

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility (AME50)**  
**Transportation Research Board 102nd Annual Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**In Attendance**

**Co-Chairs**

Todd Hansen  
Judy Shanley

Texas A&M Transportation Institute  
Easter Seals

**Members**

Chengbo Ai  
JoAnne Chalom  
David Chia  
Susan Clarke  
Peter Cosyn  
Yochai Eisenberg  
Trevor Hanson  
Janett Jimenez-Santos  
Rex Knowlton  
Roger Mackett  
Mehri Mohebbi  
Subhash Chandra Vashishth  
  
Steven Winters

University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
In Focus Mobility  
The Collaborative, Inc.  
Canadian Transportation Agency  
Tractebel Engineering  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
University of New Brunswick  
Can Lah, SC, Mexico  
CTAA  
University College London  
University of Florida  
Centre for Accessibility in Built Environment  
Foundation, India  
Transport Canada

**Friends and Visitors**

Aline Alauzet\*  
Ian Berg  
Carolina Burnier  
Antonio Ramon Campos  
Cyrus Chimento  
Sara Davidson\*  
Carrie Diamond\*  
Christine Dywer\*  
Jim Elliott  
Christine Fitzgerald\*  
Jennifer Frost  
Venu Garrikapati  
Nathan George  
Kristin Gladwin  
Ariel Gold

Université Gustave Eiffel  
USDOT Volpe Center  
Noblis  
Gonzaga University  
USDOT-BTS  
ITS America  
Easter Seals  
Transport Canada  
Toole Design  
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center  
Dallas Area Rapid Transit  
NREL  
Palm Beach TPA  
Michael Baker International  
USDOT

Joey Goldman	Kearns & West
Bern Grush*	The Urban Robotics Foundation
Em Hall	UIC
Mark Hallenbeck	University of Washington
Jill Hough	NDSU
ChiaWei Hsu	TAMU
Andrea Lubin*	Rutgers University
Sarah Malaier	American Foundation for the Blind
Erin McAuliff	SFMTA
Vanitha Murthy*	Oregon APA
Linda Myers	Accessible Design for the Blind
Sarah O'Brien	UNC-HSRC
Jun Oh	Western Michigan University
Maraith Peng	Hitashi American R&D
Robin Phillips	National RTAP
Drew Reiter	WVU
Amir Rezvani	Infratek Solutions
David Rishel	Della Services Group Inc.
Shelley Roberts*	National Research Council Canada
Will Rodman	TTI
Sara Sanford	CapMetro
Ipek Sener	TTI
Dave Somers	NADTC
Emily Steel*	Centre for Universal Design Australia
Sally Swanson	SSA
Russel Thatcher*	Thatcher Consulting LLC
Erica Twardzik	Johns Hopkins University
Carol Tyson	Disability Rights Education Defense Fund (DEREDF)
Emma Vinella-Brusher	UNC-Chapel Hill
Molly Wagner	University of Denver
Todd Webb	USDOT-FHWA
Annette Williams	SFMTA
Steve Yaffe	Yaffe Mobility Consulting
Rhonda Young	Gonzaga University

\*Indicates virtual participation

### **Emeritus Members**

Ling Sheung Suen	Intelligent Computer Systems and Applications, Inc., Canada
------------------	--

### **TRB Staff**

Bill Anderson	Liaison to Committee
John MacArthur	AME00 Section Chair, Liaison to Committee

**Meeting materials can be found here:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nGBYfAWpq14QF6svM0WP3i0GtlatAvUO?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nGBYfAWpq14QF6svM0WP3i0GtlatAvUO?usp=share_link)

## **I. INTRODUCTIONS**

### **A. Welcome and Overview of Committee**

Judy Shanley and Todd Hansen welcomed all attendees to the committee meeting and noted the TRB format change to hold only full committee meetings and no subcommittees meetings.

### **B. Introductions**

All present introduced themselves.

