

# Transcript

September 11, 2025, 6:02PM

□ **Alleman, Rosalyn (OST)** started transcription

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 0:07

I think we've been more successful at that over the past couple of years.

It's just to have updates from various groups within the larger transportation libraries community, so we'll be starting that today with this TLR.

Before we get started, I guess the one thing I do want to double check on because I'm not seeing her here so far, Enid White is among our scheduled presenters today.

**E** **Enid** 0:41

I'm here.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 0:42

You are here. Good. Thank you.

Enid, I need to get new glasses. OK, great. So the first part of today's hour.

Will be Enid White, as always, graciously agreeing to discuss the AASHTO Research Advisory Committee. Those activities and accomplishments I think with a focus on their annual meeting, which I believe was last month or the previous one, let me go ahead and introduce Enid.

Enid almost does not need an introduction, but I'll try to give one anyway.

Enid is I'll have to say without exaggeration, just one of the stellar members of the Transportation Librarians universe, always informative and interesting in what she has to share.

And she has certainly got a long way towards deepening and widening my own knowledge base. Enid is with the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

She serves as that department's research manager and coordinator.

I'm doing it off the top of my head. I hope I got both of those titles correct. If not please correct me on that.

So without any more delay on my part, I gladly introduce Enid White, who will now talk about AASHTO RAC and related issues.

So the floor is all yours, Enid.

**E Enid** 2:19  
Thank you very much.  
Yeah, you got everything correct. Thank you.

**BC Bob Cullen** 2:22  
Yeah.

**E Enid** 2:24  
Yes, in July we had our annual AASHTO RAC meeting up in beautiful Billings, Mt.  
It was just a wonderful.

**AR Alleman, Rosalyn (OST)** 2:33  
Sorry, Enid, for those who aren't familiar with it, could you just spell out what the acronym means, please?

**E Enid** 2:39  
Oh, sure, I'm sorry.

**AR Alleman, Rosalyn (OST)** 2:40  
Thank you.

**E Enid** 2:42  
AASHTO is a federal organization and I always have to look that one up.

**AR Alleman, Rosalyn (OST)** 2:52  
Maybe just RAC?

**E Enid** 2:53  
OK, RAC, the Research Advisory Committee.

**AR Alleman, Rosalyn (OST)** 2:54  
It see it's the American Association of State Highway Transportation officials, I believe.

**E Enid** 3:00

That's OK. Yeah, yeah.

**BC Bob Cullen** 3:01

That's correct.

Only took me 25 years to memorize that.

**E Enid** 3:07

Yeah, I'm going to retire now and now I'll memorize it.

The RAC, though, is the Research Advisory Committee.

And so basically there are members from all 50 states that get together.

We have breakout sessions, we have a time when we get together for dinners, you know, for fun activities. But we also get together and do a lot of work.

During that time, members are able to do a lot of help with passing information on to the different states, because we have new members that come on and they're not sure what's going on.

How to even run a research advisory committee?

How to manage a research library and so you know we have older members who mentor younger members.

And like I said, once a year we get together. This year it was in Montana.

And there were so many different topics.

They covered just about anything and everything you could think of as far as a Research Center would need. The big topic, of course, was artificial intelligence.

And we had two separate breakout sessions on artificial intelligence, not only how artificial intelligence affects our research reports and different research documents, but also how artificial intelligence can help each of the different DOTs move forward, do different things. You know, streamline their services.

So it was an excellent, excellent meeting. We had really good panelists.

We had panelists from FHWA.

I was going to pull those names up.

I'm not as organized as I normally am, so you have to excuse me, but we had Ben McCall from Texas, Jesse Newberry from HNTB.

We had Sid Monaghan from FH or TRB. Excuse me.

So there were a lot, you know, there were a lot of different areas that were covered

regarding artificial intelligence.

We talked about strategies and policies that affect DOTs.

We also had our RAC regional meetings and there are four regions that are separated. We have region 1 which is the northeast corner of the United States.

Region 2 is the southern, eastern-southern. Then we have region 3, which is pretty much the middle of the United States and then region 4, which is the largest which encompasses the Western states. There's eighteen states including Hawaii and Alaska. Now, not all 50 states were able to come this year.

Of course, there were a lot of travel bans.

There were issues with funding, different things like that, but there was a very good representation from all the different states. We also had some of our federal partners there.

We didn't have as many federal partners as we normally have, but what we did have was really good.

We were able to sit down and talk with them.

And you know, get some really good information.

Some of the sessions that we had, of course, every year we try and talk about the new changes from the Section 508 Rehabilitation Act and that's an ADA compliance.

Basically any of our research reports, anything that's in writing, it has to have a section 508 compliance. They have to make sure that someone who is visually impaired can read that document.

So whether they're using a screen reader, whether they have to enlarge the print.

