July 12, 2009
Liaison report from Pat Trombly for ADC70, ADC80, and ATO40

**ADC70: Transportation Energy**
Scope. To consider factors that affect energy efficiency and energy use in passenger and freight transportation and the resulting impacts on energy consumption, energy security, greenhouse gas emissions, and related public concerns.

**ADC80: Alternative Transportation Fuels and Technologies**
Scope. To consider institutional, behavioral, environmental, economic, technological and policy implications associated with the introduction and potential extended use of alternative transportation fuel and enabling technologies, and promote policy analysis, evaluation and planning to address those implications.

The topics of particular emphasis to these committees are: climate change, fuels policy (low carbon fuels, alternative fuels), vehicle technology innovation and adoption, ways to reduce VMT, freight policy, and legislative incentives.

Since 2001, ADC70 and ADC80 have held a joint summer conference every two years at the Asilomar conference facility at UC Davis. Known as the Asilomar conference, it is an invitation-only conference focusing on Climate Change. This year’s conference is July 28-31 and titled: Transportation and Climate Policy. Discussions include comprehensive climate change strategy – what is the best mix of market, regulatory and other instruments for policy development, how will we transition to low-carbon non-petroleum fuels, fuel economy versus greenhouse gas standards, policies to reduce vehicle travel, and, increase in the role of freight transport and the resultant effect on GHG emissions.

The Chair of ADC70, Jonathan Rubin, expressed interest in co-sponsoring sessions that have mutual interest to both our committees.

**ATO40: Transportation of Hazardous Materials**
Scope. This committee is concerned with the protection of human health and the environmental through safe packaging, handling and transportation of hazardous materials, and effective response to hazmat incidents. Focus is on risk management process development.

ATO40 held its mid-year committee meeting on June 24, 2009 at the Keck Center of the National Academies in D.C. Conference call-in arrangements allowed a significant participation of committee members and friends. There was a good deal of discussion regarding communications. A National Transportation Research Library is now online hosted by RITA (Research and Innovative Technology Administration – which coordinates USDOT research programs). TRB has developed a new communication coordinator position for each of the Committees; the coordinator will be responsible for sharing and learning new communication tools, maintaining the Committee’s communication portfolio, and providing input to TRB and other Committees.
Updates were provided on federal agencies whose responsibilities are relevant to transportation of hazardous materials – regulations, training, data development, modeling, and related research. The Committee received an update on research progress under the HMCRP- Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program. A website providing a summary of the HMCRP to date is available through the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration website (www.PHMSA.dot.gov). There are 9 research projects currently underway ranging from data collection, incident response and emerging technologies.

Climate change was discussed as a potential topic for annual meeting sessions, with a focus on transportation system disruption, extreme variation in weather, changes to shipping route conditions and the risks associated with all.

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