and other committees to identify common goals, pursue mutual research objectives and pool research results. Action items –

   a. Identify committees with common issues and appoint committee liaisons (Freight Data, Ports and Channels, Urban Freight, etc.)

II. **Goal**: Educate transportation system stakeholders on the value and application of intermodal freight system research.

**Strategies:**

1. Use multiple on-line services to improve communication and collaboration among committee members and friends of the committee. Maintain the website as a front-door to the committee.

   a. Recruit three members with technical, social networking and/or communication management skills to serve on the Communications Subcommittee.

   b. Update the AT045 website, at least twice per year (December and May).

   c. To provide email/list serve capability, develop and maintain one Google group for members only, and one for friends of the committee.

   d. Post topics to social networking and website regularly, with a focus on both professional, and research development.

2. Organize intermodal freight policy and research presentations and sessions for the TRB annual meetings. Action items –

   a. Plan and manage two Intermodal Freight sessions at the TRB Annual Meeting, session to be reserved for presentation of the committee’s top-rated research papers.

   b. With other TRB committees, identify and support (using 0.2 TRB points) additional sessions of interest to the committee.

3. Develop intermodal freight topics and sessions for specialty conferences hosted by TRB committees or other organizations.

   a. Identify specialty conferences of interest to the committee through committee liaisons (Freight Data, Ports and Channels, etc.), other professional affiliations (AAPA, AASHTO, BTS, CFIRE, CSCMP, etc.), and internet research.

   b. Form joint task force(s) with other committees or organizations as needed to develop shared research problem statements and plan joint
III.  **Goal**: Provide peer-reviewed research and information that leads to more efficient, effective and reliable intermodal freight systems.

**Strategies**:
1. *Develop and submit call for papers by June 15. Distribute to related committees*
2. *Review papers*
3. *Identify papers that might be industry ready for review by industry partners*

IV.  **Goal**: Meet professional development goals of committee members

**Strategies**:
1. *Present information on funding opportunities*
2. *Identify professional organizations that can serve as industry networks for AT045*
3. *Plan to hold AT045 meeting at industry meeting*
4. *Appoint member to YMC*

V.  **Goal**: Educate transportation system stakeholders on the value and application of intermodal freight system research.

**Strategies**:
1. *Use multiple on-line services to improve communication and collaboration among committee members and friends of the committee. Maintain the website as a front-door to the committee.*
   a. Recruit three members with technical, social networking and/or communication management skills to serve on the Communications Subcommittee.
   b. Update the AT045 website, at least twice per year (December and May).
   c. To provide email/list serve capability, develop and maintain one Google group for members only, and one for friends of the committee
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      liaisons (Freight Data, Ports and Channels, etc.), other professional affiliations
      (AAPA, AASHTO, BTS, CFIRE, CSCMP, etc.), and internet research.
   b. Form joint task force(s) with other committees or organizations as needed to
      develop shared research problem statements and plan joint
      sessions/conferences.

VI. **Goal**: Provide peer-reviewed research and information that leads to more efficient,
     effective and reliable intermodal freight systems.

   **Strategies**:
   1. Develop and submit call for papers by June 15. Distribute to related committees
   2. Review papers
   3. Identify papers that might be industry ready for review by industry partners

VII. **Goal**: Meet professional development goals of committee members

   **Strategies**:
   1. Present information on funding opportunities
   2. Identify professional organizations that can serve as industry networks for AT045
   3. Plan to hold AT045 meeting at industry meeting
   4. Appoint member to YMC