

[SPECIAL SESSION]

SECURING TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS

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An important component of homeland security is protection of critical infrastructure. Transportation networks are ones of the most important infrastructures for the economic and well being of a state but at the same time is very vulnerable to both terrorism and natural disasters.

This special session will focus on protecting our transportation network including airports, water ports, highways, tunnels and bridges, rail and mass transit. These infrastructures may face various threats, namely biological, chemical, nuclear (dirty bombs), cyber, or natural disaster. Policy makers at all three levels of government (federal, state, and local) and academic researchers are concerned with setting priorities and must decide on the relative emphasis to put on the three main tasks when faced with attack: preparation, response, and recovery. The special session will addresses questions of target protection, target hardening, and response provisions.

A variety of issues could be addressed including:

- Technology innovations in protecting our transportation infrastructure including detection of hazardous materials at our borders and public transport system.
- Feasibility of new technologies and their economic evaluation.
- Organizational and technological innovations solution to target protection and response provisions including improved communication and coordination, creation of institutional structures, insurance policies and regulations, public private partnership, incentives for private participation and taxation changes to encourage investments in detecting and preparing for disasters.
- Efficient means to screen and identify potential terrorists at border crossings and on boarding to different transportation modes.
- Network recovery and how to best manage the network when one link or node is out of service.
- Travellers' response to disasters and the management of evacuation.
- Changes in travel behaviour as a response to terrorism and natural disaster

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Contributors from academia, industry, practitioners, consultants, and policy makers are welcome to this session that will cover a broad spectrum of disciplines including but not limited to technology, communication, public policy, public administration, economics, risk and insurance, transportation engineering, and travel behaviour. Papers presented at this session will be considered for publication in a book on the same topic as part of a book series published by Springer on Protecting Critical Infrastructure.