**Draft Meeting Minutes**

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

**Transportation Research Board 97th Annual Meeting**

**Monday, January 8, 2018, 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

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

**In Attendance**

**Co-Chairs**

Joey M. Goldman Nelson\Nygaard Associates

Julie Babinard The World Bank

**Secretary**

Kenneth Joh Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

**Members**

Chengbo Ai University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Aline Alauzet IFSTTAR

Melissa Anderson Melissa A. Anderson, LLC

Billie Louise Bentzen Accessible Design for the Blind (ADB)

Susan Clarke Canadian Transportation Agency

Peter Cosyn Tractebel Engineering

JoAnne Chalom In Focus Mobility

Mary P. Crass Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - International Transport Forum, France

Virginia Dize National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

Shannon Greenwell Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Trevor Hanson University of New Brunswick

Todd Hansen Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Andrea Lubin Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center

Rex C.K. Luk Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation

Roger Mackett University College London

Wesley Major Purdue University

Pete Meslin Access Exchange International

Abha Negi Global Forum for Empowerment

Lilian Salazar Technology Institute of Monterrey, Mexico City Campus

Richard Schultze RLS and Associates, Inc.

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

Aaron Steinfeld Carnegie Mellon University

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

Sally Swanson Sally Swanson Architects

Sean M.H. Wang Eden Social Welfare Foundation

Anders Wretstrand Lund University

Mohammed Yousuf Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Kate Hunter-Zaworski Oregon State University

**Friends**

Angelos Bekiaris Hellenic Institute of Transport

Bridget Burdett TDG, New Zealand

Carolina Burnier Noblis

Aileen Carrigan Bespoke Transit Solutions

Joanne Chalom In Focus Mobility

William Chernicoff Toyota Mobility Foundation

David Chia The Collaborative, Inc.

Maria Angelica Deeb City of Mesa, AZ

Craig Devitt Transport Canada

Lise Dirks Urban Transportation Center @ UIC

Suzie Edrington VIA Transit Authority

Daphne Federing HDR

Charlotte Frei Wight & Company

Janet Glendenning Canadian Transportation Agency

Heidi Guenin Grid Works IC

Ahsan Habib Dalhousie University

Mark Hallenbeck TRAC – University of Washington

Drennan Hicks Noblis

Janett Jimenez-Santos Can Lah, SC, Mexico

Arianna Koudounas Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Stuart Locke University of Waikato, New Zealand

Eileen Yeh-Lin Lu Eden Social Welfare Foundation

Barbara McCann US Department of Transportation

Don McKenzie TDG Auckland, New Zealand

Daniel Mo Hang Seng Management College

Talat Munshi UNEP-DTU Partnership, Denmark  
Sanu Nair Svayam, India

Rik Opstelten Federal Transit Administration

Mary Panou Hellenic Institute of Transport

Ross Peterson GridWorks

Susan Rickert AEI

Tom Rickert Access Exchange International

Yvette Rivera US DOT, Civil Rights Division

Francisco Romero Masterbox

Lalita Sen Texas Southern University

Anabela Simoes Universidade Lusófona

Eric Sinagra pathVu

Manmohan Singh Svayam, India

Jordan Snow Easter Seals/NCMM

Russell Thatcher Thatcher Consulting, LLC

Helena Titheridge University College London

Mitch Tsao Eden Social Welfare Foundation

Kelly Tyler Federal Transit Administration

Subhash Chandra Vashishth Svayam, India

Mark Venti City of Mesa, AZ

Joe Nien-Tsu Wang Eden Social Welfare Foundation

Scott Windley US Access Board

Carol Wright Easter Seals/National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

**Emeritus Members**

Kit Mitchell Retired, formerly Transport Research Laboratory

**TRB Staff**

Steve Andrle Liaison to Committee

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Julie Babinard. Copies of the meeting agenda and a sign-in sheet were distributed.

**2. Introductions of Members and Friends**

All present, including committee members and friends, introduced themselves. Julie Babinard introduced the new members of the committee.

