



Measuring Investment in Transport Infrastructure:

“Information = **numbers** with a **purpose**”

Lou Thompson
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Thompson Galenson & Associates
14684 Stoneridge Drive
Saratoga, CA 95070-5745
www.tgaassoc.com

408 647-2104
Fax 408 647-2105
lou.thompson@gmail.com

Overall Objective

- Improving our knowledge of infrastructure investment values and maintenance costs
- Exchanges among experts to share information and challenges
- Describe common issues and problems
- Formulate a reasonable set of steps forward

Initial Impressions: Dangerous to Summarize

■ Diversity on many levels

- Terminology by profession (economics, finance, planning)
- Audience/users and their purposes (Macro (Valila, Van de Ven)/Micro (ORR, RFF))
- Definition of terms (Investment, upgrading, maintenance)
- The impact of history: we have what we have, hard to change or improve.

Demand driven versus Supply driven problem

- Who needs us
 - Government for road economic policy
 - Development Agencies
 - Investment and operating agencies
 - Companies
 - Researchers
- Our product is used for?
 - High level policy/planning analysis
 - Program and investment analysis
 - Daily management
 - Regulation
 - Research
- Could ALL these needs be met? Can some serve each other?

Clear problems (do we have numbers or information?)

- Lack of agreed definitions (Investment, upgrading, maintenance)
- Lack of commonly needed information such as price indices and PPP data?
- Major gaps in data in many countries and no clear reason for the gaps
- Lack of social impact data to match the data we have (emissions, safety, etc)

A major gap: Impact of performance data

- Heavy focus on inputs and not nearly enough on outputs: what do we get for our investment and operating costs?
- Result: how do we choose among investments

The Macro/Micro Gap

- Broad purposes for macro users not well served. Why?
- Narrower purpose of regulators (ORR and RFF) relatively well served: why? Clarity of purpose, authority to implement.
- What does this say about the institutional framework for the production and use of data?
- Does the regulatory approach work only for narrow, commercialized activities, or can it be applied more broadly.

Implied recommendations for future activity

- Huge need for:
 - Better and agreed definitions or purposes and of the objectives for data to be gathered and reported
 - BUT: we can't be everything for everybody
 - Clearer and workable definition of terms (has to be "good enough")
 - Restate data collected for appropriate level
 - Adding "social impact" data
- One thought: we had few actual users at this discussion – airlines, railways, truckers. How would they have reacted to our discussions.
- **OF COURSE:** focused working groups to develop the above and communicate it to users and producers of data