

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility (AME50)**  
**Transportation Research Board 103rd Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**In Attendance**

(An asterisk (\*) adjacent to an individual's name indicates that they participated virtually)

**Co-Chairs**

Todd Hansen	Texas A&M Transportation Institute
Judy Shanley	Easter Seals

**Members**

Chengbo Ai	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Jo Anne Chalom*	In Focus Mobility
David Chia	The Collaborative, Inc.
Susan Clarke	Canadian Transportation Agency
Peter Cosyn	Tractebel Engineering
Yochai Eisenberg	University of Illinois at Chicago
Melissa Gray*	USAgings/NADTC
Trevor Hanson	University of New Brunswick
Janett Jimenez-Santos*	Can Lah, SC, Mexico
Rex Knowlton*	Community Transportation of America
Roger Mackett*	Emeritus Professor, University College London
Wesley Major	Federal Aviation Administration
Steven Winters	Transport Canada
Subhash Chandra Vashishth*	CABE Foundation, India

**Friends and Visitors**

Naomi Armenta-Nelson*	Nelson\Nygaard SF Bay
Chad Ballentine	KFH Group
Ron Brooks	Accessible Avenue
Emily Brunsen	Dunlap and Associates
Julia Castillo	Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency
William Chernicoff*	Toyota Mobility Foundation
Cyrus Chimento	USDOT, Bureau of Transportation Statistics
Susan Cohen	Americans for Older Driver Safety
Alyssa Curran	World Resources Institute
Sara Davidson*	Intelligent Transportation Society of America
Jay Davis	USDOT, BTS

Enjoli Dixon	National Center for Mobility Management/National Aging and Disability Center, Easter Seals
Nicole Dupuis	May Mobility
Heidi Ganum	Transpo Group
Brian Gardner	USDOT, FHWA
Kristin Gladwin	Michael Baker International
Jennifer Graham	Accessible Design for the Blind
Alan Hejl	Spark Access
Christian Hunter	Noblis
Abigail Johnson	National Park Service
Victor Kamhi*	
Katrina King	Toxcel
Malcolm Kyle	Dunlap and Associates
Kaylyn Levine	East Carolina University
Steve Lindsey	National Federation of the Blind
Eileen Yeh-Lin Lu*	Eden Social Welfare Foundation
Sarah Malaier	American Foundation for the Blind
Erin McAuliff	San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
Swatha Nandhakumar	American Council of the Blind
Danielle Nelson	USDOT, Federal Transit Administration
Anthony Palanka*	Ohio Department of Transportation
Meg Robertson	AER OM Environmental Access Committee
Will Rodman	TTI
Sara Sanford	CAPMetro
Amy Schumacher	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Manish Shirgaokar	University of Colorado, Denver
Dustin Souders	Clemson University
Patricia Tice	ProFound Insights
Kim Tran*	Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Rajat Verma	Purdue University
James Todd Webb*	USDOT, Federal Highway Administration
Alice Werner	VTTI
Kurt Winner	Commute Seattle
Tracy Zafian	UMass Amherst
Anna Zivarts	Disability Rights WA

**Emeritus Members**

David Lewis*	Principal Economist Emeritus HDR Inc.
Katherine Hunter-Zaworski	Oregon State University
Ling Suen*	Intelligent Computer Systems and Applications, Inc.

## **AME00 Representative**

John MacArthur

## **TRB Staff**

Katherine Kortum, Senior Program Officer

Dianne Schwager, Senior Program Officer

Meeting materials, photos, presentations etc can be found on our [google drive](#).

## **I. WELCOME**

Judy Shanley and Todd Hansen welcomed all attendees to the committee meeting and introductions were made.

## **II. COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Todd led a brief remembrance for Dr. Cecilia Feeley. Attendees were invited to speak and share remembrances.

Judy spoke about the Committee's Blue Ribbon Award. AME50 was awarded a Blue Ribbon by the TRB Technical Activities Council under the category of "Implementation: Moving Research Ideas into Transportation Practice" for the active and meaningful engagement of individuals with disabilities enhancing the movement of research to practice and creating opportunity for systemic change across the transportation research field.