The new Committee leadership was introduced. Research Committee: Trevor Hanson, Yochai Eisenberg (Committee Research Coordinator); Paper Review Coordinator: Chengbo Ai; Communications: Subhash Chandra Vashishth, Susan Clarke.

## **II. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **A. Review and Approval of Minutes from 2022 Meeting**

The minutes were approved by the committee.

### **B. Review and Approval of Minutes from 2022 Midyear and Fall meetings**

Todd Hansen gave a brief summary of the meetings. The minutes were approved by the committee.

### **C. Committee Announcements**

Todd Hansen explained that every three years, one third of the committee membership is rotated. This was done last year, so the next rotation will be in two years. AME50 has 32 total members, 5 of which are emeritus members. Membership should include diverse representation, and there is a need for young members and students.

Judy Shanley encouraged everyone to starting thinking about nominations for the William Bell Award, which is awarded every three years. It was awarded in 2022 to Dr. Agneta Ståhl and Mr. Rex C. Luk (posthumously). The selection criteria is available on the [AME50 website](#).

### **III. TRB BUSINESS ITEMS**

Bill Anderson provided an update from TRB. He stated that more than 10,000 attendees registered for this year's conference, which is up from 7,500 last year. Bill encouraged everyone to become familiar TRB's Code of Conduct for Preventing Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying. This year, 5,021 papers were submitted and 533 sessions, 84 workshops, and over 430 committee meetings were being held.

He noted that the RNS database now resides on the MyTRB platform. Statements can be viewed there and any comments provided through the system will be directed to the coordinator.

Bill shared that the Transportation Research Record is seeing an increase in the number of papers it receives and its impact factor has increased to 2.02, up from 1.56 in 2021 and 0.695 in 2018.

Last year there were 67 webinars (down from the usual 100), 42 of which were organized by technical committees with one committee planning 19 of them. He noted there is an opportunity for our Section (AME00) to provide more content. Webinar suggestion opportunities occur three times a year (deadlines are March 1, July 1, and November 1).

Bill also shared that the next AGM will take place January 7-11, 2024. In the meantime, there are 11 specialty conferences organized in 2023, refer to TRB's calendar for details.

John MacArthur, AME00 Section Chair, shared that the History Subcommittee is interested in creating oral histories and suggested that the history of the ADA and transportation may be of interest to it.

### **IV. TRIENNIAL STRATEGIC PLAN**

Judy Shanley provided a briefing on the Triennial Strategic Plan, which guides AME50's activities. The plan was recently approved by committee members and a final version, reflecting members recommendations, has been submitted to AME00 Section. The Committee's Mission Statement, found within the plan, is to facilitate education and engagement on the issues and gaps related to mobility needs for people with limited transportation options: people with mobility, sensory, and cognitive disabilities; older adults; individuals without private transportation; and populations that are economically disadvantaged.

Judy highlighted a couple of areas in the plan, including looking at disability in an expansive and holistic manner. There is focus on older adults, economically disadvantaged individuals, temporary disabilities, short term mobility needs, and invisible disabilities. Another highlight is the connection between multi-modal

transportation, the continuum of transportation, and new innovations in transportation. There is a push to share practices and policies.

Some activities in the plan include proposing TCRP synthesis topic, a special issue of TR News, sponsoring sessions at the AGM, encouraging members to serve on panels, having designated liaison with other committees that AME50 Members and Friends are involved with and a reporting process to bring back information. The complete plan can be viewed on the [AME50 website](#).

## **V. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. Newsletter**

Susan Clarke provided an overview of the new AME50 newsletter. The newsletter is sent out quarterly (July, October, January, April) to members and friends and is posted on the [AME50 website](#). Members and friends are invited to contribute content that follows the contribution guidelines that can be found on the AME50 website. Members and friends were reminded throughout the meeting to keep their contact information up to date in their MyTRB profile.

