

LOOKING BEYOND THE TRANSPORTATION FOOTPRINT

JULY 13-16, 2009



A National Dialogue on New Partners and New Scale of Analysis

National Conservation Training Center
Shepherdstown, WV

Preliminary Agenda

Monday, July 13, 2009:

- 10:00am – 5:00pm** **Registration** – NCTC *Entry Building*
- 1:00 – 5:00pm** **Committee Business Meeting, and Transportation
Resource Agency Liaison Meetings**
- 7:00 – 8:30pm** **Welcome Dessert Reception** – *Roosevelt Room, Commons
Building*
- Welcoming Remarks: Director, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Tuesday, July 14, 2009:

- 7:30am – 5:00pm** **Registration** – NCTC *Entry Building*
- 7:30am – 5:00pm** **Sponsor Exhibits and Poster Sessions**
New Tools, New Practices, New Partners
- 8:30 – 9:00am** **Official Welcome and Opening of the Meeting**
Muggs Stoll, Chair, Environmental Analysis in Transportation
(ADC 10)
- 9:00 – 9:45am** **KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**
Larry Selzer, President and CEO, The Conservation Fund
*Looking Beyond the Transportation Footprint – Future Trends
and Opportunities*

9:45 – 10:00am **BREAK**

Plenary sessions are designed to maximize dialogue, to highlight the issues, the various perspectives, and the research needs. Each plenary session will end with a dialogue on research and a summary by a rappateur

10:00 – 11:30am Session 1: Climate Change and Transportation – From a Resource Agency Perspective – Senator Robert C. Byrd
Auditorium, Entry Building

Moderator: April Marchese, Federal Highway Administration
Dave Cleaves, USDA Forest Service, Chair, Climate Change Council
Dan Ashe, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Science Advisor to the
Director (invited)

Representatives from the FWS, NPS, NOAA, FS, and EPA, will be invited to provide an update on their current climate change initiatives and how these initiatives may impact and/or assist transportation proponents to better integrate planning, design and environmental needs in their projects. Following the presentations and related Q&A, audience members will be asked to respond to the following question:

How can large-scale assessments be incorporated at the project level?

11:30am – 1:00pm LUNCH – Dining Hall, Commons Building

Luncheon Speaker: Governor Manchin (*invited*), with introduction by Secretary Mattox, West Virginia Division of Highways

1:00 – 2:30pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

Session 2a: Discussion Forum Hosted and facilitated by FWS on Coordination and Conservation Tools

Janice Engle, (FWS) Liaison to Customs and Border Protection,
Division of Consultation
Omar Bocanegra, (FWS) Endangered Species Coordinator, Texas
Ecological Services Field Office

Brief presentation by FWS on agency initiatives that streamline the environmental review process for transportation projects. Presentation followed by group discussion on the Structured Coordination Process and the Recovery Crediting System. Issues, solutions, and research needs will be identified.

Session 2b: Discussion Forum Hosted and Facilitated by ACOE on Managing Linear Projects

Brief presentation by the ACOE on agency priorities and recent initiatives that may impact transportation projects. Presentation followed by group discussion on how to manage linear projects that cross multiple jurisdictions. Issues, solutions, and research needs will be identified.

2:30 – 3:00pm BREAK

3:00 – 4:30pm Session 3: Corridors of the Future – A Town Hall Meeting – NCTC Auditorium

Political leadership from resource agency partners (ACOE, FWS, FS, EPA, NOAA) along with the FHWA and AASHTO will be invited to participate in a town hall meeting to answer questions ranging from how their agencies can leverage dollars to climate change to tolling to public-private partnerships to ?? It's our time to hear the future!

5:30 – 7:00pm DINNER: Barbeque, Patio, Commons Building

Wednesday, July 15, 2009:

7:30am – 5:00pm Registration, NCTC Entry Building

7:30am – 5:00pm Sponsor Exhibits and Poster Sessions
New Tools, New Practices, New Partners

8:30 – 10:00am CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

Session 4a: Discussion Forum Hosted and Facilitated by FS – Agency initiatives that advance FHWA's Eco-Logical Initiative

Moderator: Joe Burns, USDA Forest Service, National Transportation Ecology Program Leader

James Melonas, USDA Forest Service

Rick Swanson, USDA Forest Service

Al Todd, Director, Ecosystem Services and Markets

The U.S. Forest Service is a co-signatory to "Eco-Logical: An Ecosystem Approach to Developing Infrastructure Projects." As a Federal land management agency that is responsible for maintaining a

road network and managing forest and grassland ecosystems, the Forest Service has developed an Open Space Conservation Strategy which complements the Eco-Logical initiative lead by FHWA. This panel will highlight the Open Space Conservation Strategy and discuss several efforts that advance the two agency initiatives.

