



*Improving the Quality of Life  
by Enhancing Mobility*

**University Transportation Center for Mobility™**

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# **Conference on Performance Measures for Transportation and Livable Communities: Summary of Work Performed**

## ***Final Report***

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***Performing Organization***

University Transportation Center for Mobility™  
Texas Transportation Institute  
The Texas A&M University System  
College Station, TX

***Sponsoring Agency***

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16. Abstract Livability is primarily concerned with issues such as transportation choices, neighborhood character and access to destinations, affordability, and maintaining cohesive rural, urban and suburban communities. As transportation agencies work toward addressing livability goals, it is important that they monitor their progress. Performance measurement is highly relevant in this context and can help transportation agencies better understand and apply livability concepts and enhance decision making processes. The aim of this project was to plan and conduct a workshop or conference on transportation and livability performance measures, involving researchers and transportation practitioners from different agencies in the U.S. The conference was held in Austin, Texas, from September 7–8, 2012, with over 130 attendees who participated in plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and interactive discussions. The conference was co-sponsored by the Transportation Research Board, by the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota, and TTI's Transportation Economics Center. The outcome of the conference was summarized in conference proceedings, published at: <a href="http://utcm.tamu.edu/LivabilityConference/proceedings/documents/Conference_Summary.pdf">http://utcm.tamu.edu/LivabilityConference/proceedings/documents/Conference_Summary.pdf</a> . This report summarizes the work performed and results achieved in planning and implementing this conference.			
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# **Conference on Performance Measures for Transportation and Livable Communities: Summary of Work Performed**

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University Transportation Center for Mobility™

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## **Disclaimer**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of this UTCM project was to plan and conduct a workshop on transportation and livability performance measures. The topic of livability has been the focus in many transportation-related activities in recent years. Performance measurement can help transportation agencies better understand and apply livability concepts and enhance decision-making processes.

The conference was held in Austin, Texas, from September 7–8, 2012, with 135 attendees who participated in plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and interactive discussions. Some of the topics covered in the conference sessions included:

- Sustainability, Livability, Planning, and Policy Performance Measures.
- Urban and Rural Livable Communities.
- Transportation Performance Measures for Communities of all Sizes, Shapes, and Forms.
- Land Use, Social Justice, and Environmental Performance Measures.
- Livable Communities and Transit Performance Measures.
- Access to Destinations Performance Measures.
- Freight, Economic Development, and Return on Investment Livability Performance Measures.
- FTA Livability Performance Measures Projects.
- State, MPO, and Local Examples.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Performance Measures.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Transportation Research Board, by the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota, and TTI's Transportation Economics Center. The conference participants and speakers included representatives from federal agencies (such as the Federal Highway Administration, the US Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Transit Administration, the Department for Housing and Urban Development), state and local agencies in Texas and elsewhere (such as the Texas Department of Transportation, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization), university-based researchers and university transportation centers, as well as private consultants.

The conference planning committee members published a conference proceedings document, which is available for download at this link:

[http://utcm.tamu.edu/LivabilityConference/proceedings/documents/Conference\\_Summary.pdf](http://utcm.tamu.edu/LivabilityConference/proceedings/documents/Conference_Summary.pdf) .

The conference planning committee received very positive feedback at the conclusion of this event, and successfully conducted technology transfer in line with UTCM's goals. The conference also generated program income for UTCM from registration revenues.





# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## Background

“Livability” is a concept that has been at the forefront of much recent discussion in the transportation sector. In general, livability is considered in the context of communities and encompasses elements such as transportation choices, affordability, accessibility to destinations, walkability, safety and human health, and an overall “sense of place” for residents. Many of these livability considerations overlap with issues related to sustainability, environmental justice, accessibility, and other transportation-related topics.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a sustainable communities initiative in 2009. The six main principles of livability as put forward by this initiative are as follows:

1. Provide more transportation choices.
2. Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices.
3. Improve economic competitiveness of neighborhoods by giving people reliable access to employment centers, educational opportunities, and other basic services.
4. Target federal funding toward existing communities—through transit-oriented development and place-based policies.
5. Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding and increase the effectiveness of existing programs.
6. Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities, whether rural, suburban, or urban.

As transportation agencies work toward incorporating livability goals and considerations, here is a need to better define what livability is, how it can be measured, and how transportation agencies can monitor progress toward achieving livability as an outcome of their plans and programs. Thus, the area of performance measurement for livability is of key importance to transportation agencies including federal agencies, state departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, rural planning organizations, and transit agencies.