You know, whatever the different ways that they need so that they can actually read the document, whether they're color blind, we have to make sure all of our reports are compliant.

So we had a very good breakout session on Section 508.

We talked about how to gather impactful research because you know, we're using federal dollars.

We want to make sure we're getting our the biggest bang for the buck.

And so when we look at impactful research, how is it not only going to impact each different state that's doing the research, but how could it impact the nation and actually internationally?

Because of course TRB has a lot of international partners.

If you go to TRB, you'll notice that it's not just individuals from the United States that are there.

There are a lot of individuals from a lot of foreign countries.

So we talk about, you know, how to do impactful research that is going to help everyone, not just the state that is doing the research.

Of course, we there's always turnover with every organization and so we did set out a beginners meeting and they call it RAC 101 to where individuals who have been working with their DOT's in research for a long time, they sit down and work with individuals who are just coming into the RAC.

They can kind of walk them through, you know, how you do funding.

How you write your reports, how you do your proposals.

How you send out requests for the proposals, how you do just about anything and everything that there is regarding the RACs and then we set up mentors so the individuals who are just new, they can mentor with someone who's been working with the DOTs for a long time.

So it's a really nice learning experience for those who are just coming on.

Of course, one of our wonderful federal partners, we had a lot of information come out regarding TRID and RIP.

And you know, we have to put all of our information into the TRID system, the RIP system, and we have to make sure it's all in there.

So it really helped out to have someone, you know, come through and talk about IT. Bill came through and talked about what, you know, how TRID works, how RIP works, what are some of the changes, what we need to look forward to.

He always gives fantastic presentations.

And no matter how long I've been doing this, I learned something new every time he talks.

So it really, really does help out to have, like I said, our federal partners there, especially Bill.

Some of the other things that we talked about, we talked about implementation.

So when we do our research at the DOTs, we not only look at how it's going to impact, but how can we implement.

You know, and that's a big thing because we are using federal dollars, we're using taxpayer money.

So once we get our research done and how are we actually going to implement it and make it usable for the general public?

So once the project is over, not only the implementation but what are some of the things that you need to do?

Do you need to look at maybe coming up with a second research project to add on to what you had to begin with?

There are a lot of little things that you need to look at.

We talked a lot about tech transfer of course.

That's one of the big things.

How do we transfer the information that we got in our research projects from one state to another, from one region to another?

You know, and from the United States to some of the different countries that we work with.

So a tech transfer is a really big thing. We don't want to pigeonhole any of our research.

We don't want to keep it just in a single state.

We want to make sure it goes out to anyone and everyone who can use it.

We had talks on best practices.

You know, what are the best ways to do the different things that the research centers do?

Quality and timeliness is always a big thing. We want to make sure that our research reports are quality or our research projects are quality that they're not just something that someone wants to do?

And it, you know, it's just for fun. We want to make sure that it's actually a quality type project.

And we want to make sure it's done in a timely manner, that they're not just going on and on and on and on.

We do make sure that the projects that they say that it'll be two years to do the research project that they try and stick to that two year time frame.

Another very big area that we talked about was of course the changes to 2CFR200 and for those of you who don't know, 2CFR200 are the guides to anyone who has a federal grant.

They're the guides that talk about who the grantors are, who the recipients, the sub recipients are, how to pass the money through.

How to know if equipment is being purchased, who has the title to that equipment?

Who has it? During the time of the project?

Who has it after the project is over.

Supplies. Intangibles. Anything from intellectual property, copyright, patent, to software.

To software licenses to data, just about anything you do with a federal grant, especially in research, it's covered in 2CFR200 and it's kind of like the Bible of what you need when you're managing any type of federal funding.

Some of the big other big things that it talks about is indirect costs. How do you build? What are the requirements from the federal government as far as what a contractor can charge for their administrative costs?

How you have to go through and tag each one of the projects so that the federal government, when they do the audits, knows.

Was it a research project?

Non-research, was it just technology.

Was it a bridge project? Was it an educational project?

Was it a library in all these different things?

They have to be tagged within, and 2CFR200 really helps out.

Like I said, we had a lot of our federal partners there, not as many as we normally have.

FHWA was one that was not able to come and I know that that was a funding issue and a travel issue.

And so it we didn't get some of the information that we really needed every year because when our federal partners come, they let us know what are going to be the new changes within the federal government.

How is FHWA going to change?

How is AASHTO going to change?

What are the changes at TRB?

What are some of the changes at the OMB?

You know, so there were a lot of little things that we couldn't get.

And we're hoping that as things start to open up with the federal government that we can get some more of that information.

One of the things that it was a good thing and as well was a sad thing.

I don't know how many of you are aware of the beauty and the nature of Montana, and there's a road that goes across Montana East to West called the Beartooth Highway.

And you can get onto the Beartooth Hwy. Outside of Billings, where we had our convention and drive across. And if you've got time, you can drive all the way over to Yellowstone.

