**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility (ABE60)**

**Transportation Research Board 94th Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

**Marriott Marquis, Supreme Court – M4, Washington, D.C.**

**In Attendance**

**Co-Chairs**

Lalita Sen Texas Southern University

Russell Thatcher TranSystems Corp.

**Secretary**

Kenneth Joh Texas A&M University

**Members**

Julie Babinard The World Bank

Billie Louise Bentzen Accessible Design for the Blind (ADB)

Mary P. Crass OECD - International Transport Forum, France

Virginia Dize National Association of State Units on Aging

Nina Frid Canadian Transport Agency

Ann Frye Ann Frye, Ltd., United Kingdom

Joey M. Goldman Nelson/Nygaard Associates

Claude Marin-Lamellet IFSTTAR – LESCOT, France

Andrea Lubin Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center

Rex C.K. Luk Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation

James R. Marston University of California, Santa Barbara

Lilian Salazar Instituto Tecnologico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Mexico

John G. Schoon University of Southampton, United Kingdom

Richard Schultze RLS and Associates, Inc.

Judy L. Shanley Easter Seals

Anabela Simoes Instituto Superior de Educação e Ciências, Portugal

Aaron Steinfeld Carnegie Mellon University

Ling Sheung Suen Intelligent Computer Systems and Applications, Inc., Canada

Karen B. Wolf-Branigin The Arc

**Friends**

Bruno Aguiar University of Lisbon, Portugal

Carolina Burnier Noblis

David Chia The Collaborative, Inc.

Caroline Ferris Transystems Corp.

Arfaraz Khambatta SSA – Access Consulting Group

Sungyop Kim University of Missouri – Kansas City

Jonathan Klein Federal Transit Administration

C. Marie Maus Easter Seals Transportation Group & Project Action

Barbara McCann U.S. Department of Transportation

Campbell McKee European Mobility Group, United Kingdom

Eileen Miller National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Mark Muriello Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Lori Pierce Federal Aviation Administration

Tom Rickert Access Exchange International

Yvette Rivera U.S. Department of Transportation

Meg Robertson Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Uwe Rutenberg Rutenberg Design, Inc., Canada

Janett Jimenez-Santos Can Lah, SC, Mexico

Carol Tyson United Spinal Association

Subhash Chandra Vashishth Svayam, India

Takao Yamagihara Kimdai University

**TRB Staff**

Gwen Chisholm Smith TCRP

Steve Andrle Liaison to Committee

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Russell Thatcher. Copies of the meeting agenda (see Attachment 1) and a sign-in sheet were distributed. He briefly reviewed the items on the agenda.

**2. Introductions of Members and Friends**

All present, including committee members and friends, introduced themselves.

**3. Review of Minutes of 2014 Meeting**

The minutes of the 2014 meeting were reviewed.

**4. TRB Staff Announcements**

Russell Thatcher opened the discussion by introducing Steve Andrle of TRB, who announced changes in the membership of the committee and thanked the current co-chairs. There was also a discussion about who is responsible for the induction loop. Mark Muriello made an announcement about the webinar (deadline March 1, 2015) and encouraged to disseminate information. Additionally, “triannual plans” has to be submitted to TRB by March. Reminders about paper reviews and recommendations for publications were also given, in addition to recommendations for the Wootan Award.

**5. Report from TCRP**

Mr. Thatcher introduced Gwen Chisholm Smith who provided an update on the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP). She noted that it was the 23rd year of the TCRP. A total of 698 research projects have been authorized. It was noted that TCRP reports are available on the TRB and APTA websites and that an Annual Report of TRCP activities is prepared each year.

Ms. Chisholm Smith reported the budget for FY 2015 to be $6 million, a significant increase from $3 million in FY 2014. She also announced deadlines for the TOPS Committee nomination, due on January 26, and the synthesis topics, due on March 15.

**6. TRB Committee Communications Coordinators Council**

Mr. Thatcher introduced Joey Goldman to provide a report on the Communications Coordinators Council. He highlighted some of the communication tools used by other committees, such as committee websites, mid-year meetings and conference calls, webinars, quarterly newsletters, social media (e.g., Twitter, LinkedIn), and blogs and message boards. He also discussed e-blasts on research statements and additional topics for seminar, webinar and discussion pages.

