



American Statistical Association

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May 28, 2010

Peter H. Appel
Administrator, Research and Innovative Technology Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Appel,

Thank you for the announcement of Professor John-Paul Clarke being named chair of the Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics (ACTS). More importantly, thank you for re-establishing ACTS to provide recommendations to help the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) continually improve the quality and relevance of its data.

The members of the council have impressive résumés and seem to be largely transportation experts and other “users” of transportation statistics. While these are valuable perspectives for the council, we lament the absence of a statistician. Given the nature of ACTS, it seems essential to have a statistician’s perspective well represented. For the analogous committees associated with the U.S. Census Bureau, the Energy Information Administration, and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, statisticians with strong connections to the statistical community and the federal statistical agencies are members.

As vacancies for ACTS come up, we hope you make the representation of statisticians a priority. We also strongly encourage representation of people with significant experience with federal statistical agencies. The American Statistical Association offers its assistance to you to ensure these important constituencies are represented so ACTS can better serve its role of helping BTS continually improve the quality and relevance of its data.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally C. Morton".

Sally C. Morton, PhD
2009 President, American Statistical Association

CC: Steven Dillingham, Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics