**Draft Meeting Minutes**

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

**Transportation Research Board 99th Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 3:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.**

**Marriott Marquis, Howard University – M1, Washington, D.C.**

**In Attendance**

**Co-Chairs**

Joey M. Goldman Kearns & West

Julie Babinard The World Bank

**Secretary**

Kenneth Joh Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

**Members**

Melissa Anderson Engineering 4 Access

Billie Louise Bentzen Accessible Design for the Blind (ADB)

Joanne Chalom In Focus Mobility

David Chia The Collaborative, Inc.

Peter Cosyn Tractebel Engineering

Greg Danis Federal Transit Administration

Virginia Dize National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

Melissa Gray n4a

Trevor Hanson University of New Brunswick

Todd Hansen Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Janett Jimenez-Santos Can Lah, SC, Mexico

Roger Mackett University College London

Teresa Qu Michigan State University

Judy L. Shanley Easter Seals, National Center for Mobility Management

Sally Swanson Sally Swanson Architects

Jerom Theunissen Easterseals, National Center for Mobility Management

Subhash Chandra Vashishth Svayam, India

Sean M.H. Wang Eden Social Welfare Foundation

Steven Winters Transport Canada

Anders Wretstrand Lund University

**Friends**

Chengbo Ai University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Alycia Bayne NORC at the University of Chicago

Alesia Cain Macro, Ross & Baruzzini

Hannah Carter University of Alabama

Susan Cohen Americans for Older Driver Safety

Sharon Field Federal Highway Administration

Katherine Freund ITNAmerica

Ariel Gold US Department of Transportation

Gary Hsueh Prospect Silicon Valley

Mary Leary Federal Transit Administration

Eileen Yeh-Lin Lu Eden Social Welfare Foundation

Sarah Malaier American Foundation for the Blind

Linda Myers Accessible Design for the Blind

Bill Orleans Hack

Daniel Piatkowski University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Dimitra Pyrialakou West Virginia University

Selina Rausch University of Alabama

Tom Rickert Access Exchange International

Anabela Simoes Universidade Lusófona

Aaron Steinfeld Carnegie Mellon University

Michele Stiehler NJ Transit

**Emeritus Members**

Kate Hunter-Zaworski Oregon State University

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

**TRB Staff**

Steve Andrle Liaison to Committee

Velvet Basemera-Fitzpatrick Liaison to Committee

Claire Randall Liaison to Committee

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. by Co-Chair Julie Babinard. Ms. Babinard made two announcements regarding TRB’s emergency procedures and sexual harassment policy. Copies of the meeting agenda and a sign-in sheet were distributed.

**B. Welcome and Overview of Committee**

Ms. Babinard welcomed all attendees to the committee meeting.

**C. Introductions of Members and Friends**

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

**II. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. Review and Approval of Minutes from 2019 Meeting**

The minutes of the 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**B. Certificates of Appreciation**

Ms. Babinard presented two certificates of appreciation to fellow members for their service to the ABE60 Committee: Mohammed Yousef and Mary P. Crass.

**C. TRB Announcements**

Steve Andrle provided an update from TRB. He stated that this Committee will not be affected from committee realignment, with the exception of the sunsetting of the Paratransit Committee.

In terms of the publication of *Transportation Research Record*, Mr. Andrle stated that moving the publication to SAGE Publishing has decoupled publication from the TRB Annual Meeting cycle, and has led to faster turnaround times and helped improve the impact factor for TRR.

A few attendees asked questions about the paper review process, including the number of papers assigned to each reviewer and comments for authors and the editorial board. Mr. Andrle stated that this process is handled by the review board and suggested questions to be directed to the review board.

**D. TCRP / NCHRP / ACRP Updates**

Mariela Garcia-Colberg provided an update on the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP). She referred committee members and friends to the TCRP website (<http://www.trb.org/TCRP/TCRP.aspx>) for recently completed and ongoing research syntheses and research projects related to accessibility and mobility. Ms. Garcia-Colberg also encouraged committee members and friends to be a TCRP panel member.

**III. COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

**A. TRB Strategic Alignment**

1. **Summary of Effects**

Joey Goldman provided a brief update on this item. He noted that the structure of ABE60 will be minimally impacted from the strategic realignment of TRB. Mr. Goldman stated that TRB will eliminate about 40 committees. Given that the ABE60 Committee is a people-focused committee, the Committee will be moved towards a people-oriented group. Ms. Babinard noted that the new structure of TRB committee can be accessed on the TRB website, and this Committee is under the Transportation and Society section.