Beautiful, beautiful road.

Lots of switchbacks. You can see lots and lots of wildlife, you get up about 10,000 feet.

It's just one of my favorite drives and having been from Wyoming, I've driven the Beartooth Hwy. many, many times while we were going to take a tour bus and go up across the Beartooth.

Unfortunately, and I don't know how they did this happened, they lost the driver, so they had no one to drive the tour bus.

So what we did was get as many cars as we could.

There were individuals from North Dakota, South Dakota.

I had my car there.

There were a couple from Montana.

We got as many people as we could.

I gave my car to some people so that they could drive it across because like I said, I've driven the highway.

Many, many times.

And these individuals were able to get up and drive across part of the Beartooth because we had meetings in the afternoon and they weren't able to drive the whole.

It's about two hours to drive 2 Yellowstone and two hours to come back.

The fun part was when they got to the top, there was still snow on the ground.

And so I don't know if how many of you know Kyle from Iowa. He manages a lot of the pooled fund projects.

He got out, jumped in the snow is and was making snow angels in the middle of July.

It was, you know, it's 90° down in Billings and it was about 70° up on top. And like I said, you're about 10,000 feet.

And they're up there playing in the snow.

They got wonderful, wonderful pictures.

So, but the reason they were going to do this tour is they wanted to talk about the transportation through that area, how they have to close parts of the road, how it curtails transportation across Montana because when it snows up through there, they can get 10, 20 feet of snow and they can't keep the roads open.

Katie, I see you're here.

You went across, I think you went across with Kyle jumping in the snow, but that was one of the fun things. Go ahead, Katie.



**WK** **Widmann, Katie K.** 18:10

I was going to say we're the ones who stole your car.

**E** **Enid** 18:13

Yeah, you stole my car.

Which was fine.

I thought it was fantastic. The people that never got to go across that mountain were able to go up.

It was a beautiful, beautiful drive.

So anyway, it was fun.

There was a lot of networking.

There's always a lot of networking.

There's a lot of camaraderie.

The RAC community is like a big giant family, just like the, you know, the librarian community is, and it's a wonderful group to belong to.

You guys are always, always welcome to any of the RAC meetings.

And you know, if you've never been to one, if it's in your area, I would say go visit for a while.

You know, stop in.

See what they're doing.

So anyway, I think I've taken up.

I wasn't sure how much time I had so.

I'll turn it back over to you, Bob.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 19:13

OK, Enid, you have as long as you want.

You're gonna be the best speaker we have today anyway.

If you don't, if you have anything else you wanted to add.

**E** **Enid** 19:23

You know, I did want to add.

That, you know, even though I'm retiring here soon.

I will be sticking around and you know you'll never know when I might pop into one of these meetings.

I'm giving everyone my home e-mail address so that I can still get invited because I want to stay.

Working with the different groups and I'm going to be doing some consultation work for some of the different states.

And some of the different pooled funds, so you know, I want to stay up to date on what's going on so that you know, I can still act as a partial liaison between the library community and the research community.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 20:13

OK.

Great. Thank you so much, Enid. And I'm glad you did bring up the retirement, the matter of your upcoming retirement.

But I'm even happier to hear that you'd still and you've already indicated this to me at least, that you're still planning to and wishing to stay as engaged as possible.

With our community and of course, it sounds like other stakeholders as well with respect to transportation and knowledge.

So that's so that's great news and I won't say you'll be missed because I have all these witnesses here that you are indeed going to stay a part of the community because we really do deeply appreciate and we certainly rely on the information and the insights that you very consistently and helpfully share.

And so I did want to make mention of that.

Right now, haven't heard what Enid had to share. And of course, about AASHTO RAC in particular. I'd like to provide this opportunity now for anybody who might have any questions or comments for Enid.

Just, you know, do the usual raising of the hand and I'll gladly call on you.

You know, I have a couple of things I want to clarify and I guess that I have a question too.

Unless somebody.

Has a hand raised by the time I get to that part.

First of all, you said it was Beartooth Highway.

It's the name of the highway you reference there in Montana.

**E** **Enid** 22:00

Yes, yes. It's a beautiful, beautiful highway.

**E****Bob Cullen** 22:01

It sounds that way and sounds very impressive.

I've never been to Montana, but that that's certainly almost sounds like it's worth the price of admission, just to have that opportunity to take a drive along that highway. So thank you for clarifying that. And Enid, I'm keeping my fingers crossed that one of these days I'm not gonna turn on the TV and watch People's Court and see you and Katie going in there. Hopefully the stolen car thing is a thing of the past.

**Enid** 22:36

Katie, do you want to add anything from that fun adventure?

**WK****Widmann, Katie K.** 22:41

Just that that was the best thing I've ever heard, Bob.

Just that if you did not get a chance to go and view this particular area, it was absolutely stunning.

