

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT REAUTHORIZATION

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Congress is in the process of reauthorizing TEA-21, the six-year, \$300 billion transportation bill, providing an excellent opportunity to integrate many of the ideals brought forth in ICOET into transportation policy. With appropriate federal guidance, such best practices in the areas of wildlife, fisheries, wetlands, water quality, and overall ecosystems management could become the standard. Likewise, without support within the new bill, many states and practitioners will find it more difficult to continue making positive strides in stewardship and resource protection.

Reauthorization issues that promise to be of interest to ICOET participants include:

1. Environmental streamlining
2. Transportation enhancements
3. Impact mitigation
4. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
5. Continuation of University Transportation Centers (UTC)
6. Cooperative Environmental Research Program (CERP)
7. Habitat connectivity across transportation corridors (aquatic and terrestrial)
8. Transportation on Federal lands
9. Landscape level transportation planning

Biographical Sketch: Trisha White is the Transportation Associate for Defenders of Wildlife at the national headquarters in Washington, DC. Trisha directs the new Habitat & Highways campaign, which seeks to reduce the impact of surface transportation infrastructure on wildlife and encourages state and local authorities to incorporate wildlife conservation into transportation and community planning. In partnership with the Surface Transportation Policy Project (STPP), Trisha just released her new report, *Second Nature: Improving Transportation Without Putting Nature Second*. She is a Leader of TransWild, a coalition of biodiversity conservation organizations working on TEA-21 reauthorization. She is also on the ICOET sponsor/planning committee, a member of FHWA's European Scan Tour on Wildlife Mortality, and a member of the TRB Ecology and Transportation Task Force.

Prior to her present position, Trisha spent three years with World Resources Institute's Biological Resources program, and one year as environment policy consultant to USAID's Global Environment Center. In 2000, she received her Masters degree in environment and resource policy from the George Washington University, and has her bachelor's degree in political science from Central Michigan University.