A LaTeX Template for Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting Papers

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Total Number of Pages: 7

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This LaTeX template is unofficial and may not meet current TRB requirements. Please review the latest submission rules at TRB's Instructions for Authors and ensure your paper is compliant. Noncompliant papers may be rejected. Report any issues to https://github.com/chiehrosswang/TRB_LaTeX_tex.

ABSTRACT

For the 2027 Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting, TRB has updated their requirements for the submission process. This template offers a pragmatic starting point for authors using LaTeX (and related literate programming tools) while matching TRB conventions. Note that the Abstract now mush be formatted as a structured abstract per TRB guidance and it must be less than 300 words. The content below summarizes what each section of the structured abstract should include based on TRB's Instructions For Authors.

Objectives: In 2–3 sentences, define the specific transportation problem and context. State the objective of this paper and the specific need being addressed. Do not include broad background or literature review content.

Methods: In 3–4 sentences, describe the study design and technical rigor. Identify data type(s), source(s), and scope (e.g., sample size, time frame, and geography). Summarize the analytical approach used to evaluate the objective.

Findings: In 2–3 sentences, report the most important results. Indicate whether results are significant based on statistical testing, sensitivity analysis, validation, and/or rigorous qualitative assessment.

Novelty: In 1–2 sentences, clearly state the novel transportation contribution of this work.

Practical Applications: In 1–2 sentences, explain how findings inform transportation practice and/or policy, including specific implementation considerations or operational contexts.

INTRODUCTION

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) currently requires submissions of full papers to be considered for presentation at the TRB Annual Meeting (Transportation Research Board 2025). The Instructions For Authors website (https://trb.secure-platform.com/a/page/TRBPaperReview) outlines specific requirements for submissions. Initial submissions are PDFs, while accepted papers for the *Transportation Research Record* may require Microsoft Office formats. Manuscripts must be line-numbered; captions are bold with TRB-specific punctuation; in-text citations now use author–date format, and the reference list is alphabetical rather than numbered. See the author information online at https://trb.secure-platform.com/a/page/TRBPaperReview.

We assume basic familiarity with LaTeX and `bibtex`. As literate programming becomes more common, the template may evolve to support additional workflows.

History

Pritchard (2025) released the original template in 2009 and updated it in 2011. Macfarlane (2025) extended it in 2012 (Sweave integration and auto counts). Wang (2025) automated total word count calculation and improved formatting in 2015, added GitHub releases in 2016, and provided TeX-only variants in 2017 (https://github.com/chiehrosswang/TRB_LaTeX_tex) and an RNW version (https://github.com/chiehrosswang/TRB_LaTeX_rnw). The 2019 and 2025 updates focused on the TeX-only version: the 2019 update improved Overleaf compatibility, while the 2025 update enhanced word-counting and authorship blocks.

In May 2026, Wang (2025) made several updates to reflect the modifications TRB introduced to the 2027 Annual Meeting submission process, including but not limited to, simplifying the calculation of submission length, requiring a structured abstract, and requiring a standard citation style (i.e., Chicago author-date).

FEATURES

This template targets quick and TRB-compliant manuscript assembly (Transportation Research Board 2025).

Title Page

The class provides a custom `\maketitle` that prints authors (via `\TRBauthor`), a page count, and the submission date.

Page Layout

Margins are 1 in. The running header shows authors (set with `\AuthorHeaders`) at the left and the page number at the right. Headings and spacing follow TRB conventions.

Line Numbers

Line numbering uses the `lineno` package and resets each page. Blank lines are not numbered. The `numbered` class option enables line numbers.

MORE FEATURES

Captions

Figure 1 shows a Gumbel distribution as an example. Figure captions use sentence case. Table captions use Title Case and function as a short title. Table 1 summarizes the template history. Both Figure and Table captions are bold.