## Project Goal

The overall aim of this project was to plan and conduct a workshop or conference on transportation and livability performance measures. The results of this workshop will advance of the application of livability performance measures and assist state departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, transit agencies, and other groups in developing and using livability performance measures. The results will also be used to advance further research, outreach, and technology transfer. The funding received from UTCM was leveraged for additional in-kind support and sponsorship from the Transportation Research Board (TRB), the Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) at the University of Minnesota, and TTI’s Transportation Economics Center.

## **CHAPTER 2: CONFERENCE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

The project tasks as listed in the project plan were as follows:

- Task 1: Background and Preliminary Planning
- Task 2: Outreach and Publicity
- Task 3: Recruitment of Sponsors and Partners
- Task 4: Identification of Topics and Speakers
- Task 5: Workshop Agenda and Logistics
- Task 6: Program Finalization and Participant/Speaker Recruitment
- Task 7: Conduct Workshop and Compile Proceedings
- Task 8: Final Report and Documentation

The conference planning and implementation activities conducted to fulfill the above tasks are described briefly in this section.

### **Preliminary Planning and Co-Sponsorship**

In addition to the UTCM, TTI's Transportation Economics Center, the Center for Transportation Studies (CTS), University of Minnesota, and the Transportation Research Board (TRB) were recruited as co-sponsors for this planned event. The conference planning committee was assembled, consisting of the following TTI and CTS staff:

- Katie Turnbull (Conference Planning Committee Chair), Texas Transportation Institute
- Tara Ramani (Conference Coordinator), Texas Transportation Institute
- Gina Baas, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota
- Linda Cherrington, Texas Transportation Institute
- Suzie Edrington, Texas Transportation Institute
- Shawn Turner, Texas Transportation Institute

The planning committee conducted background research and participated in regular conference calls during the planning stages. In January 2011, the conference dates and location was finalized, as September 7–8, 2011, in Austin, Texas. The conference's official title was finalized as "Conference on Performance Measures for Transportation and Livable Communities."

### **Session Development, Publicity, and Outreach**

A call for abstracts was issued in January 2011, and included with a "save the date" flyer distributed at the 2011 TRB Annual Meeting held in Washington, D.C. This flyer and call for abstracts were also distributed electronically to committees and email lists by the conference planning committee members. A website was also set up for the conference, at <http://utcm.tamu.edu/livabilityconference/>.

After reviewing and organizing the abstracts received, the conference planning committee finalized the program, and invited additional speakers and session moderators. In addition to an opening session, a general session, and luncheon speakers, the conference included 10 breakout sessions, as listed below:

- Sustainability, Livability, Planning, and Policy Performance Measures
- Urban and Rural Livable Communities
- Transportation Performance Measures for Communities of all Sizes, Shapes, and Forms
- Land Use, Social Justice, and Environmental Performance Measures
- Livable Communities and Transit Performance Measures
- Access to Destinations Performance Measures
- Freight, Economic Development, and Return on Investment Livability Performance Measures
- FTA Livability Performance Measures Projects
- State, MPO, and Local Examples
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Performance Measures

The detailed final conference program is provided in Appendix A. Once the conference program was finalized and available on the conference website, and conference registration was open, the conference planning committee conducted further publicity and outreach activities at various conferences and meetings, and through mailing lists. The conference was also listed on TRB's website and newsletters, giving it visibility to interested participants.

### **Logistics and Registration**

TTI's Event Management and Planning (EMP) staff was in charge of identifying the venue and organizing the conference logistics. The Omni Hotel in downtown Austin was identified as the venue, and the EMP staff worked with the hotel to reserve a room block for participants, and take care of catering and audio visual needs. EMP set up a conference registration website linked to the main conference website, to handle the registration process.

The funds provided by UTCM were used for staff salaries (for planning and attending the conference), travel for TTI staff, and incidentals such as printing of flyers, etc. A registration fee was therefore collected from participants to cover costs of food and the location. Reduced registration rates were provided for speakers, moderators, students, and higher registration fees were collected from late and on-site registrants. Complimentary registration was also provided to conference planning committee members and selected participants. A total of 135 participants registered for the conference (list of participants is provided in Appendix B) and brought in \$25,525 in revenue. An amount of approximately \$6,000 was generated as program income for UTCM, after offsetting the revenues by the expenditures incurred.