**7. Subcommittee Reports**

**7.1. TRANSED Conference Planning Subcommittee, ABE60(5)**

Rosario Macario gave an update on the planning for the TRANSED 2015 conference in Lisbon. She announced several important deadlines: March 1 for full paper submission; April 28 for full review of papers; May 31 for final version of papers and case presentation of slides. Proceedings would be made available on a pen drive. Additionally, Elsevier will publish selected papers. The next conference (TRANSED 2018) will be held in Taipei, Taiwan.

**7.2. International Activities Subcommittee, ABE60(1)**

Ann Frye and Nina Frid opened the discussion on the continuity of TRANSED conferences. It has been a long-standing concern for the subcommittee. Svayam has offered a secretariat for TRANSED as well as a website, which could provide that continuity.

**7.3 Technology Subcommittee, ABE60(2)**

Aaron Steinfeld described the presentations for the Technology Subcommittee meeting on Monday, January 12. The subcommittee discussed new initiatives related to technology and accessible transportation. Specific presentation topics include: air transportation accessibility, accessibility passes, and accessible taxis. He mentioned that special attention should be paid to automated and connected vehicles as well as autonomous vehicles, as TRB would like input on these ideas. Mr. Steinfeld asked committee members to submit proposals to Aaron Steinfeld or Daniel Blais so that they could submit them to US DOT.

**7.4 Research Subcommittee, ABE60(4)**

Karen Wolf-Branigin reported on the 2014 paper review process. A total of 16 papers were reviewed, with at least three reviewers assigned to each paper. There were 40 reviewers. Two papers were selected for publication in TRR. Among the 16 papers submitted, 4 were accepted for podium sessions, and 8 were accepted for poster sessions.

Anabela Simoes reported on the development of research statements in 2014. The research subcommittee reviewed the nine research statements mentioned at last year’s meeting: 1) best practices in accessibility training for transportation personnel; 2) challenges faced by volunteer driver programs; 3) issues and solutions to support customers with disabilities during the trip chain; 4) solutions for people with disabilities who cannot travel alone; 5) connecting K-12 students to bus transportation and public transportation; 6) using public transport as a way to achieve active travel creating an accessible environment; 7) road conflict between scooters and wheelchairs; 8) effect of weather conditions on curb cuts and pedestrian routes; and 9) training social service agencies how to better provide accessible transportation. Among these research statements, three were selected. Currently, there are six ideas for research statements for next year.

Karen Wolf-Branigin announced the 2015 William Bell award recipients: Kate Hunter-Zaworski, Russell Thatcher, and Maryvonne Dejeammes.

**8. Pilot of Preliminary Guidelines for Accessible Poster Presentations**

Russell Thatcher described the work done by Jim Marston and Davis Lewis on making poster sessions more accessible, and they have worked on developing guidelines and to have TRB test these guidelines at the TRB 2016 meeting, and if successful, adopted by TRB for accessible posters. These guidelines include things like availability and communication such as making posters digitally available, guidelines on text and font size, and guidelines on images and graphics.

**9. Updates on Recent Developments and** **Research Projects**

Judy Shanley discussed the activities of the National Center for Mobility Management. As an international non-profit organization, they create opportunity for providing various services, education with transition, medical rehabilitation, and work cross-population including persons with disabilities, veterans, and seniors. The CMM is a national technical assistance center funded by the Federal Transit Administration, looking at coordination of services, including connected mobility, all types of mobility options, and coming together to ensure that people have access to transportation to get to work and school. She asked the committee to sign up for the newsletter and for input on issues around mobility management.

C. Marie Maus reported on behalf of Carol Wright on an update of recent developments at Easter Seals Project ACTION. Project Action has received funding from the US Federal Transit Administration for 27 years, which abruptly ended in December. Easter Seals have provided technical assistance to disability and transit organizations to make public transportation more accessible. Some of the products they have developed include an ADA manual, toolkit for bus transit accessibility, a TCRP report on promoting accessible fixed route transit strategies, a pocket brochure on planning for transportation after medical services: a guide for service members, veterans, and family caregivers, the role of transportation in supporting transition from co-secondary education to employment, and using private action resources for training and development.

Virginia Dize provided an update on the activities of the National Center for Senior Transportation. It was created in 2005 and they provide assistance and information for senior transportation nationwide. They are in the process of finalizing and developing an online toolkit for communities to provide information on access to transportation as well as people with disabilities. They will be working with 5 communities in Wisconsin, Texas, Virginia, Ohio and Maine over the next several months to identify strategies and interventions that can be used successfully to improve access to public transportation. They will also be doing a public service announcement on FTA.