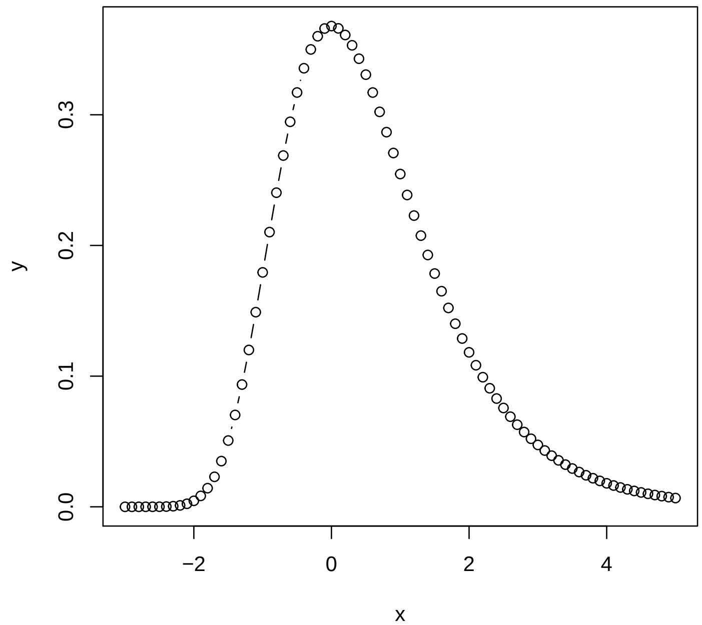

FIGURE 1 Example figure illustrating the caption style and counting on the title page.

TABLE 1 A History of this Template

Version	Date	Author	Contributions
1.0	Sep 2009	Pritchard	Initial work
1.1	Mar 2011	Pritchard	Caption fixes
2.0	Mar 2012	Macfarlane	Automation, documentation
2.1	Jul 2015	Wang	More automation and formatting
2.1.1	Jan 2016	Wang	Minor modifications; GitHub
2.1.1 Lite	Jun 2017	Wang	TeX-only template
3.1	Jun 2017	Wang	Added `trbunofficial.cls`
3.1 Lite	Jun 2017	Wang	Added `trbunofficial.cls`
4.0 Lite	Jul 2019	Wang	Word-count updates for Overleaf
5.0 Lite	Aug 2025	Wang	Word-count improvements*
6.0 Lite	Jun 2026	Wang	Replaced word count with page count; updated citation style

* Total counts include: Title, front matter, body texts, headers, captions, references. Total word counts do not include text in tables (each table is automatically counted as 250 words).

Bibliography

Use `trb.bst`. The commands `\cite{}` and `\citet{}` produce author–date citations. References appear in alphabetical order by first author. Here is an example using `\cite[]{}` (Meyer and

Miller 2001, 21-25) and another example Garrow et al. (2009) using `\citet{}`.

Other examples include Bierlaire (2003, 2008); Garrow et al. (2009); Koppelman and Garrow (2005) and grouped citations (Bierlaire 2003; Garrow et al. 2009; Koppelman and Garrow 2005).

Equations

Equations are left aligned with no extra indentation. Below is the Intelligent Driver Model (from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligent_driver_model).

$$\dot{x}_\alpha = \frac{\mathrm{d}x_\alpha}{\mathrm{d}t} = v_\alpha, \tag{1}$$

$$\dot{v}_\alpha = \frac{\mathrm{d}v_\alpha}{\mathrm{d}t} = a\left(1 - \left(\frac{v_\alpha}{v_0}\right)^\delta - \left(\frac{s^*(v_\alpha, \Delta v_\alpha)}{s_\alpha}\right)^2\right), \tag{2}$$

$$s^*(v_\alpha, \Delta v_\alpha) = s_0 + v_\alpha T + \frac{v_\alpha \, \Delta v_\alpha}{2\sqrt{a\, b}}\,. \tag{3}$$

Referencing Sections by Custom Names

Because this template does not use section numbering, referencing sections directly can be difficult. To address this, you can create hyperlinks to labeled sections with your own display text using the `\customref` command: `\customref{Displayed Text}{label}`.

For example, if you have defined `\label{sec:intro}` for the Introduction section, you can write `\customref{INTRODUCTION section}{sec:intro}` to produce a hyperlink that appears as INTRODUCTION section.

CONCLUSION AND BUILD

This is a placeholder for conclusions. To build with automatic page counting, use the following command:

```
latexmk trb_template.tex -pdf -pvc
```

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We thank Aleksandar Trifunovic (https://github.com/akstrfn) for putting together the initial `trbunofficial` class that advanced this work.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The authors confirm contribution to the paper as follows: study conception and design: X. Author, Y. Author; data collection: Y. Author; analysis and interpretation of results: X. Author, Y. Author, Z. Author; draft manuscript preparation: Y. Author, Z. Author. All authors reviewed the results and approved the final version of the manuscript.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS

X. Author is a member of Transportation Research Record's Editorial Board. All other authors declare no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and publication of this article.

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