



**TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**

## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**

**Wednesday, September 29, 2010**

TAC's 2010 annual conference program includes the following three workshops planned for the morning of Wednesday, September 29:

- Workshop A:       SYSTEMS FOR INCORPORATING FULL ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS INTO DECISION-MAKING**
  
- Workshop B:       RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ROAD SAFETY AND GEOMETRIC DESIGN**
  
- Workshop C:       URBAN TRANSPORTATION INDICATORS: ADJUSTING PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS TO THE REALITIES**

The workshops have been organized to stimulate intense debate on issues of concern to TAC members and other transportation sector stakeholders. The format of each workshop is generally designed so that specific aspects of its theme are debated in roundtable discussion groups. A preassigned discussion leader will direct each group's deliberations. Discussion leaders will present a summary of their group's deliberations to workshop participants prior to adjournment.

**Conference delegates are encouraged to attend one of the workshops. In order to participate, complete the registration form at the back of this literature and return it to TAC, along with your conference registration form.**

**Transportation Association of Canada  
2323 St. Laurent Boulevard  
Ottawa K1G 4J8  
Tel.: (613) 736-1350  
Fax: (613) 736-1395  
[www.tac-atc.ca](http://www.tac-atc.ca)**

**WORKSHOP A:  
08:30-12:00**

**SYSTEMS FOR INCORPORATING FULL ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS INTO  
DECISION-MAKING  
(Organized by TAC's Environment Council)**

**FOCUS**

This workshop will explore approaches and processes to incorporate environmental costs into decision-making. Invited speakers will make presentations on best practices to support a facilitated discussion. The workshop will give an overview of examples of systems that other jurisdictions have established for incorporating full environmental costs when making decisions on highway programs, plans, projects and activities. Definitions of environmental aspects will be presented in order to clearly delineate between environmental design and engineering design. The workshop will also identify approaches and tools that can be used to develop a common approach to account for these features / costs.

**CO-CHAIRS**

*Don Snider*, Acting Director, Environment Section, Technical Standards Branch, Alberta Transportation, Edmonton

*Shelley Tapp*, Manager, Environmental Policy Office, Transportation Planning Branch, Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, St. Catharines

**INVITED SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS**

Speakers to be announced

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Each roundtable will be asked to discuss a number of questions and to identify strategies to incorporate environmental costs into decision-making. These could be strategies currently used by a participant's organization, information from the presenters or new strategies stemming from brainstorming during the roundtable discussions.

The following questions will be discussed:

- What strategies has your organization used in order to capture / calculate environmental costs?
- What are the incremental costs associated with environmental requirements? How is this information used?
- How are environmental costs quantified? What are the total environmental costs of a project? Is there an "acceptable percentage cost"?
- How do you define what is "environmental" vs. "civil engineering"?
- What is the cost of replacing an environmental asset?
- What are the risks of minimizing environmental design in an effort to reduce costs?
- Is there value in separating environmental costs, i.e. are the costs associated with other factors such as safety delineated?
- Is there a need for TAC members to have a common approach to calculating environmental costs for comparison and benchmarking purposes?

**ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY PRESENTATIONS**

**CO-CHAIRS' CLOSING REMARKS**

**WORKSHOP B:  
08:30-12:00**

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ROAD SAFETY AND GEOMETRIC DESIGN  
(Organized by TAC's Geometric Design Standing Committee)**

**FOCUS**

This workshop will explore the correlation between road safety and geometric design. Invited speakers will provide examples of how geometric design considerations during the planning and design phases of a project can easily result in road safety improvements. Real-life examples will be presented from safety audits conducted at various stages of roadway projects across the country. There will be a discussion of how each safety issue was addressed and the resulting improvements. The workshop will seek to stimulate in-depth consideration of where and how geometric designs can be adjusted with minimal effort and cost in order to make roadway operations safer.

**CHAIR**

To be announced

**INVITED SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS**

Speakers to be announced

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Participants in each roundtable will be asked to identify situations in their current planning and design process where geometric design elements can be adjusted to improve road safety while maintaining the original intent of the design.

Specific topics will include:

- Sight distance considerations around the curve – What are the limitations and solutions for improved safety?
- Roadside barrier safety considerations – Where is the best place to install the barriers?
- Median barrier selection for safety – How do you select the right barrier system?
- Safety of vulnerable road users – What changes do you think are required in the project planning and design process?

**ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY PRESENTATIONS**

**CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

**WORKSHOP C:  
08:30-12:00**

**URBAN TRANSPORTATION INDICATORS: ADJUSTING PROJECTS AND  
PROGRAMS TO THE REALITIES  
(Organized by TAC's Sustainable Transportation Standing Committee)**

**FOCUS**

Since its inception in 1994, TAC's Urban Transportation Indicators Survey program has produced four surveys of transportation and sustainability indicators for Canada's urban areas. These surveys have revealed some progress towards more sustainable transportation, but also some immense challenges yet to be addressed. This workshop will explore past, present and future practices for the measurement of transportation indicators and their implications for Canada's urban areas.

**CO-CHAIRS**

*Brian Hollingworth*, Director, IBI Group, Toronto

*Audra Jones*, Director, Sustainable Transportation, City of Edmonton

**INVITED SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS**

Representatives from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Canadian Urban Transit Association and selected municipalities will take part in an interactive presentation of some of the major indicator projects in Canada and the key outcomes of these efforts.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- How has the measurement of transportation trends over the past 15 years changed the way policies and programs are set?
- What indicators best represent past and future trends on progress towards sustainable transportation?
- How can the collection of data to support sustainable transportation indicators be improved? Who should be involved?
- How can the link between desired outcomes and indicators be strengthened?
- How should TAC adjust the next iteration of the Urban Transportation Indicators Survey to account for the realities?

**ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY PRESENTATIONS**

**CO-CHAIRS' CLOSING REMARKS**