Feel free to throw me an e-mail and I will be happy to share my pictures with you.

You are certainly free to save.

Download anything you like.

I have no problem with that at all.

**BC****Bob Cullen** 23:09

Thank you, Katie.

Enid the question I did want to ask, again a wonderful overview of what was discussed or highlighted there at the RAC meeting.

My question is basically you talked about the topics that were addressed.

I did take note that on the topic of a few of your signature issues.

As I consider them a few of your signature issues.

Were among those that there were sessions on and a lot of focus on the 508. And you gave us an excellent overview of all of that and as it was discussed there at the meeting also AI and I believe you said first of all that there were a total of 2 breakout sessions there.

I was just wondering from either or both of them. What were your biggest takeaways?

I mean, you have such an awesome knowledge of AI, I'm pretty much assuming there

wasn't any new information, but I was just wondering if still there was maybe some kind of new perspective or maybe some other kind of take on something concerning AI that you don't think had been explored as fully as it perhaps it was at that meeting. I was just wondering generally what kind of things did you bring from those break out sessions on AI.

**E Enid** 24:42

Well, one of the sessions that we had, it was called AI strategies and policies for DOT applications.

And it went into depth talking about how we can enhance our transportation systems using AI, but when we're doing that, we want to make sure that we're keeping in mind, you know, not only efficiencies but safety and sustainability. And of course, cyber security.

Those were three of the big things that came out of that because we all know that artificial intelligence really can help.

In our transportation departments, we see it happening every day in, you know, in Wyoming. I know we use a lot of AI to help with our license plates. We help with our paint mixing.

We help with calculations.

There's a lot of stuff that that AI helps within our transportation systems, and I'm sure the same thing you know with the libraries, there's the same thing, artificial intelligence, if it's used correctly and that was part of what we talked about in this, this meeting was you know when you use these things correctly and keeping in mind the safety, the sustainability, the cybersecurity, that it can be a really good thing. So that was one of the breakouts that we had and I'm trying to find what the name of the other one was.

I'm usually more on the ball, but I've had radiation treatment and I'm still going through the radiation brain fog.

And so I have to use notes a lot of times to keep me up to date.

Katie, can you help me remember what the second breakout was on the artificial intelligence?

If you remember.

**WK Widmann, Katie K.** 26:49

Thanks. I think I have the program right here.  
Hold on a second.

**E** **Enid** 27:01

That, like I said, I'm usually more on the ball.

**E** **Enid** 27:05

I'm hoping this fog goes away.

I'm done with my radiation treatment and I'm hoping the fog goes away, but I have days when I'm still just really.

My brain doesn't click on all cylinders.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 27:18

Yeah, absolutely.

I understand. My wife, Mary, went to radiation therapy four years ago doing just fine now. But of course, you know, I hear what you're saying, Enid, believe me.

**E** **Enid** 27:34

Yeah. So the other one, I believe it was on case studies with artificial intelligence.

They looked at how different states were using artificial intelligence and how it was they actually talked about some different case studies.

And how it was helping the different states out, not only in the research departments, but all across the different areas of each different state.

So we hit, you know, a lot of different genres.

One thing that I would really like to see come out in the future with these RAC meetings and we used to do it a lot when Mary Moulton would come, but like I said, we didn't have a lot of the federal partners there. I would love to get more information to these RAC meetings about the library community because the libraries are kind of the backbone of the research. If we don't have the libraries, we can't do the, you know, we can't get a lot of the documents we need for the research. And so, you know, and Mary Moulton used to come.

Leighton Christiansen would come to a lot of the RAC meetings.

But we would have individuals come and talk about the library community and how the libraries can be used.

And then with the downfall of the libraries and the Transportation Department. There was, you know, we had individuals come through and say, OK, if you lost your library because of funding, here are some libraries that you can, you know, work with. Especially in the eastern part of the United States, there were a lot of libraries and DOTs that just completely disappeared. Funding was taken completely away. So I would love to see that collaboration again between the library community and the RAC community because it's kind of after Mary left it kind of started to fizzle out and this year, you know, of course, without having anyone from, you know, our federal partners being able to be there. There wasn't a lot of talk about how libraries can help the research community. So I would really like to see that in the future. Go ahead, Katie, because I know you.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 30:05  
Right.

**E** **Enid** 30:06  
You looked that up for me.

**WK** **Widmann, Katie K.** 30:08  
Yeah, no problem.  
Am I able to share my screen?  
I think I can, yeah.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 30:12  
You should be able to.

**WK** **Widmann, Katie K.** 30:14  
So this is the one that Enid was talking about, AI research and implementation in DOTs.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 30:15  
Oh.  
Ah.

**WK** **Widmann, Katie K.** 30:22

The session explores the impact of AI in state DOTs. The panel will discuss cutting edge research, practical implementation strategies and challenges in integrating AI technologies.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 30:22

Hello.

