
Workshop for Transportation Forecasters

September 22 – 23, 2009

Co-sponsored by the U.S Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration's

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

and the

International Institute of Forecasters (IIF)

Workshop Theme

Tools, Techniques, and Information to Improve Your Forecasts

On September 22-23, 2009, the U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration's Bureau of Transportation Statistics is hosting an international workshop on transportation forecasting in Washington, D.C. Topics for this two-day workshop, sponsored jointly with the International Institute of Forecasters, include recognizing economic change in forecasts, incorporating environmental impacts, working with highly seasonal data, and measuring forecast accuracy.

Workshop Organizing Committee

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ■ Peg Young, General Chair | Bureau of Transportation Statistics |
| ■ David Chien | Bureau of Transportation Statistics |
| ■ Jeffery Memmott | Bureau of Transportation Statistics |
| ■ Ken Notis | Bureau of Transportation Statistics |
| ■ Pheny Weidman | Bureau of Transportation Statistics |
| ■ Dipasis Bhadra | Federal Aviation Administration |
| ■ Roger Schaufele | Federal Aviation Administration |
| ■ Tianjia Tang | Federal Highway Administration |
| ■ Jack Wells | Office of the Secretary |

Agenda: September 22

Tuesday, September 22, 2009	
7:30 pm - 8:30 am	Registration / Continental Breakfast
8:30 am – 8:40 am	Announcements and Introduction of Steve Smith - by Peg Young
8:40 am – 8:50 am	Welcome from BTS and Introduction of Robert Bertini – by Steve Smith
8:50 am – 9:00 am	Welcome from RITA and Introduction of John V. Wells – by Robert Bertini
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Keynote: John V. Wells (US DOT)
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am – 11:15 am	Topic: Global economic trends as they impact transportation Session chair: Ken Notis Speaker: Paul Bingham (IHS Global Insight)
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Topic: How to measure forecast accuracy and quality of forecast model Session chair: Peg Young Speaker: Keith Ord (Georgetown University)
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Topic: Political aspects of forecasts Session chair: David Chien Speaker: Martin Wachs (RAND)
2:15pm – 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Topic: Climate change and other long-term impacts Session chair: Jeffery Memmott Speaker: Arthur Rypinski (US DOT)
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Topic: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) spatial analysis Session chair: Ken Notis Speaker: Owen Evans (ESRI)
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Announcements and closing of first day: Peg Young

Agenda: September 23

Wednesday, September 23, 2009	
7:30 am – 8:45 am	Registration / Continental Breakfast
8:45 am – 9:00 am	Announcements: Peg Young
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Topic: Seasonality in data and how to adjust Session chair: Pheny Weidman Speaker: Brian Monsell (Census Bureau)
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Topic: Where to find transportation data Session chair: Jeffery Memmott Speaker: Rosalyn Alleman (BTS)
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Break
11:15 – 12 noon	Group Discussion and Farewell – led by Peg Young

Steven K. Smith, BTS Deputy Director

Dr. Steven K. Smith, the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, has extensive federal experience in managing survey research and statistics programs. Prior to service at the U.S. Department of Transportation, he worked in international and domestic research and statistics offices at the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Department of Justice. Dr. Smith holds a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina and is working on a master's degree in business administration. He is the author or co-author of a number of journal articles, government reports, chapters, and a book on social science and statistical topics.

Robert L. Bertini, RITA Deputy Administrator

Dr. Robert L. Bertini was sworn in as the Deputy Administrator of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) on August 17, 2009. Dr. Bertini was the founding Director of the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium, led the Intelligent Transportation Systems Laboratory at Portland State University, and was a recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER Award. He served as Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering and Urban Studies & Planning at Portland State prior to joining RITA. He is a registered professional engineer and a former city planning commissioner and has received a B.S. cum laude in Civil Engineering from the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; an M.S. in Civil Engineering from San Jose State University, and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley.

Keynote Speaker: John V. Wells



John V. (“Jack”) Wells has been the Chief Economist at the U.S. Department of Transportation since November 2004. His major areas of focus have been on finding ways to use the transportation system more efficiently (for example, through congestion pricing and ITS technologies), finding ways to invest more efficiently in expanded transportation capacity, such as high-speed rail, and finding ways to tap new sources of transportation infrastructure finance, such as a National Infrastructure Bank.

He has previously served as Chief Economist at the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (2001-2004), Deputy Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (2000 – 2001), Minority Staff Director of the House Subcommittee on Railroads (1995 – 2000), and Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee (1993 – 1995).

From 1979 to 1993 he was an economist at the U.S. General Accounting Office, working on a wide range of issues in transportation, regulation, and science and technology policy.

From 1975 to 1979 Dr. Wells was Assistant Professor of Economics at George Mason University. Dr. Wells has a B.A. from Harvard and a Ph.D. from Yale, both in Economics.