Session 4b: Discussion Forum Hosted and Facilitated by FHWA – From Concept to Application

Raja Veeramachaneni, Director, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review (FHWA)

The FHWA is funding several initiatives designed to link planning and NEPA and integrate conservation into transportation planning. Are these initiatives working? Examples include Eco-Logical grants, conservation and planning workshops, etc. Presentation followed by a group discussion identifying the issues encountered, potential solutions and additional research needs.

Session 4c: Discussion Forum Hosted and Facilitated by EPA - National EPA Transportation Water Quality Strategy

The U.S. EPA is developing a national transportation water quality strategy and during this session will outline the strategy, solicit feedback, and engage in dialogue on potential implementation strategies. Additional issues, solutions, and research needs related to water quality will be discussed.

10:00 – 10:30am BREAK

10:30 – 11:30am Session 5: Open Forum – Senator Robert C. Byrd Auditorium, Commons Building

This is an opportunity for conference participants to engage each other on topics of interest or concern; to share best practices and information from the field; and to hear the results of the Agency sponsored discussion forums.

11:30am – 5:00 Transportation Tour: Showcasing West Virginia Partnering Projects and the Maryland Inter-County Connector

Two Tours will be offered. Participants will have the option of taking a tour showcasing a variety of West Virginia transportation projects using innovative environmental approaches and effective interagency partnering techniques; or participants may visit the famed Inter-County Connector in the state of Maryland.

- 6:30 – 9:30pm** **CONFERENCE BANQUET** – *Dining Hall, Commons Building*
Banquet Speaker: John Howard, NPS, Superintendent of Antietam National Battlefield – *Leadership Lessons Learned from the Civil War*
Recognition Ceremony: ‘Outstanding Inter-Agency Partnership/Leadership’

Thursday, July 16, 2009:

- 7:30am – 12:00** **Sponsor Exhibits and Poster Sessions**
New Tools, New Practices, New Partners
- 8:00 – 9:30am** **Session 6: Planning the Green and the Grey as Complementary Systems** – *Senator Robert C. Byrd Auditorium, Commons Building*

Gregory Slater, Director of Planning and Engineering, Maryland SHA Rick Hall, Principal, NiSource Gas and Transmission (*invited*)

The green and the grey must work together – this has been a primary focus of FHWA’s Eco-Logical program. During this session, The Conservation Fund, NiSource, a natural gas transmission company, and the Maryland State Highway Administration will showcase an innovative approach that they are all using at a variety of scales for meeting conservation, business, and transportation goals. Presentation will be followed by discussion on the transferability to transportation projects.
- 9:30 – 9:45am** **BREAK**
- 9:45 – 10:45am** **Session 7: Research – Closing the Gap and Becoming Effective Champions**

Neil Pedersen, Administrator, Maryland State Highway Administration
Joe Crossett, Principal, High Street Consulting, Co-Chair, ADC10 Research Subcommittee
Joe Shalkowski, Assoc. Vice President PBS&J, Co-Chair, ADC10 Research Subcommittee

Facilitated discussion on developing a final conference recommendation of research needs. Neil Pedersen, Administrator of Maryland State Highway Administration will relate how ADC 10’s research needs fit into the broader TRB agenda.

11:00 – 11:45am Session 8: Closing Remarks from the Transportation Liaisons

Jennifer Moyer, US Army Corps of Engineers
Catherine Liller, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Laura Bachle, US Environmental Protection Agency
Paul Anderson, USDA Forest Service
Carol LeGard, Advisory Council (*invited*)

Transportation Headquarter Liaisons will report on their observations of main themes and take-home messages from the meeting.

11:45am – 12:00 Wrap up

12:00pm Conference Adjourns