



Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility Transportation Research Board

Newsletter: July 2023

Item 1: July Members and Friends Meeting

The mid-year AME50 Members and Friends Meeting took place on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, from 1:00 – 2:30pm e.t. The meeting notes and Power Point can be found on the Committee [website](#).

Item 2: Research Needs Statements and Research Problem Statements

Topic teams are in place for air travel accessibility, temporary barriers, electrification barriers, service quality assessment, and travel survey and disability measurement. New topic suggestions are welcome.

Item 3: TR News Theme Issue

The Special Issue focused on accessibility should be coming out in August. Many thanks to all who contributed and participated. Please share any ideas you have for the marketing and outreach of this special edition with [Judy](#) and [Todd](#) so that we can reach as many people as possible.

Item 4: Paper Submissions and AI Tools

TRB shared the following guidelines with Committee Chairs regarding paper submissions and AI tools:

- TRB is anticipating wide adoption of artificial intelligence tools and wants to make sure there is alignment with industry protocols regarding transparency.

- Authors considering using a large language model (LLM) (e.g. ChatGPT) or generative AI to help prepare their manuscript for submission to TRBAM or TRR must comply with the following statement from COP (Committee on Publication Ethics):
 - Authors who use AI tools in the writing of a manuscript, production of images or graphical elements of the paper, or in the collection and analysis of data, must be transparent in disclosing in the Materials and Methods (or similar section) of the paper how the AI tool was used and which tool was used. Authors are fully responsible for the content of their manuscript, even those parts produced by an AI tool, and are thus liable for any breach of publication ethics.
 - Specifically, authors are required to:
 - Clearly indicate the use of language models in the manuscript, including which model was used and for what purpose, Please use the methods or acknowledgment section, as appropriate.
 - Verify the accuracy, validity, and appropriateness of the content and any citations generated by language models and correct any errors or inconsistencies.
 - Provide a list of sources used to generate content and citations, including those generated by language models. Double check citations to ensure they are accurate and properly referenced.
 - Be conscious of the potential for plagiarism where the LLM may have reproduced substantial text from other sources. Check the original sources to be sure you are not plagiarizing someone else's work.
 - Acknowledge the limitations of language models in the manuscript, including the potential for bias, errors, and gaps in knowledge.
 - AI bots (such as ChatGPT) should not be listed as an author in the submission.

Item 5: Webinars

AME50 members will be well represented in upcoming TRB Webinars. Congratulations to our presenters and organizers for their participation in two upcoming virtual events:

- ***Enhancing Wheelchair Accessibility on Commercial Service Aircraft*** – September 2023
- ***Making Floating Bus Stops Accessible to People Who are Vision Disabled*** – November 2023

We will share further details once they are available.

Item 6: NCHRP Project – Climate Change/Extreme Weather Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

There is a new NCHRP project 08-181, *Understand How Climate Change and Extreme Weather Impacts the Mobility of Socially Vulnerable Populations*

<https://apps.trb.org/cmsfeed/TRBNetProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=5500> in the works. The project is a nice mix between the Resilience Section and Society Section.

The following is a description of the project:

The impacts of climate extremes are acute on the mobility of socially vulnerable populations. When extreme weather events occur, vulnerable populations are more likely to experience travel delays, road damage, route closure, detours, or complete impassibility, effectively locking their access to life-saving infrastructure and services (e.g., healthcare and emergency resources). Slower onset climate impacts events reduce their mobility by crippling transportation infrastructure or making it physically uncomfortable or unsafe to travel to perform daily activities (e.g., work, shopping, schooling, or healthcare). By diminishing access to life-saving resources and services, jobs, schools, political events and civic activities, the impacts of compromised mobility include not only short-term perturbations and dangers, but also long-term social, economic, and political exclusion.

Equity and justice in climate adaptation is an emerging area of research and practice in transportation. There is limited research on how direct physical impacts on the transportation systems interact with non-physical factors, such as human decision-making, behavior, and social and institutional processes, to amplify the mobility burdens for those groups. However, the issue is gaining traction in the research community and across various government agencies.

The objective of this research is to help state departments of transportation (DOTs) understand how climate change and extreme weather impact socially vulnerable groups, especially those with fewer resources to adapt. The research should distinguish how the impacts of climate change and extreme weather (e.g., hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and extreme heat and cold) can affect different subpopulations (e.g., income, race, education, language isolation, and physical conditions) and how transportation investments can improve resilience for these communities in the near- and longer-terms. Information on the impacts of specific climate risks on vulnerable groups can help state DOTs and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) design and implement strategies to address related mobility burdens and support recovery in those communities.

If anyone has expertise in this field and is interested in serving on the project panel, please reach out to [Todd](#) or [Judy](#). Information on how to volunteer for NCHRP panels is also available on the NCHRP [home page](#).

Item 7: The Johns Hopkins Disability Health Research Center - Public Transit Disability Dashboard

The [Public Transit #DisabilityDashboard](#) evaluates information available on public transit system websites that people with disabilities may need to plan transit travel. This includes assessing if transit system websites have information on facility and vehicle accessibility features, policy and planning procedures, rider accommodation processes, and paratransit services. Although these data do not represent individual experiences, such as real-time elevator outages, this dashboard provides insight into the barriers people with disabilities face when planning transit trips.

This dashboard includes data from the top 26 U.S. transit systems receiving the most federal funding. These data intend to highlight areas for

improvement and help identify best practices. The dashboard also outlines a need for real-time and standardized data on the accessibility of transit systems. Details about the scoring methodology and resources can be found on the dashboard.

Follow [@JHUDisability](#) or via the [Disability Health Research Center website](#) for updates on this project and the work.

Item 8: Accessible Transportation and Mobility Around the World – Seeking Guest Editors

During the last TRANSED conference, we had some very well received videos from different continents about the state of accessible transportation in their respective regions. We are seeking a guest editor for our quarterly newsletter for each of these regions that could be responsible for organizing a short article about current topics important to that region.

Guest editors don't necessarily have to write the article, they can solicit content from those AME50 members and friends representing these regions. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact [Susan Clarke](#).

Item 9: Making submissions to the newsletter

A reminder that Members and Friends can make submissions to the AME50 Quarterly Newsletter using the following guidelines:-

- Content shared must be aligned with the mission and activities of AME50 and its members and friends.
- Members and friends who wish to include content in the AME50 Quarterly newsletter must be able to articulate this connection and do so in their request to include the content.
- The newsletter is not a forum to share information about commercial products or revenue generating services.
- The content must appeal to a range of AME50 members – across professional disciplines – across geographies, etc.
- AME50 Leadership will make decisions regarding content that will be included in the newsletter based on the relevance and

appropriateness of the content to our members, the currency of the topic, and the availability of space in the newsletter.

To contribute content, please send your request to susan.clarke@cta-otc.gc.ca.

This information can also be found on our [web site](#).

Item 10: Reminders

- You can visit our [web site](#) for the latest AME50 information, including meeting minutes and member resources.
- Please make sure to keep your MyTRB profile information, especially your contact details and professional interests, up to date so that you don't miss out on information. TRB is cleaning up their database and profiles that have not been updated in a while or that are inactive may be purged.

Item 11: Questions?

Contact your AME50 Co-Chairs:

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