

## **Foreword from the 2006 Program Chair**

The Proceedings of the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the Transportation Research Forum contains a diverse set of papers and presentations that provide a unique perspective on the issues facing the transportation system today. The major themes of the conference were: Breaking Down Institutional Barriers to Better Transportation Policies, Making More Efficient Use of Our Transportation System, The Public/Private Choice in the Ownership and Operation of Transportation Systems, and Accommodating the Explosive Growth in Global Trade.

A variety of papers specifically address these themes, discussing institutional reorganization of transit systems; increasing the efficiency of transit systems, seaports, and airports; the public/private choice in airport ownership; and increasing the efficiency of international seaports and airports to accommodate expanding global trade. Panel sessions at the conference explored these issues further, examining congestion pricing approaches to improving the efficiency of highway operations, expanding rail infrastructure to accommodate international trade flows through seaports, and expanding infrastructure capacity at airports.

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 (NDSU) handled all of the technical aspects including the design of the CD and website. Sue Hendrickson, 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 also have to thank our partners at New York University's Rudin Center and the Helen and Martin Kimmel Center, who provided crucial assistance at many junctures. The conference also could not have been the success it was without the numerous sponsors who supported particular panel sessions, receptions, and meals.

Advice, assistance and ideas were provided all along the way by the Annual Forum Planning Committee. Members are Scott Tarry, TRF President; Tony Pagano, TRF Executive Vice President; and Paul Gessner, Local Arrangements Chairman. 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, panelists, and session chairs at the Annual Forum. These papers reflect the cutting edge of transportation research in 2006.

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