

Caucus Descriptions

In addition to our workshops and presentations, the 2010 Tools of the Trade Conference will once again offer the opportunity for interaction and exchange of information through our MPO, State DOT, and Transit Caucuses. These discussions are open to all conference attendees. Please read below for more information.

MPO CAUCUS

Thursday, September 23, 2010 from 10 AM to 11:30 AM

General Hill's Redoubt

Historically, the TRB Tools of the Trade Conference has offered insights into the “planning tools” and “lessons learned” which are in use in small and medium sized communities across the nation. Since smaller MPOs have limited staff and funding, there is pressure to ensure that the federal process is being followed and local input is meaningful. The challenges can be many and differing in different states and regions. As part of the conference, this caucus provides an opportunity for staff from MPOs to discuss their challenges and successes in serving these communities. Past topics have included the updates on the status of the federal transportation bill reauthorization, census data implications, issues of working with the state DOTs, Policy Committee challenges, the challenges of diminishing agency resources and added responsibilities, and clarification of federal policies. For consideration in the 2010 MPO Caucus, possible topics again include the re-authorization of the federal transportation bill, the formation of new MPO's from the 2010 Census, possible policies concerning climate change issues, future funding predictions, and the issues of livability and sustainability.

The moderators for the MPO Caucus are Ron Chicka, Director of the Duluth, MN MPO and Rob Kenerson, Director of the Bangor, ME MPO. If you have questions or would like to suggest a discussion topic for the MPO Caucus, please feel free to contact them at: rchicka@ardc.org or rkenerson@emdc.org.

STATE DOT CAUCUS

Thursday, September 23, 2010 from 10 AM to 11:30 AM

General McClellan's Redoubt

Historically, the TRB Tools of the Trade Conference has offered insights into the “planning tools” and “lessons learned” which are in use in small and medium sized communities across the nation. Since these smaller communities have limited staff and funding, the State Departments of Transportation are many times their prime resource. As part of the conference, this caucus provides an opportunity for State DOT's to discuss their challenges and successes in serving these communities. Past topics have included the impacts of an aging transportation infrastructure, the challenges of diminishing agency resources, and the development of successful relationships with small urban or rural transportation planning agencies. For consideration in the 2010 DOT Caucus, possible emerging topics include the

re-authorization of the federal transportation bill, the formation of new MPO's from the 2010 Census, and the issues of livability and sustainability.

The moderator for the State DOT Caucus is Jeff Moore, Planning Section Supervisor for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. If you have questions or would like to suggest a discussion topic for the State DOT Caucus, please feel free to contact him at jeff.moore@ky.gov

TRANSIT CAUCUS

Thursday, September 23, 2010 from 10 AM to 11:30 AM

General Emory's Redoubt

Historically, the TRB Tools of the Trade Conference has offered insights into the “planning tools” and “lessons learned” which are in use in small and medium sized communities across the nation. Since transit operation in smaller communities often have limited staff and funding and operate in generally automobile dependent cities, this caucus provides an opportunity for transit managers and those interested in transit service within their community an opportunity for peer exchange, in which to discuss challenges and share successes. Past topics have included issues related to funding versus operating expenses, improving transit operation through technology and modifying structure to provide the best service possible. For consideration in the 2010 DOT Caucus, possible emerging topics include transit's share in the re-authorization of the federal transportation bill, the role of transit in providing mobility to an aging population, and how transit supports sustainability in smaller communities that are often automobile focused.

The moderator for the 2010 Caucus is Michael Anderson, Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. If you have questions or would like to suggest a discussion topic for the transit Caucus, please feel free to contact him at andersmd@uah.edu.