A certificate of recognition was presented to Dr. Trevor Hanson for serving as the committee research coordinator from 2016-2023.

We are currently in the second year of the three-year member rotation. AME50 aims to have diverse representation. TRB is moving to enforce membership rules, including a maximum of three terms per committee. This includes non-consecutive terms. TRB is also ending the emeritus program. However, current emeritus members will retain their status.

## **III. COMMUNICATION REPORT**

Susan reminded everyone that AME50 puts out quarterly newsletters and explained the protocol for making submissions. The [newsletters and protocols](#) are available on our web site. Guest contributors are welcome, please reach out to [Susan](#), [Judy](#), or [Todd](#) with any interest.

Attendees were reminded of our [website](#) and that it can be used as a resource. Subhash has been updating and enhancing our web site to include more information and make it user friendly.

### **III. HAPPENINGS AT THE Annual TRB Meeting**

Chengbo reported that a total of 39 papers were assigned to our committee with 24 accepted for presentation and three for presentation and transferred to TRR review. Most of the papers had three reviewers. Topics included older populations, on-demand mobility and technology, public transit and paratransit transportation, pedestrian accessibility and trip planning, and case studies and implementations. The following were recommended for publication:

- Understanding Perceptions of College Students on Operation of Automated Shuttle for Persons with Disabilities on Campus Walkways
- Investigating Unfulfilled Travel Needs for People with Travel-Limiting Conditions - using the 2017 NHTS data
- Community Public Mobility Using On-Demand, Low-Speed Electric Vehicles: A Case Study in Downtown St. Louis, Missouri

We held the following lectern and poster sessions:

- Travel Barriers to Accessibility and Practices in Improved Americans with Disabilities Act Implementation
- Older Adults, Travel Options, and Barriers to Accessibility
- Innovation in Accessible Transportation and Mobility posters
- Advancing Policy, Research, and Practice Around Air Travel for Passengers That Use Mobility Devices (with AV010 and AME00)

We hosted the following workshop:

- At the Intersection of Disability Justice, Pedestrian Safety, and Health (AME50)

### **IV. TRANSED CONFERENCE**

Judy noted that a conference is planned for 2025 but that may shift depending on planning efforts. We have robust planning committee and welcome anyone who would like to join. The intention is for the conference to be held outside of the U.S. and AME50 is working with TRB to clarify its role in the conference.

The committee is working to identify partners who can help plan an international event. There is a flyer available with information for potential partners. If you are aware of any potential partners, please reach out to [Judy](#). Partner organizations should be aligned with the purposes of AME50 and TRANSED and would need to be able to provide monetary support up-front to advance the conference.

Attendees provided some suggestions, such as not dismissing the notion of a virtual conference considering AME50's membership and difficulty with travel for some. It was also suggested that the conference could benefit from a reimagining and update to its current format, such as focused round tables on one-two issues rather than generalized research. The International Transportation Forum format was provided as an example.

Judy welcomed suggestions regarding experiences with other conferences that could be considered.

## **V. UPDATE FROM KELLY BUCKLAND**

Kelly Buckland, Disability Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Transportation, gave a brief update on the USDOT's disability policy priorities and noted that these can be found on the DOT's web site, along with the passenger Bill of Rights. Kelly also noted that eight new attorneys have been hired to deal with complaints and reduce the backlog. See slides on [TRBaccessmobility.org](http://TRBaccessmobility.org) site.

## **VI. TRB BUSINESS ITEMS**

It was noted that this year's registration for the TRB is likely similar or better than last year's with approximately 12,000 registrations.

The research needs database now resides on the MyTRB platform. This year, more than 6,500 papers were received and there is some concern about the rising number, particularly as many (approximately 2,000) came in at the very end of the deadline, which makes them difficult to process and review. TRB is looking for feedback from committees on how to address this. This is less of a concern for AME50 which receives a relatively small amount of papers.

TRB advised that friends of the committee should receive an email in April to refriend the committee or risk being dropped from the list as TRB is updating its lists and will be doing a purge. Please make sure to go into your MyTRB account and refriend the committee if you wish to remain on the list.

