Mission

The mission of the Research Topics Subcommittee is to 1) identify environmental transportation research needs and contribute research ideas as opportunities arise through TRB, AASHTO, FHWA and other organizations; 2) prioritize, support and track what happens to research ideas generated in the environmental transportation profession through monitoring of the TRB Research Needs Database, TERI, RiP, TRISOnline, STEP, and other associated research data sources; 3) identify which research ideas may be “hot” topics for ADC10 calls for papers or calls for presentations through coordination with AASHTO, TRB, FHWA, State DOTs, and institutions of higher learning partners; 4) track what happens to the research that is funded so that appropriate links to the research results are available and arrangements are made to present the results at TRB, if appropriate, during a presentation/poster/or paper session; and 5) support any future research needs conference. Ultimately, the subcommittee is to promote and facilitate inter-organizational coordination and communication on completed, ongoing, and needed research.

The subcommittee recognizes that the partnerships between TRB, AASHTO, FHWA, the State DOTs, institutions of higher learning, and other public and private sector organizations are essential to effectively identify, track, fund, monitor, and report on important research within the environmental transportation field. A priority of the subcommittee is to build relationships and maintain membership that includes representation from these organizations as part of a proactive effort to understand and identify research needs, priorities, and results.

Membership

Chair: Joe Shalkowski, PBS&J

Members: Joe Crossett, TransTech Management
          H. Oliver Gao, Cornell University
          Jeff Heilman, Parametrix, Inc.
          "Jane" Jie Lin, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago
          Lynn Malbrough, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department
          Leni Oman, Washington State Department of Transportation
          John Page, PB Americas, Inc.
          Teresa Townsend, Planning Communities
          Marie Venner, ICF International
          Lisa Zeimer, PB Americas, Inc.
2009 Activities

- First ADC10 Research Topics Subcommittee Meeting held on January 14, 2008 at the TRB Annual Meeting.

- February through June, ongoing planning for the 2008 summer meeting including preparations for an evening research oriented workshop to identify cross-cutting research priorities and a session on new research assessment techniques and tools including funding and sponsorship issues. This results in the screening of the TERI and TRB Research Needs Databases to identify unmet research needs that fall under the purview of ADC10 for use in conducting the evening research prioritization workshop.

- Mark Kross submits proposal to conduct a half-day Environmental Research Workshop at the Annual Meeting. The workshop is to be titled: The Conduct of Transportation Environmental Research, What You Should Know About Getting I Done ("Will Detailing the Process Yield Future Progress?"). Co-Sponsoring Committees include Transportation and Air Quality Committee (ADC20); Ecology and Transportation Committee (ADC30); Transportation-Related Noise and Vibration Committee (ADC40); Historic and Archeological Preservation in Transportation Committee (ADC50); Marine Environment Committee (AW030); Environmental Issues in Transportation Law Committee (AL050); Conduct of Research Committee (ABG10).

The workshop is intended to explore the transportation environmental research process, including generating research ideas, promoting ideas to constituencies, prioritizing ideas, funding research (e.g., funding pools; funding partnerships with agencies, organizations, private companies), completing research, populating research databases, promoting completed research, and capturing successes/failures in research implementation. (This workshop will not be about creating and proposing specific research ideas.)

- Prepared and submitted a draft update of the ADC10 Research Topics Subcommittee Goals, Objectives, and Operating Procedures. Last update was August, 2004.

- The research needs prioritization efforts during the Tuesday evening summer meeting needs workshop resulted in the identification of nine priority ADC10 research ideas. These priority research ideas were vetted to the full
committee for submission to FHWA in response to the FHWA Federal Register notice requesting input on the 2009 Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program (STEP). This vetting resulted in no changes. Subsequently, Mark Kross submitted the nine research ideas to FHWA on September 22, 2008.

- September 2008 through January 9, 2009 several members of the subcommittee worked to organize TRB Annual Meeting Session 174, The Conduct of Transportation Environmental Research Workshop. The workshop was held on Sunday, January 11, 2009, 1:30-5:00 p.m.

- The ADC10 Research Topics Subcommittee meeting, ADC10(2), is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 2:30 – 6:30 p.m.