## CHAPTER 3: CONCLUSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

The UTCM-sponsored Conference on Performance Measures for Transportation and Livable Communities was successfully conducted on September 7 and September 8, 2011, in Austin, Texas. The conference was co-sponsored by CTS and TRB, and had a diverse and well-balanced program with participation from federal agencies (such as the Federal Highway Administration, the US Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Transit Administration, the Department for Housing and Urban Development), state and local agencies in Texas and elsewhere (such as the Texas Department of Transportation, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization), university-based researchers and university transportation centers, as well as private consultants. The conference agenda consisted of plenary and breakout sessions, covering a range of topics (Appendix A), and the list of 135 conference attendees is provided in Appendix B.

All the conference presentations and speaker bios were posted on the conference website. The conference planning committee members also published a comprehensive conference proceedings document, which is available for download at this link: [http://utcm.tamu.edu/LivabilityConference/proceedings/documents/Conference\\_Summary.pdf](http://utcm.tamu.edu/LivabilityConference/proceedings/documents/Conference_Summary.pdf), Links to this material were sent to all conference participants, as well as circulated among other email lists and interest groups. The conference planning committee received very positive feedback at the conclusion of this event and will investigate potential for a follow-up conference or other activities in the next few years. In the meanwhile, TTI researchers involved in this conference have used the opportunity to further their participation in livability-related initiatives through TRB and other venues.

## APPENDIX A: FINAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**Wednesday, September 7**

**7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Registration

**7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

Continental Breakfast

**8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

### **Opening Session**

Moderator – Katie Turnbull, Texas Transportation Institute

*Conference Welcome and Overview*, Katie Turnbull, Texas Transportation Institute

*Livable Communities: The Critical Role of Performance Measures from Concept to Implementation*, Robert C. Johns, Associate Administrator and Director, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

*Federal Highway Administration and Livable Communities*, Jim Thorne, Federal Highway Administration

**10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

Break

**10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

### **General Session**

Moderator – Laurie McGinnis, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota

*Federal Transit Administration and Livable Communities*, Keith Gates, Federal Transit Administration

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Guide to Sustainable Transportation Performance Measures*, Christopher Forinash, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and The Sustainable Partnership*, Mark Brezina, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fort Worth

**12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

Luncheon

Introduction – Linda Watson, President/CEO, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Speaker – Texas State Senator Kirk Watson

**1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Breakout Sessions**

**Complete Streets Performance Measures**

Moderator – Fred Dock, City of Pasadena, California

*Principles for Measuring and Understanding Livability to Guide Transportation Planning and Design Decisions*, Bruce Appleyard, University of Utah

*Washington State Main Street Highways Initiative*, Paula Reeves, Washington State Department of Transportation

*Performance Measurement of Contact Sensitive Solutions (CSS) in Urban Thoroughfare Design*, Brian Bochner and Beverly Storey, Texas Transportation Institute

**Sustainability, Livability, Planning, and Policy Performance Measures**

Moderator – Antoinette Quagliata, Federal Transit Administration

*NCHRP Project on Sustainability Performance Measures*, Joe Zietsman, Texas Transportation Institute

*Oregon Statewide Project*, Mariah Vanzerr, CH2M Hill

*Planning for Sustainability at a Regional Scale*, Carissa Schively Slotterback, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

*Performance Measures or Indicators: Methods for Evaluating Transportation Policy Effectiveness*, David Hitchcock and Jennifer Ronk, Houston Advanced Research Center

**Urban and Rural Livable Communities**

Moderator – Tim Lomax, Texas Transportation Institute

*Livability and Scenic Byways: An Exploration and Opportunity for Measurement*, Brigid Tuck, Center for Tourism, University of Minnesota

*Measuring Livability in Small Urban and Rural Communities with Disaggregate Data*, Nathan Belz and Lance Jennings, Transportation Research Center, University of Vermont

*An Evaluation of Automobile Use, Parking Provision, and Urban Activity*, Christopher McCahill and Norman Garrick, University of Connecticut

*Sustainability Performance Measures for El Paso's Transit Corridors*, Tara Ramani, Texas Transportation Institute

**3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Breakout Sessions**

## **Transportation Performance Measures for Communities of all Sizes, Shapes, and Forms**

Moderator – Maulik Vaishnav, Arup

*New Tools for Measuring Livability*, Jeff Taebel, Houston-Galveston Area Council

*Targeted Transportation Programs for Livable Communities: Lessons from Three Pennsylvania Programs*, Mark Stout, Consultant

