

# Joint SimSub and SimCap Summer Meeting



June 25, 2021 | 9:00 – 10:30a CST  
Online | Zoom Webinar

## 1. Background

The Simulation Subcommittee (SimSub) is a joint subcommittee of [ACP20](#), [ACP25](#), [ACP40](#), [ACP50](#), [ACP55](#), [ACP80](#), [AEP40](#), and [AMS10](#). SimSub aims to: *converge and support dialogue between key industry, user-related, and research groups in the traffic simulation field as to foster joint efforts, improve products, and address user needs.*

[ITE Simulation and Capacity Analysis Committee](#) (SimCap) is a volunteer network of professionals who have organized together to share experiences and promote best practices in the application of traffic simulation and capacity analysis tools, methods, and related practice areas.

## 2. Meeting Objectives

- Learn of ITE SimCap: its mission and goals, local Chapters, and past and upcoming activities.
- Learn of recent SimSub activities—including updates from the User Needs, Resources, and Liaison/Outreach task groups.
- Hear the latest updates from varied simulation software vendors, including: Aimsun, Caliper Corporation, and PTV Group.

## 3. Attendance

There were 55 attendees. They are listed in [Appendix A](#) and composed of 47% consultants, 22% academics, 14% state DOT, 9% vendors, 4% local DOT, 2% federal DOT, and 2% other.

## 4. Meeting Notes<sup>1</sup>

- **Welcome and Introductions**
  - Chris Melson (LTRC) welcomed attendees and initiated meeting.
  - It is anticipated that future quarterly SimSub meetings will be held jointly with SimCap.
- **SimCap Updates**
  - Eric Tripi (GHD) provided an overview of SimCap, its goals, initiatives, and summarized recent activities. Please see [attached presentation slides](#) (“SimCap Updates”).
  - Eric announced two upcoming events:
    - [Traffic Analysis, Modeling, and Simulation Cornucopia](#) (July 28, 1:30—3:00p ET) – a session at the 2021 ITE Annual Meeting; and

<sup>1</sup> Meeting notes prepared by Chris Melson.

- The upcoming SimCap Committee Meeting (August 4, 4:00—5:30p ET) to be jointly hosted by SimSub.
  - Soheil Sajjadi (Arcadis) discussed recent activities by [NCSITE SimCap User Group](#) (a local SimCap chapter). Soheil and Nelida Herrera (Arcadis) will be establishing a new SimCap chapter in Ohio. For those interested in starting a local SimCap chapter, please contact Eric ([Eric.Tripi@ghd.com](mailto:Eric.Tripi@ghd.com)).
- **SimSub Updates**
  - Chris provided the following updates on behalf of ACP80:
    - ACP80 is planning a Workshop at the 2022 TRB Annual Meeting on “Modeling, Calibration, and Validation of Supply and Demand at Roadway Junctions”. For liaison committees interested in co-sponsoring, please contact Chris ([cmelson1@lsu.edu](mailto:cmelson1@lsu.edu)).
    - The National Operations Center of Excellence (NOCOe) is organizing a webinar on “The Role and Benefit of Traffic Simulation in Transportation Management and Operations (TSMO)”. We are seeking speakers/case studies on how simulation has been used in real-world TSMO deployments. If interested in presenting, please contact Chris ([cmelson1@lsu.edu](mailto:cmelson1@lsu.edu)).
  - SimSub has established the following Task Groups: User Needs, Resources, and Liaison/Outreach. Members of each Task Group are listed in [Appendix B](#).
  - Mike Reese (NC DOT) discussed potential activities that the **User Needs Task Group** could pursue:
    - Reviewing previously collected user needs and their varied sources.
    - Developing and disseminating an annual survey identifying: (1) the primary uses of traffic simulation, (2) analyzed applications, and (3) corresponding user needs.
      - It was discussed how user needs will vary based on what decision is being made. User needs will also vary depending on the application being analyzed.
      - The annual survey will be able to track how (1), (2), and (3) change over time. It will also identify recurring user needs.
      - The annual survey may require coordination with liaison committees, as user needs related to input data may also arise.
  - Georges Bou-Saab (Arcadis) discussed potential activities that the **Liaison/Outreach Task Group** could pursue:
    - Supporting collaborative efforts between liaisons by: (1) actively organizing joint efforts/events and (2) promoting efforts led by individual liaisons (e.g., promoting “call for papers” and coordinating paper reviews).
      - This will include identifying TSSM reviewers, promoting the TSSM, and disseminating related resources (when applicable).
    - Soliciting and disseminating regularly scheduled e-mail updates from liaisons and other partners.
  - Apoorba Bibeka (TTI) discussed potential activities that the **Resources Task Group** could pursue:
    - Begin curating list of existing resources (primarily published documents) of value to traffic simulation practitioners.
      - Reviewing existing sources of such information (e.g., [ITE SimCap](#)).
      - Identifying ways resources can be better organized in a database format (e.g., organized by TSSM chapters or “tagged” by topic area).

- Identifying gaps in resources; coordinating with User Needs Task Group to address gaps.
  - Identifying how these resources can supplement the TSSM.
  - Maintaining calendar of events (located on [ITE SimCap's website](#)).
  - If interested in joining a Task Group, please contact Chris ([cmelson1@lsu.edu](mailto:cmelson1@lsu.edu)).
- **Vendors Updates<sup>2</sup>**
  - Matthew Jukes (Aimsun) provided updates on Aimsun Next 20 and Aimsun Next 22 (coming out this Summer). Please see [attached presentation slides](#) (“Aimsun SimSub Update”).
  - Daniel Morgan (Caliper) showcased new features of TransModeler 6.0. Please see [attached presentation slides](#) (“TransModeler SimSub Update”).
  - Jochen Lohmiller (PTV) discussed features of Visum and Vissim – and PTV’s [Technical Resource Hub](#). Please see [attached presentation slides](#) (“PTV SimSub Update”).
- **Update on TSSM Review Process**
  - Mohamed Hadi (Florida International University) stated that 7 groups (mainly comprised of ACP80 Members) are currently reviewing assigned sections of the TSSM. One group is responsible for compiling comments and making a final list of recommend updates (if needed). ACP80 will vote to accept the TSSM, and if accepted, the TSSM will then go through TRB’s publication process. The target timeline is to make the TSSM available by early next year.
- **Wrap Up**
  - Chris adjourned the meeting.