1. **Paratransit Committee (APO60)**

Mr. Goldman noted that the committee that will be impacted from the realignment will be the Paratransit Committee. This committee will expire on April 1, 2020. This committee will be merged with the ABE60 Committee.

1. **Accessible Transportation and Mobility (AME50)**

Mr. Goldman noted that some committees are changing their names to better reflect the mission of the committee. He said that the name of the Accessible Transportation and Mobility Committee may be open to change as well.

1. **Q&A / Discussion of Opportunities**

There were some questions that were asked about the TRB realignment and their impacts. A few attendees expressed concerns about some committees being eliminated in the committee restructuring. A discussion followed on how the ABE60 Committee can collaborate with other committees.

**B. ABE60 Activities, Subcommittee Input to Full Meeting**

1. **Paper Review, Publication, and 2020 Conference Sessions**

Todd Hansen provided an update on the paper review process. There were 34 papers that were submitted to the committee, a significant increase from 20 papers the previous year. Common topics included automated vehicles for persons with disabilities (8 papers), mode choices considering accessibility and travel preference, community education, sidewalk and curb accessibility, and accessibility and fixed route transit systems. The committee targeted about 60% of the submitted papers to be accepted for presentation and about 20% accepted for publications. In total, 20 papers (out of 34 papers) were accepted for presentations (8 papers selected for lectern sessions, 12 papers selected for poster sessions), The committee recommended six papers for publication, and three papers moved on to the editorial board. The committee targeted at least three reviewers assigned for each paper.

1. **Research Coordination**

Trevor Hanson provided a brief update on research coordination activities which include coordinating committees and identifying research needs. He noted that there has been an increased push for research in action.

1. **Research in Action Subcommittee, ABE60(1)**

Trevor Hanson briefed the Committee on the activities of the subcommittee. He stated that there are two main goals of the subcommittee: 1) develop and update research needs statements; and 2) develop workshops. The subcommittee identified two immediate priority research ideas which include micromobility devices and safety of pedestrians, and automated vehicles. He also shared two ideas for research synthesis topics which include ensuring accessibility lens in the development of safe, sustainable and resilient communities and design standards of wheelchair users. He noted that the synthesis deadline for TCRP is March 18.

1. **Practices, Tools, and Techniques Subcommittee ABE60(2)**

Peter Cosyn briefed the Committee on the activities of the subcommittee. There were selected presentations given to the subcommittee. Presentation topics included accessible street design and livability and accessibility of autonomous vehicles. The subcommittee also discussed collaboration with other committees.

**C. Event Planning**

1. **2020 Webinar Proposals**

Joey Goldman invited friends and members of the committee to share topic ideas. Some topics and ideas that were shared include:

* The impact of protected intersections for bicyclists and pedestrians on persons with disabilities
* Mobility as a service and how it they can address the “first mile/last mile” problem
* Universal design that are inclusive for persons with disabilities
* Automated vehicles and providing mobility options for persons with disabilities
* Accessibility and useability of passenger information

1. **Workshops and/or Cross-Cutting Sessions**

Joey Goldman invited committee members and friends to submit ideas for workshops and other cross-cutting sessions, and encouraged attendees to volunteer to organize these activities.

**D. Coordination with Other TRB Committees; Announcements & Updates**

Joey Goldman invited committee members and friends to share ideas on how the ABE60 Committee can collaborate with other TRB committees and subcommittees. Some suggested collaborations with other committees include the Bicycle Transportation Committee, Pedestrian Committee, and the Innovative Public Transportation Services and Technologies Committee.

**E. TRANSED**

1. **Follow-Up on 2018**

Joey Goldman shared a follow-up item from TRANSED 2018. He noted 7 papers from the conference that were most highly reviewed were selected for the TRB e-circular.

1. **Permanent Secretariat Update**

Subhash Vashishth provided an update on recent activities by Svayam. These activities included trainings and workshops related to accessibility on trains and planes in India.

1. **TRANSED Planning Subcommittee ABE60(5)**

Judy Shanley provided a brief update of the subcommittee activities. She encouraged volunteers to attend the subcommittee meeting and to share ideas for the next TRANSED conference.

**IV. OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Accessible Transportation and Mobility Announcements and Briefings**

Joey Goldman invited committee members and friends to share other announcements, ideas, and opportunities. A short discussion followed.

**V. CONCLUSION**

**A. Announcements**

Joey Goldman made two announcements: 1) a reminder to sign up for updates on mytrb.org and; 2) there was a discussion to have a mid-year meeting in the summer.

**B. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.