*Learning about Transportation-Related Livability: A Mixed-Methods Approach*, Ingrid Schneider, Center for Tourism, University of Minnesota

*Achieving Livability through Effective Transportation Planning*, Kirk Fauver, Federal Highway Administration

## **Land Use, Social Justice, and Environmental Performance Measures**

Moderator – Lucy Galbraith, Capital Area Metropolitan Transportation Authority

*Measuring Transportation's Role in Supporting Quality of Life and Livable Communities*, Chad McKeown, North Central Texas Council of Governments

*Social Equity Impact Assessment*, Marc Brenman, Social Justice Consultancy

*Transportation, Sustainability, and Urbanization*, Jason Zheng, University of Connecticut

*On Modeling the Travel Behavior – GHG Emissions Linkage*, Chandra Bhat, University of Texas at Austin

## **Livable Communities and Transit Performance Measures**

Moderator – Kartik Sribarra, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

*FasTracks Quality of Life Study: Measuring the Effects of Implementing Rapid Transit*, Genevieve Hutchinson, Regional Transit District, Denver, Colorado

*Performance Measures for the New Houston METRO*, Kim Slaughter, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Houston, Texas

*Using Integrated Data to Measure Performance at TriMet*, David Crout, Portland TriMet

*More than Lines on a Map: How Capital Metro is Using Performance Measurement to Shape Transit Service*, Todd Hemingson, Capital Area Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Thursday, September 8**

**7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Registration

**7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

Continental Breakfast

**8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**Breakout Sessions**

**Access to Destinations Performance Measures**

Moderator – Gina Baas, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota

*Lowering the Barriers on Performance Measures: An Open Source Approach to Calculating Transit Accessibility*, Mike McGurrin, Noblis, Inc.

*Access to Destinations Study – Key Findings*, Michael Iacono, University of Minnesota

*Impact of Light Rail Implementation on Labor Markets Accessibility: A Transportation Equity Perspective*, Andrew Guthrie, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

*Accessibility Ratings of Massachusetts Municipalities*, Anna Gartsman and Jessica Casey, Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy

**Freight, Economic Development, and Return on Investment Livability Performance Measures**

Moderator – John Elias, U.S. Department of Transportation

*Freight, Economic, and Global Competitiveness Performance Measures*, Katie Turnbull, Texas Transportation Institute

*Using Performance Measures/Indicators to Calculate the Triple Bottom Line*, Leigh Lane, Center for Transportation and the Environment, North Carolina State University

*Parking Policies and Livability*, Valerie Knepper, San Francisco Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission

*Economic Development and Return on Investment Livability Performance Measures*, Kevin Johns, City of Austin

**FTA Livability Performance Measures Projects**

Moderator – Linda Cherrington, Texas Transportation Institute

*Overview of FTA Transit and Livability Performance Measures*, Angela Dluger, Federal Transit Administration

*Rural Transit Performance Measures*, Suzie Edrington, Texas Transportation Institute

*Spatial Display of Transit Livability Performance Measures*, Martin Catala, Center for Urban Transportation Research

**10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

Break



**10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

**Breakout Sessions**

**State, MPO, and Local Examples**

Moderator – Sam Seskin, CH2M Hill

*Ohio Futures Statewide Plan*, Elizabeth Sanford, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.

*Transportation Outlook 2040*, Tom Gerend, Mid-America Regional Council

*Livability Measures in Practice: Case Study Examples*, Kevin Tilbury, Gresham, Smith and Partners

*Data Points for Measuring Livability in the Austin Area*, Betty Voights, Capital Area Council of Governments

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Performance Measures**

Moderator – Joan Hudson, Texas Transportation Institute

*National and International Perspective in Bicycle and Pedestrian Data and Performance Measures*, Shawn Turner, Texas Transportation Institute

*Roadway Bicycle Compatibility, Livability, and Environmental Justice Performance Measures*, Greg Griffin, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

*Multimodal Arterial Level-of-Service Measures*, Bruce Landis, Sprinkle Consulting, Inc.

