

PANEL SESSION AND DISCUSSION

RANDOM ACTS OR GLOBAL AGENDA? A STRATEGIC DISCUSSION ON RESEARCH FOR ECOLOGY AND TRANSPORTATION

Organizer and Moderator:

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Panelists:

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ABSTRACT

The study of Ecology & Transportation is a relatively new field with many emerging questions, new avenues of inquiry and much to learn. There is rich opportunity for end users of research to apply new knowledge on projects and facilities as infrastructure is operated and improved. Research in this area has been supported by transportation organizations, research entities like the National Academies of Sciences and Transportation Research Board, resource agencies, as well as through private sector, NGO and academic efforts.

Research can provide significant benefits, but it often does not reach its full potential value for end users for many reasons including: 1) limited resources spread over a many different areas of study 2) lack of awareness or coordination between those with similar research interests 3) scope/scale of studies not reflecting many user's needs 4) focus on individual project proposals, rather than an overall organized strategy 5) Isolated efforts with disconnected funding and selection process.

How can we get the most benefit from the investment in Road Ecology research?

This discussion-based workshop will help familiarize participants with the context of current research, how it comes to be and what are the important priorities, needs, gaps and trends. This workshop will seek input from participants on what would be the most useful future directions.

Workshop goals include:

- 1) Increase awareness among attendees of the needs and priorities for research in Road Ecology
- 2) Gain input from the group (as a community of practice) on what areas of study would be the most useful.
- 3) Create a summary of ICOET Participant input from discussion and from attendee survey results.

The ultimate objective is to offer input to various efforts where research is supported (i.e. ICOET, IENE, TRB, AASHTO, CEDR etc.) to help identify and promote work in areas of mutual interest in a strategic manner.