



Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility Transportation Research Board

Newsletter: Oct 2023

Item 1: 2024 Blue Ribbon Award to AME50

We are thrilled to share that AME50 is the proud winner of the "2024 Blue Ribbon Awards" chosen by the TRB Technical Activities Council under the category -"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. This is all because of the amazing and committed leaders on this committee. Congratulations to all the members and friends!!

Item 2: October Members and Friends Meeting

The April AME50 Members and Friends Meeting took place on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, from 1:00 – 2:30pm e.t. The meeting notes and Power Point can be found on the Committee [website](#).

Item 3: Paper Review

This year we received 39 papers, slightly up from last year. Twenty-four were accepted for presentation and 3 for presentation and transferred for TRR review. The key topics included older populations, on-demand mobility and technology, public transit and paratransit transportation, pedestrian accessibility and trip planning, and case studies and implementation.

Item 4: Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will take place in Washington, D.C. from January 7-11, 2024. [Registration](#) is open with early bird rates if registered by December 1.

We are seeking ideas for guest speakers for quick-fire presentations during our committee session. If you are interested or have ideas to share, please contact [Judy](#) or [Todd](#).

Item 5: Research Taskforce

[Sign up](#) for a Research Statement Mini-team.

The AME50 Research Taskforce is developing teams for new topics for upcoming submissions to TRB's cooperative research programs. A more detailed email will be coming soon from Yochai, but please look at the topics developed in our October quarterly meeting and if interested, please sign up indicate if you are up for leading/co-leading a team. Mini teams successfully submitted one ACRP statement, one TCRP synthesis statement, three TCRP problem statements, and one NCHRP problem statement this last year and we look forward to seeing what our research teams do this coming year!

Item 6: TRANSED

6.1 History of TRANSED

Please take some time to read [this article](#) about the history of TRANSED, written by Dr. Kit Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell is an Emeritus Member of this committee and is a recipient of the William G. Bell Award, awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of accessible transportation and mobility, including through practice, research, or policy development to the field of accessible transportation and mobility, both nationally and internationally. Dr. Mitchell is also the recipient of an Exceptional Service Award for his contributions to TRANSED.

This information is important for preserving the institutional memory of this event and ensures that the origins, growth, and evolution of TRANSED are recorded on our web site. Our thanks to Dr. Mitchell for sharing this information and for his contributions to TRANSED and to this committee.

6.2 Next TRANSED

The next conference is tentatively planned for 2025 outside of the U.S. We have had several people express interest in conference planning, but we are looking for someone to lead the conference planning. We're also looking for a partner to co-sponsor the event. Please reach out to [Judy](#) if you can help.

Item 7: Paratransit Subcommittee

The Paratransit Subcommittee is a joint subcommittee between AP055, AME50, and AP020. We are looking to strengthen our connections with this subcommittee through increased coordination and meeting attendance. If you are interested in serving as AME50's designated representative or being a member of the subcommittee, please reach out to [Todd](#) (who will coordinate with their chair).

Item 8: Upcoming Webinar

TRB's Standing Technical Committees on Accessible Transportation and Mobility, Bicycle Transportation, Passenger Intermodal Facilities, and Pedestrians are sponsoring the following webinar:

[Accessible Floating Bus Stops](#) - November 28, 2023 from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM ET

Bus stops that require passengers to cross a bicycle lane to access the stop present both wayfinding and safety challenges for passengers who are blind or have low vision. A recently completed evaluation of a prototype floating bus stop in Montgomery County, MD confirmed the usefulness of features to aid wayfinding, including on-vehicle announcements, visual and tactile signage, tactile walking surface indicators, and speech messages at accessible pedestrian signals. Presenters will share guidance on how to make floating bus stops safe and accessible to passengers with vision disabilities.

Item 9: Seeking Guest Contributors

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 guests contributors 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. We've had someone step forward to contribute, but there is always room for more.

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](#).

Item 10: 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 11: 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 12: Questions?

Contact your AME50 Co-Chairs: Judy Shanley jshanley@easterseals.com
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