Welcome and Introduction
At 8:10 a.m. Marygrace Parker, on behalf of Committee Chair Barb Ivanov, welcomed the committee members, friends and guests in the room and on the phone. Attendees introduced themselves. Participants on the phone included Nathan Huynh, Felix Ammah-Tagoe with E-Ternational Research Consulting and Marcus Coleman with the National Transport Commission of Australia.

Ms. Parker reminded the participants to sign in. She requested volunteers to work on items on the strategic plan. She asked that people indicate what they would like to work on by noting it next to their name on the sign-in sheets.

Research Paper Reviews Timeline (see attachment # 1)
Timeline for research review papers
- August 1 – papers are submitted to TRB
- August 15 – September 15 - the committee reviews the papers received (please contact Anne Goodchild - annegood@uw.edu if you want to review a paper
- September 16-26 Anne will combine the comments on the reviews
- September 30 the committee submits its recommendations to TRB

Progress on Strategic Plan (see attachment # 2)
Ms. Parker provided copies of the AT045 Strategic Plan and thanked Richard Easley for his leadership in working on it. Ms. Parker provided an update on the status of the Plan. She stated there is a need to coordinate with other committees on the overall plan.
Goal 1 - Action Items 1 and 2 are moving ahead. For Item #4 for 2013 there is an opportunity to develop a workshop on how to integrate incident management into freight operations.

Goal 3 - There is a need to put research into one page briefs and then get this out to educate others.

E-mail status report updates were received from Dan Haake on his progress on the best way to involve private sector and Jolene Hays (who just had a baby).

Dan Haake’s email: I was assigned to lead the “to organize a task force under the Research Paper Review Subcommittee to identify and recommend key intermodal freight research papers for incorporation into public sector professional development initiatives.” Dr. Goodchild and I are in preliminary talks to make this happen. Currently, we’re discussing the best way to bring public sector people in, and what their exact role would be.

Jolene’s email: Marygrace came up with an implementation concept, and I’ve incorporated it into the Triennial Plan on Page 5 for your review. Let me know if you’d prefer it in a different format or as a separate document.

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

Strategies:

1. Develop a set of one-page briefs in plain English covering the Intermodal Freight Committee’s published research and circulate to interested parties and organizations. Determine audience(s) and develop contact list(s), and work with authors to develop briefs. Year 1-3; Leads James Stark, Marygrace Parker and Jolene Hayes.
   a. Implementation Plan:
      1. Research Paper Subcommittee Lead (Anne Goodchild) to provide us with a list of qualified papers at the end of the subcommittee’s review process
      2. Identify appropriate agencies/research organizations/industries that may be interested in the selected research papers and compile a list of contacts
      3. Simultaneously, contact the paper submitters and ask them to provide a one-page summary with the following info:
         a. Brief issue/problem description
         b. Synopsis of research
         c. Key Findings
         d. Recommendations
      4. Take the submitters’ information, edit/modify the write-up as needed for the appropriate audience(s), and finalize the brief in a standardized format that we develop for all briefings
      5. Submit the briefings to the authors for final review
      6. Submit the briefings to the Committee for concurrence
      7. Disseminate the briefs to the list of identified agencies/research organizations/industries
Barb Ivanov regularly holds calls on the Strategic Plan and asks for volunteers.

**Review 2011 Call for Papers and Research Problem Statements**

Thanks to Nathan Huynh and his excellent subcommittee members, the TRB Intermodal Freight Committee has developed four research problem statements and plans to submit them for funding consideration to the NCFRP for FY 2012. Problem statements included GHG Accounting, Methodology Development, Triple Bottom Line Analysis and Panama Canal Expansion Impacts. Co sponsors of this research include AW020 – all; AT060 – GHG and Panama Canal; AT 050 (GHG).

The action items need for this is for people to tweak the wording and include justification for the research – i.e. provide some background. This includes doing some research to determine if other research projects have been conducted for this area.

Timeline – need comments on problem statements by August 9 in order to meet the Aug 30 deadline to TRB. One of the most important parts of the submission is describing the immediate need for, critical nature of, impact and import and of the research study. Co-sponsorship by other committees is also important in having the statement selected.

The deadline for problem statements is August 30, 2011. Nathan reminded the committee when developing a problem statement to go to the website at [trb.org/ncfrp](http://trb.org/ncfrp) for the NCFRP solicitation request and template. There is new information on the importance of doing a literature search and summarizing the results. There is a similar solicitation for the HMCRP (Hazmat) at [trb.org/hmcrp](http://trb.org/hmcrp).

TRB also put out a call for papers for the 2012 Annual meeting – the theme is, “Innovation – putting people to work.” Papers were submitted by June 1 on three areas: Work force management; transportation security; triple bottom line.

