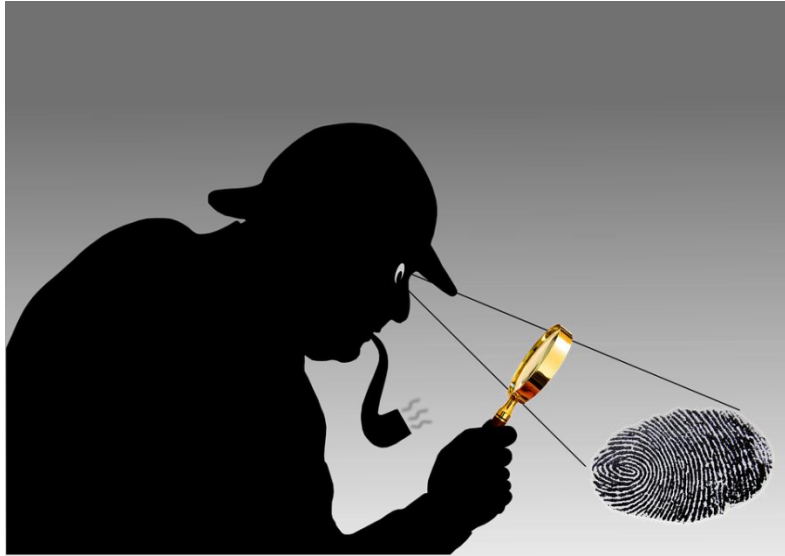




Investigating Fare Evasion

**TFLEx Fall Workshop
October 2019**

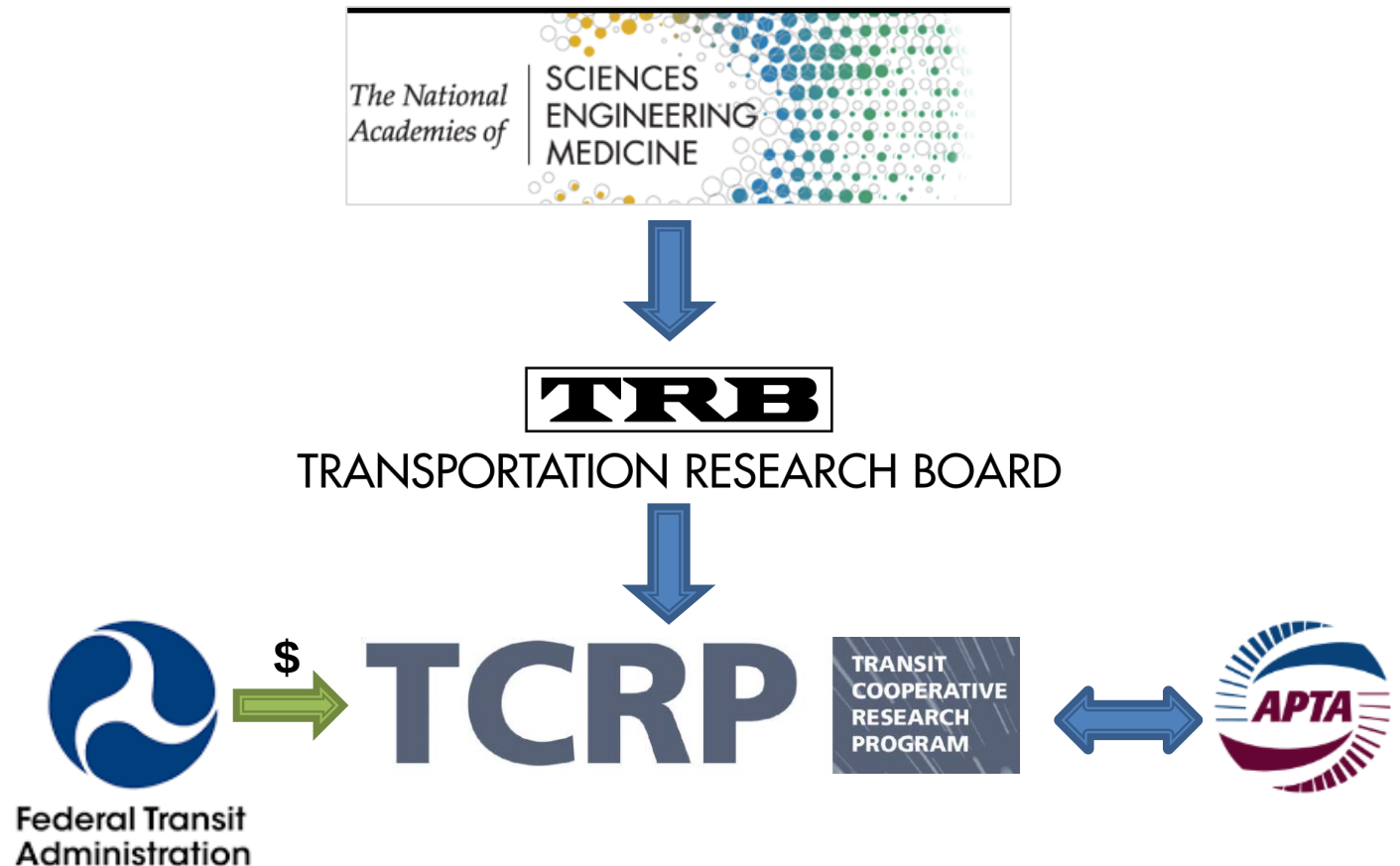
Background

- Major concern of transit police management
- Current discussions
 - Decriminalization
 - Homelessness
 - Equity
- Problem definition
- Follow-up to previous research



The Investigators: TCRP

- Annual call for problem statements
- Committee sets priorities
- Call for panel nominations
- Panel writes problem statement
- Researchers submit bids



The Study: Four Main Questions

How Is Fare
Evasion Defined?

How Is Fare
Evasion Measured?

How Is Fare
Evasion Deterred?

What Other Issues
Surround Fare
Evasion?



Definitions of Fare Evasion Vary by Agency

- “Using public transit without deliberately possessing/purchasing fare media”
- Free transfers?
- Fare media fraud?
 - Cloned smart media
 - Improper use of discounted media



Multiple Methods for Calculating Fare Evasion



- Boardings – fare transactions?
 - Fares used to measure ridership?
- % of fares checked
 - “Aquarium method”
