

MINUTES OF ANNUAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

**Aviation and Climate Change Subcommittee
Environmental Effects of Aviation Committee – AV030
January 15, 2008
Washington, DC**

1. Attendance (see attached)
2. Agenda (attached)
3. TRB Business and Introductions

John Putnam, Chair of the Subcommittee, called the meeting to order. After introductions, Gail Staba of TRB provided information for the Subcommittee on TRB and ACRP activities. Ms. Staba informed the Subcommittee that the 2009 TRB Annual Meeting's theme would be based on climate change and energy, making the Subcommittee's efforts timely. She also identified a few ACRP projects that would be of interest to the Subcommittee, including ACRP 11-02, "Model for Improving Energy Use in U.S. Airport Facilities," and ACRP 02-07, regarding alternative fuels at airports. Additional information regarding these ACRP projects can be found at www.trb.org/crp/acrp.

In addition, Nate Brown also discussed the development of a new TRB Task Force designed to guide overall TRB activities regarding climate change and prepare for the 2009 Annual Meeting. Mr. Brown indicated that he will keep the Subcommittee informed about the progress of this Task Force.

Mr. Putnam also thanked the speakers at the panel discussion regarding the role of carbon offsets in transportation preceding the Subcommittee meeting. Copies of the presentations from this panel will be available at the Committee webpage (www.trbav030.org) and are also available at:

- www.airportattorneys.com/climate

4. Substantive Updates

The Subcommittee spent the bulk of the meeting hearing updates on a number of research efforts relating to aviation and climate change, including:

- a) Research Regarding Carbon Offset Calculators for Aviation – Mary Vigilante: Mary Vigilante presented the results of research she has conducted relating to different results and methodologies used by carbon calculators on the internet and other tools for measuring GHG emissions associated with aircraft operations. She found considerable variation in

both results and methodologies identified a number of concerns about the transparency of the methods used. A copy of Ms. Vigilante's presentation will be posted on the Subcommittee website at www.trbav030.org (not yet operational) and is also posted at:

<http://www.airportattorneys.com/data/Commercially Available Carbon Offsets.pdf>.

- b) ACRP Research Project 07-06 Regarding Airport GHG Development Methodology – Brian Kim: Brian Kim provided the Subcommittee an update regarding the status and aims of this ACRP project, which was awarded in October 2007. The project is intended to develop standardized guidance and methodologies for creating airport GHG emissions inventories. There is a large void in this area and considerable variation in methodologies for currently available inventories, rendering meaningful comparison difficult, if not impossible. The project is currently on schedule, with completion scheduled for late summer 2008. The Subcommittee will distribute this report when it is available. This project and others like it can be tracked at www.trb.org/crp/acrp.
- c) Aviation Climate Change Research Initiative (“ACCRI”) – Mohan Gupta: Mohan Gupta provided the Subcommittee with an update on FAA's and NASA's ACCRI project, which is designed to reduce scientific uncertainties in quantifying aviation-related climate impacts. Scientists involved with ACCRI are currently developing white papers for eight critical topics associated with aviation-related climate issues, which will be discussed at meetings in February and April. Mr. Gupta anticipates that the papers will be made available to the public after the April meeting. Additional information regarding the ACCRI initiative can be found in a separate presentation made by Mr. Gupta and Lourdes Maurice at http://www.airportattorneys.com/data/ACCRI_brief.pdf.
- d) Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative (“CAAFI”) – Rich Altman: Rich Altman provided an update regarding the status and activities of CAAFI, which arose out of sessions sponsored by the AV030 Committee. Among other issues Mr. Altman discussed were the need to further understand the “well-to-wake” life-cycle costs of different fuels, which could be an area of further coordination with the Subcommittee. Additional information regarding CAAFI can be found at www.airportattorneys.com/data/caafi. Subsequent to the Annual Meeting, the Chairs of AV030, the Climate Subcommittee and the Sustainability Subcommittee scheduled further discussion of the well-to-wake issue for the Mid-Year Meeting to be held in Toronto in late May 2008.

5. Mid-Year Meeting Plans

The Subcommittee briefly discussed the value of meeting during the AV030 Committee's mid-year meeting in Toronto.

6. Coordination with Other Committees/Subcommittees

Jerry Bernstein will coordinate with the Economics Committee, Lewison Lem with the Transportation Energy and Alternative Fuels Committee, and John Putnam with the Aviation Sustainability Subcommittee. Please let John Putnam know if you are interested in coordinating with other relevant Committees.

7. 2009 Annual Meeting Topics

The TRB 2009 Annual Meeting will have the unifying theme of climate change and energy, so there is a natural opportunity for the Subcommittee to develop sessions. The Committee considered a few options, including the status of aviation-related cirrus impacts on climate forcing, adaptation of aviation to climate change and offset issues. We will discuss this issue further in upcoming Subcommittee calls and the Mid-Year meeting. Mary Ellen Eagan will need Committee recommendations by early June.

8. Future Subcommittee Activities

Due to the shortage of time, there was only brief discussion of future Subcommittee activities. Brian Kim, Judith Patterson and Megan Smirti agreed to work on the development of a web-based clearinghouse or other mechanism for disseminating research relating to aviation climate issues.

Questions? Please Contact the Subcommittee Chair:

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