### **B. Website**

Subhash Chandra Vashishth provided an overview of the updates to the [AME50 website](#). The website is constantly being updated and a snapshot of new things that are added are available on the home page. The website is a one-stop shop for all things related to the AME50 committee. Members and friends are encouraged to share resources for the Useful Links page as well as provide any feedback that they think would improve the website.

## **VI. RESEARCH OVERVIEW**

### **A. TCRP/NCHRP Submissions**

Trevor Hanson reminded everyone that there are upcoming deadlines for submissions to the Transit Cooperative Research Program, National Cooperative Highway Research Program, and Airport Cooperative Research Program. Trevor encouraged everyone to draw from our research needs statements and make submissions to these programs in order to move agenda items related to accessible transportation forward. Problem statements for TCRP are due June 30, NCHRP synthesis on Feb. 17, and further information regarding submission deadlines can be found on their websites.

Todd Hansen noted that one of last year's submissions for TCRP problem statements regarding floating transit stops, submitted by committee members JoAnne Chalom and Beezy Benson, was selected and is anticipated to be announced as TCRP B-51.

Yochai Eisenberg shared that current AME50 Research Needs Statements can be viewed on MyTRB or the Google Drive.

Andrea Lubin shared that in the coming weeks, she and Trevor Hanson intend to submit an application on behalf of AME50 to organize a TRB sponsored webinar. They welcome topic and presenter ideas. Please share any suggestions with [annlubin@rutgers.edu](mailto:annlubin@rutgers.edu) and [thanson@unb.ca](mailto:thanson@unb.ca).

## **VII. AME50 CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES**

Todd Hansen shared that AME50 held two lectern sessions. One on Accessibility and Air Travel Globally and one on Challenges and Successes with Shared-Use Mobility in Rural, Frontier, and Tribal Areas. AME50 would also hold a poster session on Tuesday afternoon on Innovation in Accessible Transportation and Mobility.

Chengbo Ai noted that we received 31 papers, with 20 accepted for presentation and 3 for presentation and publication. There were at least 3 reviewers for each paper. Key topics included data analysis and statistics, qualitative analysis, on-demand mobility and technology, public transit and shared ride transportation, and pedestrian accessibility and trip planning. Chengbo explained the evaluation process.

## **VIII. U.S.DOT PRESENTATIONS**

Ariel Gold presented on the Inclusive Design Challenge sponsored by the U.S. DOT. The Challenge asked researchers and innovators to develop solutions to solve the most pressing access barriers for people with physical, sensory, and cognitive disabilities. Design teams from academic and research institutions, the business sector, technology companies and analytics firms competed for cash prizes. Solutions included both hardware and software solutions aimed to address barriers.

Purdue University received first prize for developing a life-sized, operational demonstration platform known as the Efficient, Accessible and Safe Interaction in a Reals Integrated Design Environment for Riders with disabilities (EASI RIDER). AbleLink Smart Living Technologies received second prize for a comprehensive mobile application designed to support independent access to ADS-DVs by individuals with cognitive disabilities and others with special needs. The University of Maine received third prize for its autonomous vehicle assistant, AVA.

Cyrus Chimento presented on the U.S. DOT's National Geospatial Bike, Pedestrian, and Accessibility Infrastructure Data Project. He noted that there is a data gap for non-motorist infrastructure. The location and condition of the infrastructure that allows for safe travel, e.g., sidewalks, bike lanes, and curb cuts, is unknown. The project is looking to discover what geospatial data is available, establish partnerships to build mutually beneficial access to data, define the structure and minimum content, facilitate data collection with partners, and aggregate and publish data. Anyone who has access to data, is directly or indirectly involved in developing these data, or who needs these data but don't have it or know where to find it can reach out via email to [cyrus.chimento.ctr@dot.gov](mailto:cyrus.chimento.ctr@dot.gov).