**WK** **Widmann, Katie K.** 30:36

We had a couple of breakout sessions, Enid, so you'll have to tell me which one you were thinking of.

We had section 508.

**E** **Enid** 30:46

I did the very last one. It was on the last day.

**WK** **Widmann, Katie K.** 30:50

Very last one, OK.

**E** **Enid** 30:51

Yeah, and that was the one that I mentioned. But this is the one I see it now. Yeah. Where, Dara, we had some individuals from California who couldn't make it either.

**WK** **Widmann, Katie K.** 30:54

Is this the one?

**E** **Enid** 31:02

So yeah, that's the Thursday session that I talked about, but that the Monday session.

**WK** **Widmann, Katie K.** 31:05

OK.

**E** **Enid** 31:08

Unfortunately, we had individuals from the University of Washington and Caltrans

that were not able to come because of funding issues.

So not only the federal government had issues with funding, but we had some states that did too.

But it was a wonderful they did talk about some of the cutting edge research that is going on right now in some of these States and California and Texas are two that are probably the premier when it comes to artificial intelligence and research.

They have gone over and above what other states are doing and just to sit down and sit and listen to what they are doing for the research community, for the transportation community, it's just fantastic.

So yeah, we it was a shorter session than what we had hoped for because some of the key individuals couldn't make it.

But it was a great session nonetheless.

Sorry, that took me a while, Bob.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 32:12

Great.

No, no, that's great.

Really helpful information and I particularly appreciate some of the aspects there of the meeting that you did elaborate on a little further.

So wonderful.

Thank you.

And I appreciate your own contribution there, Katie.

Do we have any other questions or comments please, you know, feel free to raise your hand if not, you know all we know how to reach Enid.

And so you guys bring those questions and comments to her.

I do see in the meantime we do have a couple of raised hands.

So Lamara Williams, I'll call on you first.

**WC** **Williams, Lamara C** 33:03

Hello so I don't this isn't really related to RAC but maybe somebody can answer this question since it's kind of general topics.

What happened with TRB when they reorganized all the committees and got kicked out? I don't know if they kicked everybody off, but they made everybody re-sign up.

I don't know if I missed that, if that had already been discussed, but I'm not sure what happened.



**BC Bob Cullen** 33:28

Well, LamarA, I'll try to take a brief attempt at that at least.

**BC Bob Cullen** 33:35

At least address it.

For the next, this time around with the updates, annual updates for various groups, we're actually having in two different TLRs. This TLR focusing of course on AASHTO RAC and then the SLA Transportation Community.

The next one, along with having an update on the pooled funds, the next one will focus on TRB. A good part of that focus will be on the transportation research thesaurus.

Andy Everett will be presenting on that. However, that will should also be a good opportunity to address TRB in general, I expect that's going to be the opportunity to do that.

Now, Bill McLeod's gonna be available for that TLR, as he's confirmed with me. So I expect Lamara, we will have the time then to address all that.

**WC Williams, Lamara C** 34:33

OK.

OK, sure.

**BC Bob Cullen** 34:39

A lot of good questions need to be answered. You're right.

**WC Williams, Lamara C** 34:41

OK. Thanks.

**BC Bob Cullen** 34:43

Thank you, John Charney.

**E Enid** 34:44

And Lamara, if I could just jump in, there was a lot of comments on that during the RAC meeting because there were different committees that were thriving that went

away and so they were trying to figure out how to take some of the information from those committees.

**BC Bob Cullen** 34:45

Oh, go ahead. I'm sorry.

**E Enid** 35:04

And put it into other committees.

So there's still a lot of reorganization going on.

And like I said, there was a lot of talk at the RAC about that.

**WC Williams, Lamara C** 35:13

OK. Thanks.

**BC Bob Cullen** 35:15

Thank you, Enid. John Charney, go ahead.

**CD Cherney, John - DOT** 35:20

Oh, hi Bob.

Hey Bob. Thank you.

This is this just a short commentary on what Enid was talking about and just the value of the AASHTO RAC meeting.

You know, I was there.

I was fortunate to be there.

It was my first time, you know, I've been around here, transportation librarianship and information for many, many years.

But this was my first one and I've found it more valuable, well I wasn't sure what to expect, but it was very valuable learning about what the research program managers do and everything that they're involved with, and perhaps thinking about how better a transportation library or information center can connect with your research program, and so I went to sessions on innovation and implementation there.

There was a lot, but it was interesting and it was great to you know, meet Anders and Katie were there, and Bill McLeod was there.

We talked a lot about things, so just a great, great experience in meeting Enid, of

course.

Thank you.

**E** **Enid** 36:22

And it was good to meet you too, John. Putting a face to a name.

**CD** **Cherney, John - DOT** 36:24

Oh, thanks.

Seen it.

Yes, yes, yes.

