

Travel Survey Methods

TRB Committee ABJ40

Chair Update

Conference Watch

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2009 has proven to be another exciting year for Survey Methods. I want to thank all of you who have worked so hard on session and workshop planning, paper reviews, and the *Travel Surveys Manual* (which is nearing formal release!).

As most of you know, I will be turning my position as Chair over to Guy Rousseau in April 2010. Guy is Atlanta Regional Commission's Modeling Manager & highly accomplished in multiple areas. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to lead this fabulous committee. The passion, knowledge, and accomplishments of our members and friends are truly unsurpassed.

Hope you had a wonderful holiday and a terrific New Year, & I'll see you in DC soon.

— Kara Kockelman

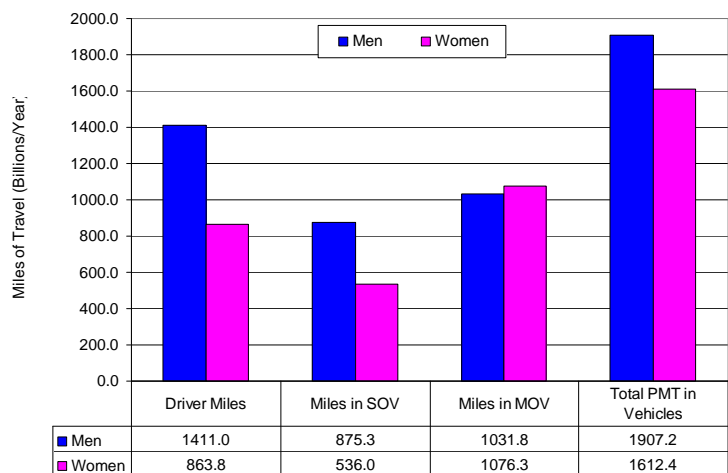
- *TRB International Conference on Travel Behaviour Research*, Jaipur, India, December 2009
- *TRB Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC, January 2010
- *Innovations in Travel Demand Forecasting*, Tempe, AZ, May 2010
- *TRB Summer Meeting*, Minneapolis, MN, July 2010
- *NHTS Policy Applications Conference*, Washington, DC, October 2010

Fourth International Conference on Women's Issues in Transportation

By Nancy McGuckin

The Fourth International Conference on Women's Issues in Transportation was held at the Beckman Center on October 27-30, 2009. About 150 attendees from all over the world came together to share information focusing on issues related to changing demographics, transportation programming and planning, safety, security, and extreme events that affect female travelers. The conference opened with a funny, sad, and stimulating workshop looking at women's roles in transportation history, and ended with a fine-weather tour of the Port of LA.

One of the researchers presented new data from the NHTS on women as passengers. It was noted that regardless of age and driving status, when a man and a woman travel together on a vehicle trip, 80 percent of the time the man is the driver. This actually affects our estimates of VMT by gender: it is commonly noted that older women "drive half the miles of same-aged men;" but, if driver and passenger miles are measured, women travel nearly 85 percent of men's miles in vehicles. The tendency to "let men drive" has been indicated in women's declining efficacy in driving as they age.



Standing Committee on Planning (SCOP) *- Data Issues for Transportation Planners*

By Heather Contrino and Adella Santos

In September of this year, the AASHTO Standing Committee on Planning (SCOP) hosted a webinar titled "Data Issues for Transportation Planners." This second webinar in SCOP's 2009 Series brought in speakers to cover a variety of topics. AASHTO's **Janet Oakley** presented *Data Issues in Draft Legislation*, which summarized reauthorization activities. The central theme of reauthorization is accountability, with an emphasis on performance measurement. Rather than focusing on specific modes, the overall objectives are multimodal. Performance-based outcomes are front and center and touch many areas of transportation planning and data — including models, freight speed and reliability, safety targets and measures, mode sharing and livability, and financial management.

FHWA's **Rolf Schmitt** presented *Data Needs for Freight Planning*, which provided an overview of freight travel data (existing and lacking). The 2007 Commodity Flow Survey data are available, and the freight team is developing a performance measure web tool as a resource for state and local agencies. Their objective is to maximize the utility of existing freight data for performance goals and measures. Rolf also touched on missing data, including the Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey (VIUS) and gaps in the links between national, state, and local freight data.

Anita Vandervalk's, Cambridge Systematics, presentation, *Data for Setting Effective Performance Targets for Transportation Programs, Plans, and Policy*, summarized the case study conducted under NCHRP 8-70. Their study examined several public and private "best practices" and the challenges and successes in setting goals and measuring performance. Data stewardship and data sharing are important success indicators for performance processes in organizations.

Alan Pisarski's, Independent consultant, presentation, *National Data Needs*, centered on the data opportunities and threats in reauthorization. Alan contends that there is a need for more leadership, coordination, and guidance in terms of federal data programs. Major data gaps exist in the areas of finance, transit, international people and freight movements, and intercity travel. A long-term, coordinated focus is needed to protect existing needed data programs, fill gaps, and create the links and standards across national, state, and local programs.

Committee News

Annual Meeting ABJ40-Sponsored Sessions and Workshops

Sessions

Intelligent Processing of GPS Data for Travel Modes and Activities (225), Hilton, January 11th, 8:00-9:45AM

Travel Activities and Measures (590), Hilton, January 12th, 7:30-9:30PM

Emerging Issues and National Household Travel Survey Applications (720), Hilton, January 14th, 10:15–12:00PM

Workshops

Fundamentals of Stated-Choice Studies: Practical Guide to Designing and Implementing Stated-Choice Surveys (175), Hilton, January 10th, 1:30-4:30PM

National Household Travel Survey: Data Applications, Tools, and Analysis (710), Hilton, January 14th, 8:00-9:45AM

Committee Meetings

Travel Survey Methods—January 13th, 12:30-2:45

Transit Surveys Subcommittee—January 11th, 10:15-12:00

Stated Response Surveys Subcommittee—January 11th, 12:15-1:15

Household Travel Surveys Subcommittee—January 12th, 12:15-1:15

New Technology Subcommittee—January 12th, 3:45-5:30

Freight Surveys Subcommittee—January 13th, 10:15-12:00

Other News

Look for the completed update of the *Travel Surveys Manual* in January (at tsbtms.wiki.zoho.com). Thank you to everyone who participated in this major effort! It's a priceless contribution to the practice & profession!