

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

The mission of the **Transportation Research Board (TRB)**—one of six major program units of the National Research Council of the National Academies—is to promote innovation and progress in transportation through research. TRB fulfills this mission through the work of its standing technical committees addressing all modes and aspects of transportation; publication of reports and peer-reviewed technical papers on research findings; administration of cooperative research programs; conduct of special studies on transportation policy issues at the request of the U.S. Congress and government agencies; operation of an online bibliographic database of published and ongoing transportation research; and hosting of an annual meeting that attracts more than 9,000 transportation professionals from the United States and abroad. www.TRB.org

With the support of the **TRB Executive Office** and the **Administration and Finance Division (Division C)**, four Divisions have responsibility for TRB programs and activities:

Technical Activities (Division A)—Provides a forum for transportation professionals to identify research needs and to share information on research and issues of interest. Staff specialists in each mode and discipline work with a network of volunteers to carry out activities on behalf of TRB sponsors and the transportation community—including the TRB Annual Meeting, conferences and workshops, publications, visits to each state, and responses to inquiries. The volunteer network includes members and friends of more than 200 standing committees, supplemented by designated TRB representatives in each state, more than 150 universities, and 35 transit agencies.

Studies and Information Services (Division B)—Conducts policy studies that provide advice to government and the transportation community on national transportation issues, based on the deliberations of specially appointed, independent study committees. This division also oversees TRB's information services, which include the Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS) and the TRB library; and it produces syntheses of current practices in highway and transit operations.

Cooperative Research Programs (Division D)—Manages cooperative programs of panel-guided contract research, on topics identified by the sponsors and intended users of the research—the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, the Transit Cooperative Research Program, and the Commercial Truck and Bus Safety Synthesis Program.

Special Programs (Division E)—Administers short-term investigations of innovative concepts, under its Innovations Deserving Exploratory Analysis programs, and supports committees that advise the federal government on the conduct of long-term pavement research and technology programs.