

Foreword from the 2005 Program Chair

The proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Forum contains a set of papers and presentations that can be found nowhere else at professional transportation conferences. The major themes of the conference were: Financing Transportation in Fiscally Constrained Times, Transportation Security, Freight Transportation and Global Trade, and Public-Private Partnerships in Transportation.

A variety of papers specifically address these themes, discussing funding equity within a state, transportation strategies in other countries, security at ports, airports, and passenger rights. Freight transportation is dealt with by papers including those discussing motor carrier efficiency and safety, rail economics, intermodal transportation facilities and international logistics. Public transit and mobility are also addressed by papers concerning commuting trends, road pricing and coordination of transit services. Public-private partnerships are addressed in a variety of papers, panels and discussions of partnerships in transit, road pricing, ports and space transportation.

It is important to recognize the efforts of the many people who worked to make this conference and the papers in the Proceedings CD and website successful. Patrick Nichols of North Dakota State University handled all of the technical aspects including the design of the CD and website. Kathy McCarthy, also of NDSU, provided the administrative assistance that makes a conference work. Gene Griffin, TRF Executive Director, provided inspiration and ideas at many points. I have to also thank our partners at the Aviation Institute at George Washington University including Vahid Motevalli, Director of the Institute, who provided crucial assistance at many junctures and Angelique Cofield who provided on-site conference planning.

Advice, assistance and ideas were provided all along the way by the Annual Forum Planning Committee. Members are John Strong, TRF President; Scott Tarry, TRF Executive Vice President; and Jack Wells, TRF Program Vice President Elect. They all deserve a giant thank you for their efforts.

Finally, the papers and presentations in the Proceedings CD and website are the product of the efforts of many individuals, both TRF members and non-members who were presenters at the Annual Forum. These papers reflect the cutting edge of transportation research in 2005.

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