**Road Ecology Research and Outreach: Final Report**

**Task Order 1: International Conference on Ecology and Transportation (ICOET)**

**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

All work was completed on or before December 31, 2021.

**TECHNICAL POINTS OF CONTACT**

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Conference Summary

The conference was highly-successful, drawing 581 attendees from most US states and 29 countries, including 32 college students and a high-school student. This was the largest ICOET so far and the first entirely virtual conference. The virtual nature of the conference had plus and negative aspects. On the positive side, more participants were able to attend from more places (states and countries) than would have been able to had the conference been in-person only. On the negative side, all interactions were virtual, removing the in-person and face-to-face benefits of going to a conference. There were over 200 podium, poster, and panel presentations, 6 virtual field trips, and frequent virtual table conversations.

Funding for the conference was from a combination of registration fees ($103,000 gross), private sponsors ($30,000), and the Pooled Fund Study ($35,000). The lack of federal funding and lower than normal private sponsorship made the PFS contribution that much more important. Without it, registration fees would have been ~25% higher.

The conference agenda and abstracts were shared through the primary ICOET website: <https://icoet.net>. The program, including live video links for pre-recorded material was shared with registrants through Canva, a software package suitable for sharing programs with live links: <https://www.canva.com/design/DAEkz8tS378/Il6LlVpURg7rXcIicHT6_A/view?utm_content=DAEkz8tS378&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton#1>. The pre-recorded presentations are also linked in the icoet.net website, but will only be visible after April 1, 2022 (~6 months post-conference).

Survey Summary

All registered participants were emailed a survey link after the conference and asked for feedback. This is normal for the conference, though some of the questions related to the virtual conference. The overall satisfaction with the conference was similar to the survey from 2019: 4/5; 2021: 4.1/5, as was the response to the question “Will you attend ICOET again?” 2019: 92% Yes, 7% Maybe; 2021: 90% Yes, 9% Maybe.

**Respondents**

109 respondents (19%), including 48 presenters, 3 moderators, 81 participants, 2 sponsors

**Respondent Disciplines**

48 Ecology, 25 Wildlife/Plant Biology, 8 Engineering, 9 Planning, 2 Design, 9 Policy, 2 Advocacy, 14 Others

**Participant’s First ICOET**

2021 = 45 (41%)

**How would you rate the conference platform, Remo?**

Extremely Friendly = 13 (12%), User Friendly = 58 (53%), Somewhat Friendly = 24 (22%), Not So Friendly = 14 (13%)

**How much of the conference were you able to attend?**

Full Conference = 85 (78%)

**Was the conference length too long, too short or about right?**

Much too long = 0, Too long = 26 (24%), About right = 80 (73%), Too short = 1 (1%), Much too short = 0

**If you were able to attend a field trip, which field trip did you attend?**

None = 29 (27%), FT 1 = 27 (25%), FT 2 = 16 (15%), FT 3 = 16 (15%), FT 4 = 34 (31%), FT 5 = 25 (23%), FT 6 = 34 (31%)

**How would you rank the field trip(s) you attended?**

4.4/5

**Similarly, how would you rate the technical sessions you attended?**

4.3/5

**How would you rate the multi-media (poster) sessions you attended?**

3.8/5

**Finally, how would you rate your overall conference experience?**

4.1/5

**Will you attend ICOET again?**

Yes = 98 (90%), No = 1 (1%), Maybe = 10 (9%)