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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Transportation Research Board Appoints Four Local Transportation Professionals from the Rahall Transportation Institute at Marshall University (Dr. Junwook Chi, Dr. Diana Long, Dr. Andrew Nichols, Dr. Wael Zatar) to a total of Seven National Committees

HUNTINGTON, W.VA. – Four local transportation professionals from the Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute (RTI), a National University Transportation Center based at Marshall University (MU), have been appointed by the National Transportation Research board to a total of seven national committees.

“RTI and Marshall University are very fortunate to have the expertise of Dr. Jun Wook Chi, Dr. Diana Long, Dr. Andrew Nichols and Dr. Wael Zatar, as part of our team of transportation researchers,” Bob Plymale, RTI director, said. “Each of them brings a unique perspective and valuable contribution to the body of transportation research, and we are honored to see them recognized on a national level.

“These appointments further validate the impact of the team of transportation professionals assembled at RTI to meet the transportation, economic development and workforce development needs of West Virginia, the Appalachian Region and the nation.”

Dr. Chi, a transportation economist at RTI and MU, has been appointed to the Transportation and Economic Development Committee. The committee is concerned with the macroeconomic effects of transportation infrastructure investments, the effects of transportation cost changes on local and regional competitiveness, and methodological issues in defining and measuring effects of transportation investments on economic growth and performance. The committee is also concerned with the economic development effects of varying intermodal and modal investment strategies.

Dr. Long, RTI workforce development director, has been appointed to the Committee on Transportation Education and Training. The scope of this committee includes the improvement of communications among the academic community, the private and public sectors, and governmental agencies involved with academic training in the transportation field and the development of improved educational and training programs at all academic levels and for professional and pre-college education. The committee will be concerned with the present status of education in transportation, with new developments and innovations, with future personnel needs, and with professional training and development.

Dr. Nichols, an RTI principle investigator and MU assistant professor of engineering, has been appointed to the Highway Traffic Monitoring Committee and the Expert Task Group on LTPP Traffic Data Collection and Analysis. The Highway Traffic Monitoring Committee is concerned with all aspects of research in the fields of highway traffic monitoring, including detection, counting, classification, and in-motion weighing of highway vehicles. Its scope encompasses the full range of monitoring technology, including traffic sensors (both intrusive and non-intrusive), installation materials and techniques, signal processing algorithms, analysis and reporting techniques, and comprehensive monitoring programs. The committee is also concerned with highway monitoring standards to ensure the applicability and quality of traffic data in all its applications.

The Expert Task Group (ETG) on LTPP Traffic Data Collection and Analysis is a subsidiary committee of the TRB Long-Term Pavement Performance Committee. Its purpose is to advise the TRB Long-Term Pavement Performance Committee on matters related to collection, processing, uploading into the LTPP database, and analysis of traffic data collected at LTPP test sites throughout North America. The ETG provides comments and advice intended to help solve operational problems encountered in these activities. The work of the ETG is intended to facilitate the accumulation in the LTPP database of high-quality traffic data in quantities sufficient to support LTPP analysis projects. These projects are designed to produce outcomes that lead to products addressing the high-priority pavement-related needs of state highway departments. The work of the ETG also includes reviewing those parts of the plans, activities, and progress of LTPP's data analysis and product development activities that pertain to the use of LTPP traffic data, and reporting its findings and suggestions to the TRB Long-Term Pavement Performance Committee.

Dr. Zatar, RTI principle investigator and professor of engineering at MU, has been appointed to three committees: Structural Fiber Reinforced Polymers Committee, Properties of Concrete Committee and the SHRP 2 Technical Expert Task Group on Nondestructive Testing Techniques for Mapping Voids, Bonding, and Moisture Behind or Within Tunnel Linings (Project R06-G).

Zatar was selected to serve as Communications Coordinator for the Structural Fiber Reinforced Polymers Committee. This committee is concerned with the development and use of structural applications of fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) composites for transportation related structures; including bridges, maintenance buildings, pipes, sign and luminaire support poles, guide rails, and guard rails. Activities of this committee help develop an awareness of the potential impacts of using composites for a wide range of structural applications and provide information for development and conduct of academic courses on FRP composites for civil engineers.

The Properties of Concrete Committee is concerned with the properties of conventional and high-performance concrete and test methods and procedures for measuring the properties of concrete, including non-destructive testing, and procedures for concrete quality control and quality assurance. The SHRP 2 Technical Expert Task Group on Nondestructive Testing Techniques for Mapping Voids, Bonding, and Moisture Behind or Within Tunnel Linings (Project R06-G) will advise SHRP 2 staff on the technical progress of Project R06-G, so that the outcome of the project will meet the research objectives set forth in the general plan of contract research established by the SHRP 2 Technical Coordinating Committee on Renewal Research and the scope of work included in the request for proposals.

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