

**International Workshop on ITS Benefits
How Evaluation Results Are Used in Transportation Decision-Making**

Thursday, November 9, 2000
Turin, Italy

Next Steps

On Thursday, November 9, 2000, the Benefits, Evaluation and Costs (BEC) Committee of ITS America hosted a workshop entitled “International Workshop on ITS Benefits: How Evaluation Results Are Used in Transportation Decision-Making” in Turin, Italy, in conjunction with the 7th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems. Attendance at the workshop totaled almost 60 people. Dr. Christine Johnson, Director of the ITS Joint Program Office at the U.S. Department of Transportation, moderated Session 1, in which transportation decision makers from Europe, Asia, and the Americas spoke on how they use evaluation results in their decision whether or not to invest in ITS. In the afternoon, breakout groups discussed next steps to be taken to continue this international dialogue, including additional workshops and conferences, and development of an online resource for best practices in ITS evaluation.

The Executive Committee of ITS America’s BEC Committee met on November 29, 2000 in Washington, D.C. to consider the many options for next steps raised at the workshop.

1. Workshop Proceedings

BEC Executive Committee member Amy Polk of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory will compile the presentations given by the various speakers and post them online on the Electronic Document Library (EDL), maintained by the ITS Joint Program Office at the U.S. Department of Transportation. In addition, Ms. Polk will produce a summary of the workshop, based upon notes taken by BEC members Glen Havinoviski of Wilbur Smith Associates, Carol Zimmerman of Battelle and Dale Thompson of Maricopa County, Arizona. This summary will also be posted online at the EDL website, along with links to the workshop presentations. All workshop attendees will receive an e-mail notice of the website address of these “virtual proceedings,” which will be completed by the end of December 2000.

2. ITS European Congress, June 20-23, 2001, Bilbao, Spain

At the Turin workshop, Job Klijnhout of the Netherlands Ministry of Transport and Eric Sampson of the U.K. Department of Transport expressed interest in organizing a session on the topic of ITS evaluation at the ITS European Congress, June 20-23, 2001 in Bilbao, Spain. The BEC Executive Committee agreed that, although the committee could not formally send a representative, several BEC committee members active in the organization of the Turin workshop may be attending the Bilbao conference, and could possibly speak at such a session. Amy Polk will act as a liaison between the Bilbao conference organizers and the BEC committee, to see if any matches can be identified.

3. 8th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems, September 30-October 4, 2001, Sydney Australia

Whether or not to host a follow-on event in conjunction with the 8th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems, September 30-October 4, 2001 in Sydney, Australia and what kind of event to host was a major topic of discussion at the Turin workshop. The participants seemed to prefer integrating discussion of ITS evaluation into the World Congress program, rather than hosting a separate workshop on the last day of the World Congress – Friday, October 5, 2001, which has been reserved for ancillary events. The BEC Executive Committee proposed organizing a set of two Executive Sessions or Special Sessions scheduled “back to back” addressing the following topics:

- How Evaluation Results Are Used in Transportation Decision-Making
- Transportation Performance Measures

Amy Polk will forward this proposal for Executive/Special Sessions to Eric Sampson and Job Klijnhout, who also serve on the International Program Committee for the 8th World Congress. Mr. Sampson and Mr. Klijnhout indicated at the Turin workshop that they would advocate for inclusion of these sessions in the World Congress program.

4. Formation of an International Benefits, Evaluation and Costs (BEC) Committee

During the organization of the Turin workshop, it became apparent that there is no international counterpart to the ITS America BEC Committee. Workshop participants recognized the ITS America BEC Committee as the only standing body, and asked it to take the lead in formation of a truly international group, with a formal structure to give it permanency. At its November 29 meeting, the ITS America BEC Executive Committee committed to drafting a charter and strawman organizational structure for such an international group. It is envisioned that this group would be jointly sponsored and co-chaired by ITS America, ERTICO and VERTIS. The next step after drafting a charter is to build support for the formation of the International BEC Committee among the three sponsoring organizations.

It is also envisioned that the group could have its first meeting in conjunction with the 8th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems, September 30-October 4, 2001 in Sydney, Australia. This meeting would be brief (60 minutes) and would be held on one of the days of the World Congress program (October 1-4) but not at a time that conflicts with Congress sessions (e.g. a breakfast meeting).

5. John Miles' ATLANTIC Proposal

BEC Executive Committee member Jane Lappin of the Volpe Center reported that John Miles of Ankerbold, Ltd. in the U.K. has sent a funding proposal to the European Community to organize a year-long, multi-national, virtual, juried, research and evaluation forum. International partners in this effort are the University of Michigan who would coordinate U.S. participation and Transport Canada who would coordinate Canadian participation. Dr. Miles has named the program A Thematic Long-term Approach to Networking for the Telematics and ITS Community (ATLANTIC). European participants would be funded by the European Community. Participants from other locations would have to provide their own funding.

The BEC Executive Committee agreed that the ATLANTIC, if funded, would be an excellent way to accomplish some of the goals put forth at the Turin workshop, especially the development of an online resource for best practices in ITS evaluation. BEC Executive Committee members stated that they would like to influence the direction of this program, in order better reflect the spirit of the Turin workshop. For example, the program should include representation from Asia and non-U.S., non-Canadian countries in the Americas.