Kelly Buckland provided an update on the [disability policy priorities of the U.S. DOT](#). The four pillars include: safe and accessible air travel, multi-modal accessibility of public rights-of-way, access to good paying jobs and business opportunities for people with disabilities, and accessibility of electric vehicle charging and automated vehicles. Priorities also include reinvigorating enforcement of the ACAA, ADA, and Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act; Advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the DOT workforce; addressing gaps in data on people with disabilities to inform public policymaking; and ensuring all DOT meetings and resources are fully accessible.

## IX. AME50 HIGHLIGHT PRESENTATIONS

Elina Zlotchenko presented an overview of the Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office's ITS4US Deployment Program which aims to solve mobility challenges for all travelers with specific focus on underserved communities, including people with disabilities, older adults, low-income individuals, rural residents, veterans, and limited English proficiency travelers. Contact [Elina.Zlotchenko@dot.gov](mailto:Elina.Zlotchenko@dot.gov) for more information

Mark Hallenbeck presented the ITS4US project on Improved Navigation. He noted that information is missing for a wide variety of the U.S. The project is working on three data standards: open sidewalks, the improvement of GTFS-Flex 24 paratransit, and pathways through transit stations. The project is designed to create, modify and improve data standards and data integration, validation and maintenance tools necessary for modern applications to provide mobility benefits more equitably. Contact [tracmark@uw.edu](mailto:tracmark@uw.edu) for more information.

JoAnne Chalom presented A Digital Bridge and Then Some. JoAnne noted that the goals of the project are to have the tools needed to have a conversation with stakeholders to expand access to the public right of way, which would include a sustainable, expansive virtual library, professionals working in the field of blindness, and consumers working with a mobility specialist. The initial objective is to contact stakeholders, urban planners, transportation engineers, and city, county, and state personnel. This will be followed by contacting individuals with visual impairments and to colleagues to determine their needs and areas of focus. For more information, JoAnne can be reached at [jchalom@infocusmobility.com](mailto:jchalom@infocusmobility.com).

Amir Rezvani presented on the TrainMate Robotic System. The project identified that current methods to help passengers board or deboard trains at non-accessible street level stations are insufficient, not efficient and not available at all stations. The project solution is an autonomous, safe, practical, modular, efficient and cost-effective robotic system that delivers the independence and visibility that passengers with a disability desire. The system includes ancillary functionalities such as security and surveillance, passenger escorting, station cleaning and remote facility inspection to increase utilization and ROI. Next steps include finalizing the feasibility study, preparing a prototyping plan, and seeking partnership and funding sources to build the real-life working prototype. For more information, Amir can be contacted at [amir@infrateksolutions.com](mailto:amir@infrateksolutions.com).

## X. TR NEWS ISSUE

Todd Hansen reminded everyone that AME50 is working together with AP055 (Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation) on a special issue that will focus on transportation issues for persons with disabilities and those with specialized transportation needs. The special edition is scheduled for the July/August issue. The first review process for draft article is underway. Anyone interested in reviewing articles can reach out to [t-hansen@tti.tamu.edu](mailto:t-hansen@tti.tamu.edu) and [jshanley@easterseals.com](mailto:jshanley@easterseals.com).

## **XI. TRANSED-DRT CONFERENCE**

Judy Shanley shared that the 2022 conference, although initially planned as an in-person event, was held virtually. There were approximately 200 participants, with 60-70 diverse presentations. The next conference will be held in 2025 and should be held internationally. TRB has some constraints with holding international events, but is looking at possible solutions to these. A partnership with an international organization who can provide a financial and planning commitment is needed. Stay tuned for an email from Judy regarding a planning meeting.

## **XII. OTHER DISCUSION ITEMS**

Venu Garikapati, from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, shared information about the DOE Smart Mobility Consortium webinar series starting in February and running until the end of 2023. More information can be found at <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7151527/2023-SMART-Mobility-Webinar-Series>.

## **XIII. CONCLUSION**

Judy Shanley shared that the next AME50 Member meeting will take place on April 6 from 1:00 – 2:30 ET. and the Full Committee Meeting will take place on April 11 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET. Both meetings will be held virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.