**Committee Website** (see attachment 4)

Jordon Srour presented an update on the Committee website. The website is updated in February and July. She is always looking for articles, content of interest, information and help with the site. She indicated that Wilbur Smith will continue to host the site. Ms. Srour can be contacted at jsorur@goggle.com

She discussed having a LinkedIn group but people were concerned about “control” and too many people having access to person information of members. She discussed the ability to do “discussion threads” and said this could be done. Like with LinkedIn the issue is the need for a “gatekeeper” to prevent people from just doing a “dump” - i.e. allowing anyone to get in and just do a “spin” on issues.

**Discussion**
Anne Purdue of TRB Staff reminded people that there is a need to look at the research item form and use the new template. There may be a need to do a literature review to verify the area has not been over researched before it is submitted.

**Annual Meeting Session** (see attachment 5)

There has been a lot of discussion and calls on the annual meeting. Freight Day is going to happen again and the committee is a co-sponsor.

The team is leaning to presenting a panel discussion on rail and truck “competition” on mode share. This has been expanded to include waterways and air. The wording may be competition or complimentary:

- How do shipper pick their modes
- Pros and cons of public policy
- The role the government should plan
- How laws support or prohibit, etc.

**Discussion – Comments and Questions included:**

One committee member questioned what is new about this topic? Possibly suggested looking to Australia – they use pricing as a new angle. He also suggested focusing on the complementary nature and on the intermodal angle as a new perspective.

One committee member suggested involving AASHTO – the RRs are pushing state DOTs on modal diversion and this may be a good way to involve the Truck Size and Weight Committee.

Another suggestion was to look at the public policy side of this and asked should the public be at the table?

Another suggested looking at the End to End Costs. The last mile issue – reliability – what makes it better – need to bring in Land Use and social costs issues and discussion.

It was suggested that the Goal would be to teach the public sector the impacts of regulations.

Other comments included: looking at short line rail issues – can they become a system – should the public invest in short lines – working with the STB to look at costing.

Another suggestion was to consider what public policies promote competition, conflict or cause dysfunction. How do we address barriers to cooperation – what hinders and what helps intermodality.

A topic suggested was, “Public Policy considerations affecting the first and last mile.”

**Announcements**
The next summer meeting is proposed for Irvine in July. There is consideration for the committee to instead meeting in DC linked to another meeting. A discussion of other cities was held focusing on where the committee could also do some interesting tours.

A brief discussion of Richard Easley’s freight subcommittee survey was held. The survey will go out. See attachment 6.

Adjourn

Marygrace Parker adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.
MEMORANDUM

TO: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: Crawford F. Jencks
Deputy Director, Cooperative Research Programs

SUBJECT: Request for FY 2012 Research Problem Statements-Due August 31, 2011
National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP)

The National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP) is an applied, contract research program with objectives of developing information that will be used to improve the efficiency, reliability, safety, and security of the nation’s freight transportation system. The NCFRP was authorized in federal legislation -- the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The Federal sponsor of the program is the U.S. DOT’s Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA). The program is managed by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies and governed by an Oversight Committee comprised primarily of industry stakeholders.

The purpose of this announcement is to solicit problem statements identifying research needs for the FY 2012 program of the NCFRP; these submittals will help to form the basis for selection of the next round of research projects by the Oversight Committee. Further details about the program can be found on the TRB website as follows <http://www.trb.org/crp/about/divd.asp> that may help guide submitters in understanding the interests of the Committee. Previously selected problems can be found on the website as well.

A problem-statement outline is attached. Research problem statement submittals should follow the outline and may be submitted by anyone at any time. However, to be considered for the FY 2012 programs, we are asking that problems be submitted by August 31, 2011.

Submitters are encouraged to do a literature search and summarize the results under "Item II. Research Problem Statement" on the attached form. By performing a literature search, you will have accomplished one of two objectives; either you will have found a solution to your pressing problem or you will have confirmed the need for new research. TRB’s recently launched Transportation Research International Documentation (TRID) Database is freely available online at <http://trid.trb.org> to do literature searches. Evidence of a literature search (i.e. a summary of findings) would be appreciated by the Oversight Committee to minimize overlap with previous or ongoing research.

Problem statements may be submitted by e-mail to ncfrp@nas.edu. Submitters are encouraged to submit electronically, and it is preferred that the problem statement be sent as an attachment to the e-mail message in Microsoft Word format. However, the problem statement may also be submitted in the text of an e-mail message or by fax or USPS. Please note that research problem statements need not be lengthy; 1-2 pages should be sufficient to describe the research topic in the requested format.

The Oversight Committee is expected to meet in late fall to select the research problem statements for FY 2012. For research projects selected, requests for proposals will be issued, and contractors will be selected through a competitive proposal process.

Thank you for your interest. Your willingness to participate in the identification of relevant research topics is a key element of a successful, industry-driven cooperative research program. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 202/334-3224 or cjjencks@nas.edu.