

Transportation Research Board: 92nd Annual Meeting
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
ABJ80: Statistical Methods
8:00AM-10:30AM, January 15, 2013
Marriott Wardman, Harding

1. *Linda Boyle (chair)* called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.
2. *Linda Boyle* welcomed committee members and friends, and introductions around the room were made.
3. Last year's meeting minutes (2012) were reviewed. *David Reinke* motioned to accept the meeting minutes, *John Milton* seconded. All approved.
4. ABJ80 Committee Program 2013 discussion
We had 2 workshops and attendance was very good at both; standing room only. These workshops facilitated active discussion, raised awareness about statistics and our committee. In WK 159 (How Do You Turn This Driving Simulator On?), there was large attendance from graduate students and faculty
In WK 192 (Transportation Data Forecasting Competition), there were many committees involved. It was so well received that we will be repeating the contest with another dataset. *Linda* encouraged anyone interested in providing datasets/future contest ideas to contact her or *Matthew Karlaftis*.
Session 302: Ensuring Data Quality (led by *C. Spigelman* and *B. Scopatz*) was also very successful.
All papers accepted this year for presentation were in Poster Session 658: 24 papers total
ABJ80 typically has workshops that lean toward education and we'd like to continue this. Hence, lectern slots are devoted toward this education goal with our accepted presentations set up as a poster session.
5. TRB Papers and Review Process
We received 37 papers this past year, 25 papers (67%) were accepted. 10 of these papers are under review and being reconsidered for publication. *Linda* thanked the reviewers for their work in the review process. The scores ranged from 40 to 75.
Linda emphasized the importance of detailed review comments, and in particular, the statistical elements should be clarified. *Linda* encouraged reviewers to use the chair comment box, and reviews should be consistent with scores. **Those who cannot review should notify Linda as soon as possible.** TRB has strict deadlines and committee members have to review papers. *Simon* encouraged folks to add up the scores and, if the resulting number is 70 but the paper is average, then you're probably scoring too high. *Simon W.* and *Linda* discussed composite scores.
It would be beneficial if there were a session or discussion about "how to review papers". Fatally flawed papers should not be accepted.
6. Paper Award Subcommittee (*Promod Chandhok*)
Last April the papers were reviewed and a paper was selected. The award went to *Xiao Qin*. The paper review subcommittee was *Promod C.*, *Karen B.*, *Linda B.*, and *Ida S.* The new subcommittee will be: *Promod Chandhok*, *David Reinke*, *Billy Williams*, *Jenny R. Guarino*, and *Bidisha Ghosh*. The current subcommittee will review the poster and paper in detail.

7. SHRP II Research Needs Statement (Ken Campbell)

Ken Campbell discussed the schedule and the status this past year: Data collection for the Naturalistic Driving Study will most likely be complete this year with ~ 2,900 participants, 5 M trips and over 1.2 million hours of driving. For additional information, committee members and friends should contact Ken Campbell directly (KCcampbell@nas.edu).

8. Communications (including our website) (Naveen Eluru)

Our website is at <http://www.trbstats.org>. Everything is set up such that members and friends can download any past material. We currently have about 70-80 LinkedIn members. Ida set up a Twitter site (<https://twitter.com/trbstats>). Linda encouraged everyone to check out and review the site. For any updates/concerns/recommendations, contact Naveen Eluru (naveen.eluru@mcgill.ca).

9. Committee Business

- Committee Rotation Requirements and Membership Updates

Thomas Jonsson (from Norwegian University of Science & Technology) and *Kun-Feng Wu* (National Chiao Tung University) are our newest committee members and will be helping Karin Bauer on the Research Needs Statements.

- We will be rotating about a third of the committee this year (*NOTE: Rotations will actually occur in 2014*)
- Linda noted that members who are inactive would be rotated out. For example, some members never responded to her request for reviews, which is a very much needed activity as part of this committee.

10. Subcommittee reports

Each subcommittee discussed the activities that transpired this past year. This includes the paper award, strategic planning, and research needs committee.

- Strategic Plan

Our committee does not have a specific applied focus, but rather, our committee is here to serve our research community and to help educate others on proper statistical methods and tools. *David Reinke* will lead this effort, and *Bhagwant Persaud* and *Dominique Lord* will be on the committee.

- Research Needs Statements

Karen B. and *T. Jonnson* gave a presentation. The RNS goes into a database, which *may* generate interest for funding BUT we need to get advocates from one or more state DOTs if we want the idea to be considered by AASHTO for funding.

Priyanka and *Kun-Feng (Ken) Wu* indicated they would help out with this. *John Milton* commented that it is important that the statement be written in a way that state DOTs can understand it and clearly see the value of the research. *Linda* mentioned that she talked to the chairs of other data committees, and all were interested in writing at least one problem statement related to SHRP II to increase the likelihood of a SHRP2 related idea from being funded.

11. Future Committee Activities and Sessions. There was a discussion on future committee sessions. Given that this was the last year at the Marriott/Hilton/Shoreham, perhaps we can have a session on the progression of statistics in transportation over the past 50 years.

The next TRB data contest will be focused on safety. There are 5 section chairs that will help out with the paper reviews.

May want to consider a call for papers for “advanced statistical methods for evaluating safety countermeasures”.

Xiao discussed the usefulness of a session on crash modification factors (CMF) ratings, and the statistical rigor associated with them.

12. Data Section Chair Review (*J. Schofer*)

Consider setting up committee that will deal with access to the SHRP 2 data. This being with one or two sentences that targets the issues from transportation agency and how SHRP 2 can help them make better and more well informed decisions.

Bhagwant indicated that it should not be focused on low-cost, but targeted toward advancing safety countermeasures.

13. TRB Circular (*Linda Boyle*)

Linda will lead this effort. It would be great if this committee can compile a circular that can provide the transportation community information and instructions on how to set up a study properly, identify sampling issues, data collection, types of data, etc. Basics on when to use some of the fundamental statistical distributions (e.g., t-test, Z-tests, F-tests, etc.) would also be very useful.

This would also align very well with our strategic plan to educate others in the transportation community.

Linda has had previous discussions with Simon W. and Rick Pain on this and it is important to get multiple perspectives (not just focus on safety), but provide examples from the different aspects of transportation.

Billy Williams and *Gord Lordgrove* indicated they will have a Table of contents to circulate by the mid-year meeting. *Gordon Lordgrove* has volunteered to start this effort.

14. Joint Statistical Methods Committee (*Promod C., Feng Guo*)

Deadlines for invited sessions for JSM in Montreal, Canada is end of January. Would be great if our committee members could participate/present. Feng Guo indicated that there are different ways to set up a session. Promod ask that you send him information if you are interested in presenting. Naveen also indicated he can assist if needed.

Linda will have the mid-year ABJ80 meeting at JSM and the TRB circular will be a topic of discussion.

15. Other Related Activities

- Traffic Records Forum (*B. Scopatz*).
The Traffic Records Forum will take place in Minneapolis, St. Paul. Past forum materials can be accessed at atsip.org. There are project awards for best project, data-related website, data visualization and recognize contributions of folks across the years.
- Transportation Statistics Interest Group (*Li Leung*): This will be at the Omni, 6:30pm and there will be networking after the meeting.
- D. Lord indicated that there was a new Journal, *Analytical Methods in Accident Research* (editor-in-chief is Fred Mannering)