- Observations
- Other

Deterrence and Enforcement

- Police presence
 - Sworn officers
 - Civilians
- Barriers
 - Fare gates
 - Station design
- Role of operators?
- Cost vs. revenue



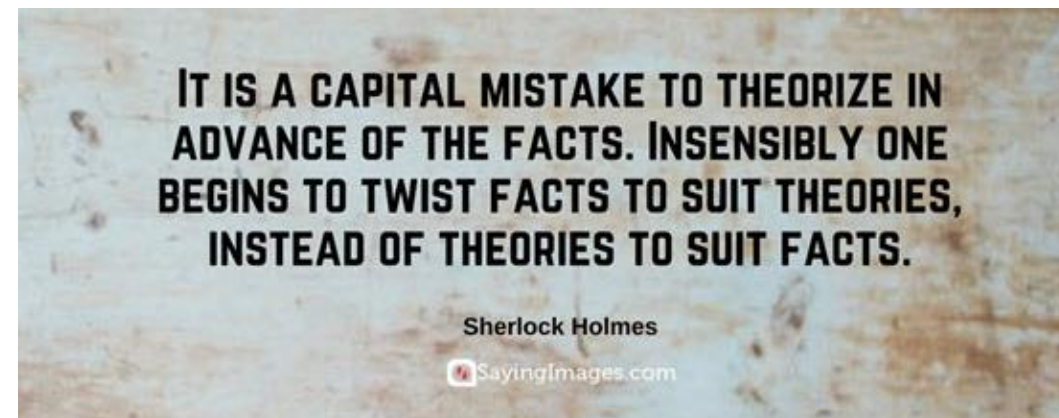
Other Issues Surrounding Fare Evasion



- Equity
- Effectiveness
- Penalties
- Agency Response
- Hiring/Training of Front-Line Personnel
- “Why not just make fares free?”

Study Deliverables

- TCRP Report, including:
 - Executive Summary
 - Structured Guide for Agencies
- Topics will include:
 - Causes of fare evasion
 - Costs and benefits of enforcement
 - Advantages/disadvantages of approaches
 - Policy decisions around efficiency and equity



TCRP Needs Your Help to Solve the Mystery

- Participate in Research if Asked:
 - Interviews with multi-modal and with bus-only agencies (commuter rail excluded)
 - Site visits with agencies as needed
- Read the Report and Spread the Word



Open Forum on Fare Evasion

- Challenges
- Methods of Measurement
- Trends in Fare Evasion
- Board/Community Interest
- Other Fare Evasion Topics