Paul Bingham



Paul Bingham is the Director of World Trade & Transportation Markets at IHS Global Insight, where his expertise is in International Trade and Transportation. Paul is responsible for all international products and consulting capabilities. He has over 25 years of experience managing and performing freight transportation and international trade analyses, and has been a valued member of the Trade and Transportation Group at IHS Global Insight since 1999. In addition, he has also led transportation and infrastructure study projects for a significant number of public- and private-sector clients.

J. Keith Ord



Keith Ord is Sebes Fellow and Professor in the Operations and Information Management group at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University. He completed his graduate work at the University of London and held faculty positions at the Universities of Bristol and Warwick before moving to Penn State University in 1980 and Georgetown in 1999.

His research interests include time series & forecasting, spatial modeling and the statistical modeling of business processes. He is a co-author of Kendall's *Advanced Theory of Statistics* and a past editor of the *International Journal of Forecasting*. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and of the International Institute of Forecasters.

Martin Wachs



Martin Wachs is Director of the Transportation, Space and Technology Program at the RAND Corporation. Until the end of 2005 he was Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering and Professor of City & Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, where was also Director of the Institute of Transportation Studies. He earlier spent 25 years at UCLA, where he was Chairman of the Department of Urban Planning.

Dr. Wachs served on the Executive Committee of the Transportation Research Board for nine years and was the TRB Chairman during the year 2000. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, two Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowships, a UCLA Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award, the Pyke Johnson Award for the best paper presented at an annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board, and the Carey Award for service to the TRB. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a Lifetime Associate of the National Academy of Sciences. In 2006 he was named “Member of the Year” by the San Francisco Chapter of the Women’s Transportation Seminar and was awarded the lifetime achievement award as “Distinguished Planning Educator” by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

Arthur Rypinski



Arthur Rypinski is a Senior Advisor for energy policy issues in the Office of the Secretary of Transportation. Previously, Mr. Rypinski was a Senior Economist at the Department of Energy's Policy Office where he advised on issues relating to energy and climate change, including participating in international climate negotiations.

Prior to joining DOE's Policy Office, Mr. Rypinski was responsible for developing and managing a national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and a voluntary emissions reduction reporting program at the DOE's Energy Information Administration.

Owen Evans



Owen is a GIS solutions engineer at ESRI's DC Technology Center and has worked at ESRI for five years. He provides federal, local government, and commercial customers with technology demonstrations of the ArcGIS platform.

Brian Monsell



Brian Monsell is currently Group Leader for the Time Series Research Staff of the Statistical Research Division, United States Census Bureau, where he has worked since 1982.

Mr. Monsell is the primary developer of the X-12-ARIMA seasonal adjustment program, used by a number of statistical agencies and central banks, and has conducted training in seasonal adjustment and the proper use of X-12-ARIMA at venues around the world. His research interests are in time series analysis with an emphasis on seasonal adjustment, statistical computing, and the modeling of calendar effects in official statistics. Mr. Monsell was awarded the Commerce Department's Silver Medal in November 2008 for his role in the development, maintenance and support of X-12-ARIMA.

Rosalyn Alleman



Rosalyn Alleman works as a reference librarian with the National Transportation Library's e-mail and telephone Reference Service at the Bureau of Transportation Statistics in RITA. She is an employee of HeiTech Services Inc. and has been with the NTL since 2003. The NTL Reference Service handles questions about BTS airline data as well as general and Recovery Act-related questions for other US DOT operating administrations.

Rosalyn was born in Madison, WI and grew up in Hillsdale, Michigan. After attending college in Virginia, she completed a Master of Library Science degree at the University of Maryland, College Park. In addition to the NTL, she has worked at the US Census Bureau Library, the Bureau of National Affairs and other special libraries.

For Further Information:

- BTS website:
 - www.bts.gov
- IIF website:
 - www.forecasters.org
- If you wish to contact Peg Young:
 - Phone: 202-366-2483
 - Email: Peg.Young@dot.gov

Acknowledgments

This workshop could not have come together without the help of many people. I want to thank:

- The members of the Workshop Organizing committee:
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 - Roger Schaufele and Dipasis Bhadra from FAA;
 - Tianjia Tang from FHWA ;and
 - Jack Wells from the Office of the Secretary:
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- Alpha Wingfield and Chip Moore;
- Renita Hamlet and Michele Janis;
- Tonya Tinsley;
- Wakisha Riddick, Anil Pallai, and Toya Henry ;
- Inga Peters;
- Pam Stroud, Benito Flores and Antonio García Ferrer; and
- Steve Smith and Deborah Johnson.

Thank you all.

Peg Young

NOTES

Evaluation Form / Comment Sheet

- Did you find the workshop of value?
- What aspect of the workshop did you like the most?
- What aspect did you like the least?
- Would you like to see another workshop? On what topic?
- Any general comments?

Name (If you wish to discuss further):
