

Transportation and Public Utilities Group (TPUG) By-Laws

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Transportation and Public Utilities Group.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

- Sec. 1 The purpose is to provide a common meeting site for the exchange of economic ideas, theoretical and empirical research results, and public policy aspects on transportation, public utility, and related topics.
- Sec. 2 The objectives are to be served and accomplished by the group’s website, through newsletters, the distribution of technical papers, local, national, and international media, and in any other method determined by TPUG’s Governing Body.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- Sec. 1 Any person interested in transportation economics, public utility, and related research shall be eligible for membership, providing the applicant meets such qualifications as may be established by TPUG’s Governing Body.
- Sec. 2 The membership year shall be August 1 through July 31. New members that join after May 1 will enjoy first-year membership benefits through July 31 of the following year.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

- Sec. 1 At least one meeting of the membership will be held each year at the annual meeting of the Allied Social Science Association (ASSA) in January. At the annual meeting, newly elected Officers will be announced.
- Sec. 2 At least fifteen (15) days’ notice giving the time and place of participation in all meetings shall be given to the membership.
- Sec. 3 The members participating in any meetings (whether in person or by electronic means) shall constitute a quorum of the membership, and a majority vote of those members shall be sufficient to act upon any proposal or matter.

ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS

- Sec. 1 The Officers of TPUG shall be elected for a term commencing immediately after the annual meeting in January. Officers shall be elected by secret ballot of the membership. Electronic ballots will be available to the entire membership fifteen (15) days prior to the annual meeting. To be counted, electronic ballots must be received by the start time of the annual meeting. Officers shall be elected by a count of electronic ballots and secret ballots of the membership present who have not voted electronically.
- Sec. 2 Officer vacancies which occur between Annual Meetings shall be filled for the duration of the unexpired term by the Governing Body.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

- Sec. 1 The Officers of TPUG consist of a President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. TPUG's Executive Committee consists of TPUG's presidents for the previous three (3) years. TPUG Officers and Executive Committee constitute TPUG's Governing Body.
- Sec. 2 The President shall be the chief executive officer of TPUG and preside as chair of all meetings of the membership and Governing Body. The President shall have the power to appoint other staff and also to appoint committees, subject to disapproval by the Governing Body. In addition, the President shall perform all duties, bear all responsibilities, and enjoy all authority customary to Presidential function.
- Sec. 3 The President-Elect shall preside in the absence of the President and shall perform such duties and bear such responsibilities as may be assigned by the President.
- Sec. 4 The President and President-Elect, with the Assistance of the Secretary, shall be responsible for developing TPUG session programs at the ASSA annual meeting.
- Sec. 5 The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of all meetings of the membership and of the Governing Body, shall circulate copies of these to the Governing Body promptly following each such meeting.
- Sec. 6 The Treasurer shall be responsible for:
- (a) The receipt, disbursement, and safekeeping of all TPUG funds, which shall be deposited in an insured depository. The depository and cash investments must be approved by the Governing Body.
 - (b) Financial records of the TPUG.

- (c) Preparation of the annual budget, financial reports, tax forms, and an annual report as of the end of each fiscal year, which shall end on December 31.

Sec. 7 Unless specifically provided otherwise, executive and administrative responsibilities designated to individual officers by this article and other articles of these by-laws may be delegated by such officers, or by the Governing Body, or by the President, either to other individuals or to committees. Notice of delegations shall be provided to the President.

ARTICLE VII – GOVERNING BODY

Sec.1 Subject to Article 8, the management of TPUG and the authority for the conduct of its affairs shall be vested in a Governing Body consisting of the four (4) Officers identified in Article 6, and the immediate three past presidents.

Sec. 2 The Governing Body has the authority to remove any member of the Governing Body for cause, upon a vote of a majority of the Members of the Governing Body.

Sec. 3 Four (4) members shall constitute a quorum at Governing Body meetings, which shall be called at least once a year, which shall coincide with the ASSA Annual meeting. Additional Governing Body meetings may be held at the direction of the President or the request of three (3) members of the Governing Body. Any such additional meetings may be by electronic means, including but not limited to teleconference or videoconference.

Sec. 4 The Governing Body may create special committees and task forces, appoint staff and consultants, and take such other actions as it deems appropriate to further the goals of TPUG subject to any specific requirements of these by-laws.

Sec. 5 The Governing Body is empowered, notwithstanding any other provision of these by-laws, other than section 1 of Article 4, to use electronic means, including but not limited to email and telephone, in lieu of face-to-face meetings and mail, to conduct the affairs of TPUG.

ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES

Sec. 1 The President shall appoint a nominating committee of at least three (3) members including a chair, who will nominate Officers to be elected, such nominee names to be given to the membership at least fifteen (15) days before the annual election. No member of the nominating committee is eligible to run for office during the year for which the nominations are presented.

Sec. 2 The Secretary shall be responsible for judging the acceptability of membership applicants.

ARTICLE IX – ANNUAL DUES

TPUG dues as determined by the Governing Body will be assessed annually, and are payable when billed.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Sec.1 These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the membership by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, provided that at least fifteen (15) days written notice of such proposed amendment and meeting shall have been given to all members prior to said amendment. Such notice shall set forth the exact language of the proposed amendment, but the members at said meeting shall be empowered to change or modify such language so long as the amendment, as finally adopted, is within the scope and purposes of the proposed amendment of which notice was given.

Sec. 2 In addition, the Governing Body shall have the authority to institute a ballot by mail or by email or other electronic means at any time for the purpose of proposing amendments to these By-Laws. Under such procedure, the By-Laws may be amended by mail ballot or by electronic ballot submitted to the entire membership at least forty-five (45) days prior to the proposed date for any amendment to become effective. Amendments must be approved by a majority of those members responding to the balloting procedures. Only ballots received by the President at least ten (10) days prior to the proposed effective date will be counted.

As established September 20, 2017

As amended April 1, 2022