

TRB Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Committee: Overview and Key Information

Overview: Our Home within TRB's Structure

The U.S. Transportation Research Board (TRB) Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Mitigation Committee is one of five standing committees under the TRB Transportation and Sustainability Section. The following breakdown reflects our place within the TRB Technical Activities Volunteer Structure announced December 2019:

- TRB Sustainability and Resilience Group (AM000)
 - Transportation and Sustainability Section (AMS00)
 - Committees
 1. **Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation (AMS10)**
 2. Resource Conservation and Recovery (AMS20)
 3. Transportation Energy (AMS30)
 4. Alternative Transportation Fuels and Technologies (AMS40)
 5. Transportation and Economic Development (AMS50)

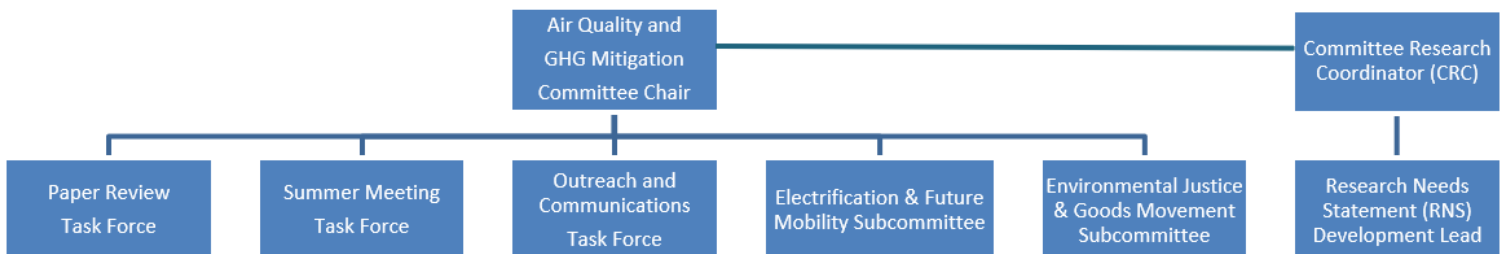
Committee Scope

Our Committee (AMS10) is concerned with the full range of relationships among transportation, air quality, and GHG mitigation including regulatory and policy considerations, modeling practices, health effects, new technologies, and transportation management strategies.

Committee Structure

Committee work is supported by various teams, as illustrated in [Figure 1](#), in addition to numerous volunteers who help with activities such as webinar planning, website management and committee communications.

Figure 1. Air Quality and GHG Mitigation Committee structure.



Task Force and Subcommittee teams are each led by Chairs and Vice Chairs; the Committee Research Coordinator (CRC) is assisted by a Research Needs Statement (RNS) leader. Together with the Committee Chair, they constitute the Committee's Leadership Team and oversee the Committee's day-to-day work. The Leadership Team is selected to ensure a diverse team leads Committee work.

The guiding philosophy behind our structure is to advance the knowledge and understanding needed to address air quality and GHG mitigation planning. A key objective is to support research that connects traditional air quality management efforts with the urgent need to mitigate GHGs.

- **The CRC** pools and prioritizes research needs from across all Committee efforts. The CRC is assisted by an RNS lead who oversees RNS preparation and identifies and liaises with potential funding organizations.
- **Administrative Task forces** lead essential efforts to support presentations at the Annual Meeting via papers, podium sessions, workshops, and posters; organize summer (or mid-year) meetings to facilitate information sharing and strategic planning; and help identify research needs. Task forces are as follows:
 - Paper Review
 - Summer Meeting
 - Outreach and Communication
- **Subcommittees** address key technical subjects covered by the Committee's scope. They meet at the Annual Meeting, facilitate information exchange, and help identify research needs. Subcommittee work focuses on key research topics, or clusters. Emphases include GHG mitigation, environmental justice, and fleet electrification and charging infrastructure. Work will consider GHG reduction and air quality improvement co-benefits. The subcommittee structure is as follows:

Subcommittee: Electrification and Future Mobility

Research Clusters:

- Fleet electrification and lifecycle emissions impacts for air quality and GHG control
- Behavior change, pricing, and future mobility: use and electrification of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), Connected/Automated Vehicles (CAVs), transit

Subcommittee: Environmental Justice & Goods Movement

Research Clusters:

- Environmental justice: light, medium, and heavy-duty vehicle impacts and controls
- Goods movement and diesel-powered vehicle air quality and GHG impacts and controls