## 5. Action Items

- Sanhita Lahiri/Mohamad Hadi to submit ACP80 Workshop proposal to TRB (Jul.).
- Chris Melson to confirm speakers and finalize agenda for the NOCoE webinar (Jul.).
- Chris Melson/Eric Tripi to organize next joint SimSub and SimCap meeting (Aug.).
- Chris Melson/John Shaw to continue supporting Task Groups (ongoing). Anticipate more defined Task Group activities and timeline by the end of the year.
- Please contact Chris ([cmelson1@lsu.edu](mailto:cmelson1@lsu.edu)) or John ([jwshaw@iastate.edu](mailto:jwshaw@iastate.edu)) with suggestions on activities or any other feedback.

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<sup>2</sup> SimSub and ITE SimCap do NOT endorse or promote specific modeling software or vendors. Additional vendors will provide updates at the next Joint SimSub and SimCap Meeting on August 4 at 4:00 – 5:30p ET.

## Appendix A: Attendee List

Attendees are listed in alphabetical order by last name.

**Table A-1. List of attendees.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Organization Type</b>
Md Jahedul Alam	Dalhousie University	Academic
Gustavo de Andrade	McTrans Center	Academic
Karzan Bahaaldin	JMT	Consultant
Behzad Bamdad	UC Louvain	Academic
Rob Beuthling	HNTB	Consultant
Joe Blasi	HNTB	Consultant
Georges Bou-Saab	Arcadis	Consultant
Tom Boyke	WI DOT	State government
Christine Buisson	Université Gustave Eiffel	Academic
Jordi Casas	Aimsun	Vendor
Zorica Cvijovic	University of Wyoming	Academic
Jeanne-Marie Deletsu	Ontario Ministry of Transportation	Local government
Sudheer Dhulipala	WSB	Consultant
Maryam Ghaffari Dolama	University of Manitoba	Academic
Ruchi Dutta	WI DOT	State government
Parry Frank	CMAP	Local government
Shalini Ghosh	WSP	Consultant
Mohammed Hadi	Florida International University	Academic
David Hale	Leidos	Consultant
Gary Harrington	OH DOT	State government
Nelida Herrera	Arcadis	Consultant
Md Sakoat Hossan	Kittelson and Associates	Consultant
Mona Hunt	ID DOT	State government
Vichika Iragavarapu	STV	Consultant
Randy Johnson	DKS	Consultant
Matthew Juckes	Aimsun	Vendor
Joe Lam	ITC&E	Consultant
Russell Lewis	WI DOT	State government
Jochen Lohmiller	PTV Group	Vendor
Vladimir Majano	FL DOT	State government
Yousheng Mao	Parsons	Consultant
Shravya Markandeya	CHA Consulting	Consultant
Christopher Melson	LTRC	Academic
Daniel Morgan	Caliper	Vendor
Keir Opie	Cambridge Systematics	Consultant
Farhad Pooran	Econolite	Consultant
Kellie Reep	Stantec	Consultant
Mike Reese	NC DOT	State government

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Organization Type</b>
Aimee Robertson	HNTB	Consultant
Theresa Rohlfs	OH DOT	State government
Soheil Sajjadi	Arcadis	Consultant
Fabio Sasahara	McTrans	Academic
Maryam Shirinzad	Texas A&M Transportation Institute	Academic
Dave Stanek	Fehr & Peers	Consultant
James Sturrock	FHWA	Federal government
Nathanael Tan	FPTO	Other
Elsa Tedla	University of Alabama	Academic
Eric Tripi	GHD	Consultant
Joe Ulatowski	HNTB	Consultant
Andrew Velasquez	AECOM	Consultant
Sara Wicklund	Patriot Transportation Engineering	Consultant
Jongsun Won	PTV Group	Vendor
Guoyuan Wu	UC – Riverside	Academic
Mark Yedlin	GPI	Consultant

## Appendix B: SimSub Task Group Members

Members of the User Needs (Table B-1), Resources (Table B-2), and Liaison/Outreach (Table B-3) Task Group are listed below.

**Table B-1. Members of the User Needs Task Group.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Organization Type</b>
Sudheer Dhulipala	WSB	Consultant
Shalini Ghosh	WSP	Consultant
Vishal Mandal	WSP	Consultant
Mike Reese	NC DOT	State government
Mark Yedlin	GPO	Consultant

**Table B-2. Members of the Resources Task Group.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Organization Type</b>
Apoorba Bibeka	Texas A&M Transportation Institute	Academic
Joe Blasi	HNTB	Consultant
Chris Day	Iowa State University	Academic
Vicki Haskell	WI DOT	State government
Yingyan Lou	Arizona State University	Academic
Abhilasha Saroj	Georgia Tech	Academic
Maryam Shirinzad	Texas A&M Transportation Institute	Academic

**Table B-3. Members of the Liaison/Outreach Task Group.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Organization Type</b>
Md Jahedul Alam	Dalhousie University	Academic
Georges Bou-Saab	Arcadis	Consultant
Lin Zhang	Elite Transportation Group	Consultant