Carolina Burnier provided a brief update on behalf of Mohammed Yousuf on FHWA research projects. They are trying to use ITS and other technologies to extend benefits of accessible transportation and technologies to other communities and other travelers. They are finishing up the very beginning of the research and are trying to finish it by July. There will be webinars and info sessions. They are seeking ideas for potential technological solutions for their program.

**10. Report on Liaison Activities with Other TRB Committees**

Due to limited time remaining, Mr. Thatcher invited members to report on liaison activities in lieu of going down the list.

* David Chia reported on the paratransit committee meeting. A conference was held in Monterey, CA in October 2014, and is planning another conference in 2016.
* Uwe Rutenberg reported on the airport and aviation subcommittee. Some issues that were mentioned in the meeting include the rising elderly population who is flying, and there were presentations on customer service in airports, and how customers with disabilities can communicate with airport personnel.
* A committee member briefly reported on behalf of Mohammed Yousuf on the automated road vehicles session. Key issues discussed at the meeting include vehicle automation community, especially as it relates to public or personal transit systems, and the issue of docking of vehicle and minimizing the gap between vehicles.

**11. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

**Attachment 1**

Transportation Research Board

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**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order (Lalita Sen and Russell Thatcher, Co-Chairs)
2. Introductions of Members and Friends (All)
3. Review of Minutes of 2014 Meeting (Co-Chairs)
4. TRB Staff Announcements (Steve Andrle)
5. Report from TCRP (Gwen Chisholm-Smith)
6. TRB Committee Communications Coordinators Council (Joey Goldman)
7. Subcommittee Reports

7.1 TRANSED Conference Planning Subcommittee, ABE60(5)

(Nina Frid and Ann Frye, Co-Chairs)

14th TRANSED Conference 2015 Update (Rosario Macario)

15th TRANSED Conference 2018 Expressions of Interest

7.2 International Activities Subcommittee, ABE60(1)

(Ann Frye and Nina Frid, Co-Chairs)

Implementation of TRANSED Conference Secretariat (Abha Negi)

Report on Activities of Access Exchange International (Tom Rickert)

Recent International Developments

7.3 Technology Subcommittee, ABE60(2)

(Daniel Blais and Aaron Steinfeld, Co-Chairs)

Synthesis of technology presentations

Automated and Connected Vehicles: Committee Challenge

and Opportunities

7.4 Research Subcommittee, ABE60(4)

(Karen Wolf-Branigin and Anabela Simoes, Co-Chairs)

2014 Paper Review Process

2015 Sessions and Workshop

2014 and 2015 Research Statements

Next William Bell Award

1. Pilot of Preliminary Guidelines for Accessible Poster Presentations

(David Lewis and Jim Marston)

1. Updates on Recent Developments and Research Projects

National Center for Mobility Management (Judy Shanley)

Easter Seals Project ACTION (Carol Wright)

National Center for Senior Transportation (Virginia Dize)

FHWA Research Projects (Mohammed Yousuf)

1. Report on Liaison Activities with Other TRB Committees

ITS (Aaron Steinfeld, Carol Schweiger)

Safe Mobility for Older Persons (Kit Mitchell, Virginia Dize, Ling Suen)

Senior Mobility Options Joint Subcommittee

Older Women’s Activities Subcommittee

Pedestrian (Julie Babinard, Lois Thibault, Beezy Bentzen)

Paratransit (Betsy Buxer, Russell Thatcher, David Chia, James Cooper)

Taxi Subcommittee

Rural & Intercity (Will Rodman, Lalita Sen, Larry Harman)

Rail (Kate Hunter-Zaworski, Dan Blais)

Airport Terminals and Ground Access (Uwe Rutenberg)

Ferry Transportation (David Chapman)

Developing Countries (Tom Rickert, Lalita Sen)

Women’s Issues (Ling Suen, Julie Babinard)

Tribal Transportation (Lalita Sen, Virginia Dize, Richard Weiner)

School Bus (Judy Shanley)

International (Ling Suen, Lalita Sen)

Vehicle User Characteristics (Aaron Steinfeld)

Economics (David Lewis)

Traffic Control Devices (Beezy Bentzen)

User Information (Beezy Bentzen)

Automated Road Vehicles (Mohammed Yousuf)

Education and Training (Judy Shanley)

1. Other Business
2. Adjournment