## **VII. TRANSIT DATE EQUITY INITIATIVE**

Suresh Devalapalli from Gaussian Solutions spoke about the Transportation Data Equity Initiative. The goal is to create, modify and improve data standards and data

tools necessary to provide mobility benefits more equitably. For more information, the presentation deck is available in the meeting materials folder.

## VIII. RESEARCH OVERVIEW

Yochai provided an update on the research taskforce and noted where some key documents can be found:

- Research Task Force – [Google Drive Folder](#)
- AME50 Triannual Strategic Plan found [here](#)
- Research needs and problem statement planning page: [Google Doc](#)
- Sign-up sheet for research teams: [Google Sheet](#)

The goal of the task force is to get funding towards the research topics we think are important and to get Research Statements selected by TRB's cooperative research programs. The task force will identify priority areas for research topics; select research topics for statement development; organize and sustain mini-teams to co-write statements; obtain co-sponsorship from other committees and endorsement from stakeholder organizations; and submit Research Statements by the deadlines.

Information was shared about knowing what is out there:

- Snap searches: <https://www.trb.org/InformationServices/Snap.aspx>
- Transportation Research Integrated Database: <https://trid.trb.org/>
- Current RNS:  
<https://www.mytrb.org/RNS/Search?SearchField=Keywords&Committee=AME50&DateRange=Any%20Date&DateRangeBegin=2006&DateRangeEnd=2050&pageNumber=0&pageSize=20&returnCount=False>

Other ways to get involved include participation on CRP panels, applying to RFPs, and disseminating results.

### Current panels:

- **TCRP B-54 [Anticipated]** Paving the Way for Inclusion: Addressing Gaps in Measuring Disability within Transportation Data Systems  
<https://apps.trb.org/cmsfeed/TRBNetProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=5610>
- **TCRP F-33 [Anticipated]** Enriching Transit's Workforce: Recruiting and Retaining Individuals with Disabilities  
<https://apps.trb.org/cmsfeed/TRBNetProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=5616>

### Current RFPs:

- **ACRP 07-23 [RFP]** Safety, Empowerment, and Dignity: Improving the Airport Journey of Customers Using Wheelchairs  
<https://apps.trb.org/cmsfeed/TRBNetProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=5585>

- **ACRP 07-22 [RFP]** Improving Accessibility and Airport Experience for Neurodivergent Individuals and Individuals with Dementia-Related Conditions  
<https://apps.trb.org/cmsfeed/TRBNetProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=5584>
- **NCHRP 08-181 [RFP]** Impacts of Climate Change and Extreme Weather on the Mobility of Socially Vulnerable Populations  
<https://apps.trb.org/cmsfeed/TRBNetProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=5500>
- **NCHRP 08-183 [RFP]** Resource to Support Volunteer Driver Programs in Rural and Low-Density Areas  
<https://apps.trb.org/cmsfeed/TRBNetProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=5502>

More information can be found in the research task force slides in the meeting materials folder.

## **IX. HIGHLIGHT PRESENTATIONS**

The following brief, 3-5 minute presentations were given. More detail can be found in the presentation decks in the meeting materials folder.

- Elina Ziotchenko - ITS4US Update
- Jennifer Graham (for Beezy Bentzen) – TCRP B-48 overview and results
- Anabela Simões and Ling Suen – A Conceptual Framework towards Inclusive and Safe Public Transport under a Sustainability and Resilience Umbrella
- Brian Gardner, Archana Sharma - FHWA update on Accessibility Pilot Project
- Anne Victoria – Knoxville Area Transit project on Rider Incontinence
- Patricia Tice – Can you See Me? Vulnerable User Conspicuity Research Plan
- Regina Morgan – NHTSA update
- Elizabeth Andrews - MATI (Mobility, Accessibility, and Transportation Insecurity) Project
- Cyrus Chimento CTR (OST) – ADA Transition Plan Map
- Benito Perez – Accessible Streetscape Project - *there is no deck for this in the meeting materials folder; summary below:*

All people in a community rely on the transportation network to get from point A to point B in the interest of living, working, and playing. However, the system historically has not been designed to benefit all users equally. More specifically, there are design and planning considerations that have not been wholly considered, resulting in adverse consequences to the physical mobility plus the interactive and safe use of streetscapes for people with disabilities. Those design and planning considerations have proliferated over the years for various reasons and context, but boil down to a lack of awareness of the concept of inclusive accessibility and the real life implications to end users (understanding “to walk in their shoes”).