And that was another valuable part of it. Thank you.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 36:31

Thank you, John.

**CD** **Cherney, John - DOT** 36:34

Thanks.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 36:34

I'm glad you were able to attend as well.

**CD** **Cherney, John - DOT** 36:37

Yeah, me too.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 36:38

Wonderful. I'm gonna call, John gave a big shout out to Anders, so I'm gonna go ahead and call upon him now.

One of Montana's finest sons. Go ahead, Anders.

**JA** **Johnson, Anders** 36:49

Hey. Hey, everyone.

Yeah. I just wanted to echo those comments that it was really, I thought a really productive meeting, even though it's not necessarily targeted specifically to librarians. And there were some good sessions on 508 accessibility that I found useful. But just in general, I support this idea that people seem to be talking about of

maybe encouraging like a little more cross pollination between the librarians and the RAC community.

I think that's a good thing to start thinking about.

And also I was gonna offer if people are interested, there is a website that you can go to on the MDT website with slides from all the different presentations.

So I'm happy to share that on the on the TRANLIB listserv, if people are interested.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 37:32

Right. Thank you, Anders. Much appreciated.

Again, a big round of applause for Enid.

Excellent, excellent presentation.

Certainly elicited good questions and comments from a quite a few of you as well. So thank you, Enid.

I'm now gonna follow Enid with my own presentation focusing on SLA. One of the fun, or maybe not so fun parts is when trying to get the PowerPoint slides up here, but I think Rosalyn did a good job walking me through it just before we got started today. Let's see.

Maybe, maybe not.

**AR** **Alleman, Rosalyn (OST)** 38:24

Share and then screen.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 38:26

Share and then screen. Oh, is it down at the bottom? Where is it?

**AR** **Alleman, Rosalyn (OST)** 38:35

Well, shares the top next to leave button and once you push that then it'll pop up.

**AR** **Alleman, Rosalyn (OST)** 39:52

Yep, there you go.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 41:01

If they disappear or anything, let me know.

Thank you again, Rosalyn. OK updates on the SLA Transportation Committee.

I'll do my best to go through these.

I'll start off with the current SLA Transportation Community Board. Even though I think quite a few of you are familiar with this lineup already.

Since June, I've been the President of the Community.

I'm privileged to have taken on that role, Michael is our president-elect.

Of course, all of you know the news about SLA.

So Mike still being a good sport about everything, he is a very active and contributing member of the board.

And Mike, of course is with Washington State DOT library, the head of the library there it's been it's been great to have him.

I don't have the heart to tell him that he's not eligible for the pension plan for SLA, Transportation Community Presidents, but.

That's life, right?

Cara Marcus is the person whose shoes I've tried my best to fill.

She was my predecessor, as I think just about everybody here knows, my predecessor as the Community President.

She is a wonderful person and an excellent librarian and an outstanding leader.

Cara is with the National RTAP.

In a lot of ways, she's been the one that I credit for essentially I would say setting me up for success when I say that I mean for instance with the Community Board. I really inherited for the most part the members of the board that that she had brought together.

And again, I can't say enough about Cara. All the great contributions she has made and she continues to make as a member of the board, Michael Molina from Oklahoma Transportation Library.

He's another person who almost needs no introduction. Michael is a great, great leader in our larger community.

And then he's also a first rate team player too.

We're very lucky to have him and he's been doing a great job as the secretary of the Community Board. Glenn Cole is our membership chair. Glenn is with the Transportation Association of Canada.

We're very lucky to have Glenn as part of the team.

He's been doing great work on a number of fronts, but you know, particularly with respect to membership outreach and that kind of thing. And as we've had new members come on board, he's been wonderful about reaching out to them with other things too, particularly information and what's going on with the larger with

SLA at large, he's been great to have to help shepherd us through all that.

Marilee Tuite.

I can't say enough about her of course.

It's a familiar person within our larger community and including the TLR she is with the University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies.

I hope I got that acronym correct.

And of course, she's been affiliated with the Minnesota DOT.

Also, if I'm characterizing that relationship correctly, Marilee has been serving as our education events chair.

I'll certainly be highlighting some of the great contribution she's made in that role within just a few minutes.

Then we have Jamie.

She's working now for CM services.

Jamie, I've characterized here as the archives coordinator.

I don't know if that's quite an accurate description.

I don't even know if Jamie was able to join us here today or maybe archives guru would be better, but essentially that part of the role is just now with the hope, the transition.

Jamie has been just doing some great follow up with respect to our archived information, our potentially archived information, both within our website but also just in terms of other holdings that might be at various libraries across the country. She could certainly elaborate more on that, but I just don't want to pigeonhole her because as a past president and a very committed member of the community over the years, Jamie has been absolutely super in terms of just helping out wherever and however she can. And again she's another part of the team.

I just feel fortunate to have her there.