Annual Meeting Paper Review and Workshop Planning Process

A core work effort each year is to review and make acceptance or rejection decisions on papers submitted for presentation at the TRB Annual Meeting. Given widespread interest in committee topics, we review a large number of papers submitted by authors around the world. Typically, about half of these papers will be accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting, with a much smaller subset, about 15%, forwarded for publication consideration in the peer-reviewed *Transportation Research Record (TRR)*. The paper review process is led by an overall Paper Review Coordinator (PRC). In addition, the Committee typically plans two half-day workshops that take place at the Annual Meeting. Workshops allow the Committee to examine high-interest topics at greater depth, and provide opportunities for breakout discussions and information sharing. The calendar of major actions associated with paper reviews and workshop planning is described in [Table 1](#).

Table 1. Key dates/actions for Annual Meeting paper reviews and workshop/session planning.

Date	Action
Dec.	PRC identifies volunteer review handlers (about 6-8) for the coming year.
By June 1	Committee leadership team (CRC and RNS lead, Task Force and Subcommittee Chairs and Vice Chairs, along with the Committee Chair) identify workshop topics and organizers.
By June 15	Workshop organizers submit workshop proposals to TRB.
By June 30	CRC releases Annual Meeting call for papers.
July	Survey sent to Committee members and friends to identify paper review topics of interest.
July	Paper reviewer pool established.
July	PRC hosts webinar for reviewers and paper handlers to discuss upcoming paper review process.
Early July	Section Committee Chairs work with TRB to select workshops for Annual Meeting.
Aug.	Papers submitted; review process email sent to Comm. members/friends on papers to review.
Mid-Aug.	TRB assigns papers to Committees.
Late Aug.	<p>PRC and review handlers assign 4 reviewers/paper (3 for papers submitted as “presentation only”).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewer mix per paper: 1+ AMS10 member, 1+ academic & non-academic, 1 student (at most). • Reviews assigned: up to 5 per Comm. member, up to 3 to non-members (per submitted paper).
Mid-Sept.	Reviews due.
Oct. 1	<p>PRC, in consultation with Task Force leadership team and Committee Chair, recommends to TRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papers for presentation & TRR publication. TRR process then handled by TRR (not Committee). • January podium sessions and papers for each session (typically 2 to 3 podium sessions).
Oct. 1	Workshop organizers give TRB list of workshop speakers.
Mid-Oct.	TRB sends Committee paper review comments to authors.
By Dec.	PRC or Committee Chair emails reviewers appreciation for their contributions.

Committee Outreach and Information Dissemination

TRB committee information is here: <https://www.mytrb.org/OnlineDirectory/Committee/Details/5229>. The Committee also maintains an information-sharing website: <http://www.trbairqualityghg.org/>.

Committee Participation by Members and Friends

The Committee is supported by a diverse membership roster. Committee rosters are approved by TRB using factors such as the need to ensure: adequate membership rotation over time; geographic balance, including participation by those outside the United States; balanced representation of relevant disciplines including employer types or affiliations; proper consideration of gender balance and minority participation; support of young entrants to the transportation field; and, appropriate state DOT representation. The full complement of members, including chairs, of each TRB committee includes the following:

- 25 main member slots
- 5 additional slots (above the 25 member cap) for international members (non-U.S.)
- 4 additional slots (above the 25 member cap) for "young" members (35 years or younger)
- 2 additional slots (above the 25 member cap) for employees of state DOTs

The Committee rotates approximately one third of its membership every three years. In consultation with the Committee's Leadership Team, the Committee Chair identifies membership candidates and submits recommendations to TRB for consideration. TRB makes final membership determinations.

Committee members are expected to actively contribute to the life of the Committee via paper reviews and other efforts. Throughout the year, there are numerous opportunities to support the Committee through paper review coordination, Annual Meeting planning, development of research needs statements, website support, and numerous other activities.

The Committee relies on numerous volunteers to complete its work. The easiest way to engage in our activities is to become a "Friend" of the Committee:

1. Login at the MyTRB website: <https://www.mytrb.org/>
2. Go to "MyTRB Home" on the menu bar
3. Select "Become a Friend of a Standing Committee"
4. Scroll to AMS10 and check box on right of screen
5. Click on "Submit Changes" near top of screen

The TRB Air Quality and GHG Mitigation Committee welcomes new volunteers and looks forward to your participation in our work. Contact the Committee Chair for additional information; see: <http://www.trb.org/AboutTRB/GetInvolvedCommitteesTF.aspx>.