**12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Closing Luncheon

*Review of Conference Themes*

Moderator - Eric Gleason, Texas Department of Transportation

Joe Zietsman, Texas Transportation Institute

Lynne Bly, Minnesota Department of Transportation

Christopher Forinash, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

*Open Discussion of Research Needs and Future Activities*

**2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Tours**

Walking Tour of downtown Austin

Tour of commuter rail line and transit oriented development

## APPENDIX B: LIST OF CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Imad Aleithawe  
Mississippi Department of Transportation

Pharr Andrews  
City of Austin

Bruce Appleyard  
Metropolitan Research Center, University of  
Utah

Gina Baas  
Center for Transportation Studies,  
University of Minnesota

Rich Baldauf  
Environmental Protection Agency

Genevieve Bales  
Federal Highway Administration

Rob Balmes  
America's Byways Resource Center

Kari Banta  
Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club

David Bartels  
City of Round Rock

Peter Bella  
Alamo Area Council of Governments

Nathan Belz  
Transportation Research Center, University  
of Vermont

Brian Betlyon  
Federal Highway Administration

Chandra Bhat  
University of Texas at Austin

Lynne Bly  
Minnesota Department of Transportation

Leah Bojo  
City of Austin

Marc Brenman  
The City Project

Tiffany Britton  
Texas A&M University System

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Jessica Casey  
Dukakis Center for Urban & Regional  
Policy

Gerardo Castillo  
Capital Metropolitan Transportation  
Authority

Martin Catala  
Center for Urban Transportation Research

Linda Cherrington  
Texas Transportation Institute

Jay Crossley  
Houston Tomorrow

Dave Crout  
TriMet

Emily Davis  
Department of Defense  
Jim DeGroot  
Pima Association of Governments

Angela Dluger  
Federal Transit Administration

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City of Pasadena, CA

Christine Eary  
San Diego Association of Governments

John Eastman  
City of Austin

Suzie Edrington  
Texas Transportation Institute

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City of Austin

Kirk Fauver  
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Christopher Forinash  
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Tom Gerend  
Mid-America Regional Council

Eric Gleason  
Texas Department of Transportation

Jenn Golech  
Capital Metropolitan Transportation  
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Ginger Goodin  
Texas Transportation Institute

Brooke Green  
Community Transportation Association of  
Idaho

Greg Griffin  
Capital Area Metropolitan Planning  
Organization

Andrew Guthrie  
University of Minnesota

Mark Haerr  
Booz| Allen| Hamilton Inc.

John Havenstrite  
Marsh Darcy Partners

Todd Hemingson  
Capital Metropolitan Transportation  
Authority

Elizabeth Hilton  
Federal Highway Administration

Cole Hiniker  
Metropolitan Council

David Hitchcock  
Houston Advanced Research Center

Pix Howell  
City of Leander

Cheryl Hudec  
Sam Houston State University

Joan Hudson  
Texas Transportation Institute

Genevieve Hutchison  
Regional Transportation District

Michael Iacono  
University of Minnesota

Sandra Jackson  
Federal Highway Administration

Kevin Johns  
City of Austin

Robert Johns  
Volpe National Transportation Systems  
Center

Greg Kiloh  
City of Austin

Lester King  
Rice University

Robin Kline  
Research and Innovative Technology  
Administration

Jeremy Klop  
Fehr & Peers

Valerie Knepper  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Don Koski  
Federal Transit Administration

Bruce Landis  
Sprinkle Consulting, Inc.

Leigh Lane  
Center for Transportation and the  
Environment

Caren Lee  
City of Round Rock

Eric Lindquist  
Institute for Science, Technology and Public  
Policy

Tim Lomax  
Texas Transportation Institute

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Department of Housing and Urban  
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Kelly Marquis  
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Chris McCahill  
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Silvia McCollom  
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Kris Milster  
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Nick Naccarato  
City of Austin

Amanda Noble  
City of Atlanta

Steve Noble  
Atkins North America

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Texas Transportation Institute

Sean Peirce  
Volpe National Transportation Systems  
Center

Scott Polikov  
Gateway Planning Group

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Houston-Galveston Area Council

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Washington State Department of  
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Charles Riou  
Texas Department of Transportation

Kristen Rohanna  
San Diego Association of Governments

Jennifer Ronk  
Houston Advanced Research Center

Matt Sandidge  
Texas Transportation Institute

Liz Sanford  
Cambridge Systematics

Walt Satterfield  
Community Planning Association of SW  
Idaho

Darcie Schipull  
Texas Department of Transportation

Carissa Schively Slotterback  
Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Ingrid Schneider  
University of Minnesota Tourism Center

Sam Seskin  
CH2MHILL

Francine Shaw Whitson  
Federal Highway Administration

Brian Shea  
Idaho Transportation Department

David Simons  
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Art Slabosky  
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Mark Stine  
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Beverly Storey  
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Mark L. Stout Consulting

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Houston-Galveston Area Council

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Sandra Webb  
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University of Connecticut

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