Going on, I do want to highlight the activities and events that have been sponsored by the transportation community since the last round of updates from last year or since our last business meeting, which took place in July of last year.

The collection showcases give the opportunity for various librarians and others to display what they have in terms of collections and also to discuss those collections in hour-long showcases have been extremely worthwhile.

We've been doing it for a few years now. I think at one point they were characterized as happy hours.

We now go with showcases.

But still the same idea and very worthwhile.

So it's been a good community tradition that I'm happy to say that we've been continuing and Marilee has done an A+ job in in terms of recruiting speakers and scheduling those showcases and then serving as a moderator.

Here are just here are the few that we've had since I'm going back to the summer of last year.

I'm not gonna elaborate too much on them, but I'm sure quite a few of you got to attend at least one or two of these events.

So we had back in July of last year, we had Eden Orelove.

Her showcase was entitled, Revealing the Hidden Collections at the National Transportation Library.

Gabi Hysong, the one and only Gabi Hysang, gave an equally excellent presentation showcase this past February, and of course she focused on the Rolls Royce collection and another great showcase there. And on the subject of great showcases, more recently, this past spring, in May, we had two presenters. Both from Washington State DOT Mike and Lindsay.

They focused on Washington DOT's digitization journey in various digital collections. And again, it was a great showcase and again, Marilee deserves a world of credit for making those showcases happen and just doing such an exemplary job when it came to how each of them went.

And this is where I get to brag about Marilee just a little more.

This past March marked the 30th anniversary of TRANLIB, and this was another effort that Marilee oversaw and brought to fruition.

Basically, we celebrated with a message chronicling the TRANLIB's timeline and Marilee got the ball rolling.

That during the day the commemorative message did result in a great number of positive responses from our fellow transportation librarians, and again, I credit Marilee for that one. One other accomplishment from the past year. I forgot to include here, even though I know I've highlighted it at one of the more recent TLR's was the Innovation award that I'll be presenting this year and that you have to forgive me. I'm, I'm sifting through notes here.

But.

The Innovation award this year, as I think everybody already knows was that did go to Jim Byerly for his work with Google's My Maps to create a map and the listing of transportation libraries around the world.

Quite an achievement and it was a well-deserved award for Jim and that was the award that we gave him the Innovation award.

Let me go ahead and move on here to the next slide, and this is the SLA annual conference in in Pittsburgh.

A bittersweet conference, but I guess I would want to emphasize the sweet part, if you will.

It really was a productive conference, an enjoyable conference.

Great to see quite a few of members of our community, the Transportation Librarians community there in person. I'll just run through what I have down here as the highlights of the conference. Excellent presentations were given by Gabi Hysong and Cara Marcus and Karen from Minnesota DOT of course.

Really educational and enjoyable in terms of what they presented on.

There were a few of us, a handful of us, who did go to the main library of the Carnegie Public Library system there in Pittsburgh, and that was enjoyable.

That was on that Saturday afternoon of the of the conference, just before the conference officially started that same evening on Saturday evening. We had our traditional no host dinner and as we have with the past couple of years, we co-sponsored it with the SLA's engineering community and I thought it went well.

By my count, there were at least a dozen of us there.

Went to a nice Indian restaurant, a lot of fun.

The SLA Transportation Community table we shared space with quite a few of the exhibitors there, just having a table for our community, for people to come and ask questions or leave their names and cards and Jamie and Toby got a fairly good response. I mean, you know, we were in the middle of everything there, so I thought it was worthwhile.

And then finally, the SLA Transportation Community business meeting.

That again was very well attended. I thought it was a better attended business meeting we've been able to have in the past few years for various reasons.

I think we had, I'm sure I have the number here, but I think again it was probably a dozen, maybe just a couple beyond that.

But I thought it went well.

I won't elaborate too much on that. I think essentially, I may have elaborated on it quite a bit.

What was discussed during the business meeting in terms of summarizing some of the activities and accomplishments, I do want to get on to the next slide.



This, of course, is the big breaking news into the I know quite, I think just about everybody knows about this SLA's merger with ASIS&T, by the way I did have to finally write it down. I have it in front of me here.

It's the Association for Information Science and Technology.

And I borrowed this language from the SLA's big announcement from just within the past few weeks by a majority vote of SLA members in August 2025.

A motion in support of the plan to dissolve SLA was approved.

Included in this plan includes the statutory dissolution of SLA, the settlement of all remaining debts and the transfer of SLA's membership and remaining assets to ASIS&T.

I want to just briefly, briefly address it because I know we're gonna be reaching the top of the hour before we know it just for the next slide.

This maybe this is an assurance of sorts for everyone. You know, life does go on.

You know, we have this transition going on, but the Community Board is still trying to stay involved and engaged with respect to just other activities and things and we're still we're still in existence.

So we're gonna continue to do our best to serve all of you, serve our membership and others.

