



# TRB Paper Submission Update

## Contributing Factors

### The Challenges

- Paper submissions have doubled in the last 15 years; staff and volunteers have not (industry data indicate that this trend will continue)
- This year volunteers conducted ~20,000 reviews in 6 weeks
- Quality of reviews vary wildly
- Evidence that some authors submit for presentation to receive committee reviews and then withdraw and publish elsewhere
- Only about 5% of papers are posted to the Online Program; our sponsors expect to have access to all of the research presented

### The Risks

- TRB and its committees do not have the capacity to monitor review quality or integrity
- The process is vulnerable to abuse by nefarious players (one person used AI to conduct 126 TRBAM 24 reviews outside of their area of expertise; other evidence of AI-generated reviews)
- Papers submitted for publication consideration may be subject to extended review times if the wrong committee reviewed the paper, or if the paper received inadequate review

### Our Solution

- Separate publication review from the Annual Meeting schedule
- Require Annual Meeting authors to submit a short Research Summary instead of a full academic paper
- Limit the review to numerical ratings and curated free-text questions

### The Benefits

- The Summary will have most of the components of a research paper in an abbreviated form
- Sponsors will have access to the summaries
- Reviews (and reviewer expectations) will be standardized and consistent
- The format is scalable within our current structure

### Research Summary basics

- Minimum of 1000 words and a maximum of 1750 words
- Maximum total of 4 figures and/or tables (not counted in the word limit)
- Required elements: Title page, Introduction, Methodology, Findings, Conclusion, References (title page and references are not included in the word limit)
- Full instructions coming soon