Deliverables:

- Resource guide exploring streetscape accessibility from mobility, vision, hearing, cognitive ability, and language barrier perspectives. Exploring from conceptualization, community engagement, design, construction, and maintenance of the streetscape for accessibility.
- Federal advocacy push for a transit ready communities [legislative idea](#), aimed to push for standards development, discretionary and formula funding to facilitate accessible streetscapes, and support land use and zoning innovation.
- Development of accessible streetscape guidelines for incorporation into [NACTO's Urban Street Design Guide](#) and other related enforceable guidelines.

Volunteers and support for the development of this project is being sought, specific asks include:

- Peer reviewer of an end user survey ([PDF](#) and [surveyMonkey](#)), due to go out this spring (tentative mid March 2024 for 60 days)
- Assistance in distributing the end user survey across the country/internationally
- Peer review of the literature / best practices [catalog](#)
- Peer reviewer of the resource guide, later in 2024

## **X. COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS**

Some committee liaisons were there to share information from other committees, but as time was short and some committee meetings had not taken place yet, we will include liaison reports on our web site, once available.

## **XI. OPEN DISCUSSION AND OTHER TOPICS**

The meeting had a very full agenda and was running behind. We were not able to have the discussions we would have liked. However, all of the information below was shared via the presentation deck and we can put you in touch with the individuals below if you'd like more information:

- Disabled Persons Transport Advisory committee – THSG in the UK -Roger Mackett, Steve Yaffe
- Measuring Accessibility in Cities – Peter Cosyn
- Transportation Services for Individuals With Disabilities: ADA Standards for Transportation Facilities
  - Public comment period extended to February 20<sup>th</sup>
  - <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/26/2023-28332/transportation-services-for-individuals-with-disabilities-ada-standards-for-transportation>
- Interest in service on TCRP Panels
  - Deadline is February 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - TCRP B-54 - Paving the Way for Inclusion: Addressing Gaps in Measuring Disability within Transportation Data Systems



- TCRP F-33 - Enriching Transit's Workforce: Recruiting and Retaining Individuals with Disabilities
  - <https://volunteer.mytrb.org/Panel/AvailableProjects>
- RFPs due in February:
  - NCHRP 08-181 - Impacts of Climate Change and Extreme Weather on the Mobility of Socially Vulnerable Populations
  - NCHRP 08-183 - Resource to Support Volunteer Driver Programs in Rural and Low-Density Areas
- Other conferences:
  - 2nd Conference on Advancing Transportation Equity (CATE) July 15 - 18, 2024 (Baltimore, MD)
  - <https://trb.secure-platform.com/a/page/transportationequity>

Transportation Symposium on Environment, Energy, and Livable Economies:  
August 25 - 28, 2024 (Denver, CO)

[https://trb.secure-platform.com/a/page/Transportation\\_Symposium\\_Environment\\_Energy\\_Economies](https://trb.secure-platform.com/a/page/Transportation_Symposium_Environment_Energy_Economies)

7th International Conference on Women and Gender in Transportation:  
September 9 - 11, 2024 (Irvine, CA)

[https://trb.secure-platform.com/a/page/Women\\_in\\_Transportation](https://trb.secure-platform.com/a/page/Women_in_Transportation)

Please reach out to [Judy](#) or [Todd](#) at anytime with ideas and strategies to strengthen our committee.

## **XII. Next meeting**

Our next meeting will take place on April 24, 2024 from 12:00 – 1:00 ET. Use the below meeting link to Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83659832553?pwd=cm83YjF2WmxPa1huUFF3djdWV3hiQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 5983 2553

Passcode: TRB

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