So we're gonna continue to have a regular board meeting.

So we we've been doing that on every other month kind of time frame. Our next one is taking place two weeks from tomorrow on September 26 and that's for the board members to get together and go over everything, a legacy statement for the Community. This is something that SLA is asking all of the groups.

All the communities and other groups to prepare and submit for information. And Mike graciously agreed to prepare a legacy statement for us basically to summarize. Obituary is kind of a morbid way of describing it, but it's just going to be a piece of no more than 500 words just summarizing what would have been the highlights in the memories for each group that we want people to remember in the years ahead. And so Mike is working on that and that's due for submission next week.

Marilee has coordinated another great collection showcase for October 31st.

And I plan to continue promoting that. Marilee will too.

Those are all the slides I have.

Listen, just in terms, I know there are probably questions and comments with respect to the SLA transportation community.

I do want to assure people and particularly the membership is that we are currently discussing and hopefully we'll have some kind of a virtual meeting at some point.

Next month in October, just essentially an open discussion format to talk about the various issues regarding what's happening with the transition and what it means of course for our Community, what lies ahead and what has already taken place.

And I'll be sure to keep everyone in the loop on that once we get it together.

I think it's going to be a good idea not only because I knew I was going to have limited time today.

Just because we did have, you know, important information to share today, but please stay tuned for that. I know that I think one of the members of the SLA Board of Directors is here, Rachel Cole and Rachel has been very helpful, particularly when I've had questions that I've asked her about concerning some of the changes and developments.

Rachel, if you're so inclined, you're welcome to say at least a couple of words about the changes and if you have anything you want to have people keep in mind.

**RC Rachel Cole** 57:54

Absolutely. Thanks Bob for that overview of the merger vote and discussion. The merger was in August 2025 and the merger was approved by a vote of 278 members with 98% of those voting in favor.

So I think this is the best option for our organization to preserve the legacy and future of SLA. We are in a position with declining membership and declining financial stability over the past several years in which we were no longer going to be able to meet our financial obligations.

We needed to make a choice about the future of the organization, so I think that this merger was our best option for preserving our future and ensuring the future for SLA in our communities.

In terms of communities and chapters of the transportation community.

ASIS&T has what they call special interest groups, which are sort of the parallel of what we have with our communities at SLA. And there is a community liaisons working group that should have reached out.

We'll be reaching out soon to leadership of each community with information on a streamline process.

For requesting new SIG creation.

So there is a chance for transportation to submit an application to become a SIG with ASIS&T as well, and to continue our legacy there. Currently there are just 16 special interest groups within ASIST. They are looking for communities that have, you know, a distinct mission, a strong and active membership and strong and active leadership as well.

But there will be more information going out to SLA Community leadership about the process for streamlined community creation there.

So it's kind of just like very quick overview. I know we're over time, but if anyone has any questions, I'm happy to stick around and answer them for a little bit or you can reach out to me with any questions as well.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 59:49

Thank you so much, Rachel.

And Rachel I should also mention is a past President of the SLA Transportation Community. As a matter of fact, I think it was on her watch or maybe actually have been Bobby but then Rachel continued to reach out. I first got on to participate on the board as a membership chair. And Rachel, I'm so grateful all these years later that you didn't show me the door and tell me to get out.

So that allowed me to stay with the group.

So thank you.

**RC** **Rachel Cole** 1:00:15

I'm really thrilled to work with you, Bob. Thank you.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 1:00:18

Thank you.

And so as Rachel indicated any.

**CM** **Cara Marcus** 1:00:19

And Bob, you, you have really brought us into the new century.

So we're very grateful to you too.

You know, it's been a little bit of uncertainty, but with you as lead, we're rolling forward.

**BC** **Bob Cullen** 1:00:35

Thank you, Cara.

Appreciate that. And I do want to again highlight that if anyone has any questions, any issues to bring up, you know as Rachel said, you are free to contact her. You're free to contact me.

You know, my door figuratively is always open for any questions or concerns that I can help address. Please feel free to contact me.

I'll go ahead and make a big leap here and say you're also welcome to contact Cara and the other the distinguished members of the board too.

We're here to help and we're going to make it together and we'll see what lies ahead. But having said that, I'm very grateful. First of all to Enid for all the wonderful information she shared.

I was more than happy to give her as much time as she needed because I'm speaking for myself, at least in and there's always such a such.

A joy to listen to and receive information from, and I don't know about you but I always feel a little smarter after I've heard Enid's presentation. So again. Thank you, Enid. And again, Rosalyn and I very much appreciate all of you taking the time here to be with us today. Hopefully you learned something over the past hour.

Keep on the lookout for further details about the next TLR. I did kind of give an overview of what we have in mind for it, but I'll be sending follow up emails on that. So just keep on the lookout.

□ **Alleman, Rosalyn (OST)** stopped transcription