**3. Review and Approval of Minutes from 2017 Meeting**

The minutes of the 2017 meeting were reviewed. Ken Joh summarized the main points of the meeting. The minutes were approved.

**4. Updates on Initiatives**

**a. Committee Activities at TRB**

Joey Goldman provided a summary of ABE60 Committee activities at TRB. He shared the schedule of meetings and events relevant to the committee.

**b. Accessibility of Conference Facilities**

Steve Andrle provided a brief update on how TRB responded to accommodation and accessibility issues raised by the committee. Some of these improvements include microphones in the meeting room, making emergency staff more visible, and providing at least one elevator that operates on back-up power. TRB also widened the halls in the poster room to improve accessibility.

**c. Committee Changes**

Julie Babinard welcomed new members and friends to the committee.

**d. Communications**

Joey Goldman made some brief announcements related to communications. He encouraged attendees to go to mytrb.org to sign up as a friend of the committee to get email updates and to update contact information. He also mentioned some plans for webinars in the coming year. He encouraged members and friends to visit the ABE60 Committee website throughout the year for updates, including the upcoming TRANSED conference. Mr. Goldman also mentioned the need to prepare an updated strategic plan for the committee and plans for a mid-year meeting.

Ms. Suen asked how a friend of the committee could be elevated to a committee member. Mr. Goldman replied that committee rotations occur every three years as well as mid-term appointments.

Ms. Shanley asked if the strategic plan will address the alignment of the Committee’s work with other TRB committees. Mr. Goldman acknowledged that this should be an important focus of the strategic plan.

Mr. Andrle briefly listed other committees that are related to the activities of ABE60 and mentioned this should be addressed in the strategic plan.

Other committee members described the activities of other committee meetings they attended.

**e. Bell Award**

Julie Babinard announced a call for nominations for the Bell Award, which was established in 1992 in honor of Dr. William G. Bell and is awarded every three years to recognize individuals who has made significant contributions to the field of accessible transportation and mobility.

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

**a. Policy and Practice Subcommittee, ABE60(1)**

Judy Shanley provided a brief overview of the subcommittee activities. She mentioned that the subcommittee is based on input and feedback from the ABE60 Committee and using case examples of how policy manifests itself in practice. Two themes discussed by the Policy and Practice Subcommittee include sustainable development goals and how that policy framework internationally reflects in practice and how we can ensure that new professionals in the field have content knowledge and approach to addressing diversity and accessibility issues.

Mary Crass elaborated on the activities of the subcommittee. One of the topics discussed last year was examining how accessibility is integrated into engineering, planning, and transport policy curricula at universities. She also mentioned two examples from the city of New York and Transport Canada of how policy and regulations that were intended to have good results were difficult to implement in practice.

**b. Technology Subcommittee, ABE60(2)**

Peter Cosyn provided a brief overview of the upcoming subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2018. He announced there will be three speakers at the subcommittee meeting. Mohammed Yousef elaborated on the topics of the presentations and discussions. Topics of discussion include systems of wayfinding for persons with disabilities and the accessible transportation program at US DOT.

**c. Research Subcommittee, ABE60(4)**

Trevor Hanson provided a brief overview of the subcommittee which focus on coordinating the paper review process, develop research needs statements and ideas for synthesis. There will be three guest speakers at the subcommittee meeting: Susan Clarke (Canadian Transportation Agency), Wesley Major (Purdue University), and Roger Mackett (University College London).

Andrea Lubin described the paper review process for this year. She stated there were 24 papers submitted to the committee this year, similar to previous years in terms of quantity. Among those papers, 14 papers were selected for presentation (8 lectern sessions and 6 poster sessions), 1 paper was selected for publication, and 3 papers will be re-reviewed for publication consideration. There were three calls for papers and submitted papers included a wide range of accessibility and mobility topics. She encouraged members and friends to become a paper reviewer. Each paper is assigned to a minimum of three reviewers.

**6. Announcements**

**a. TRANSED Planning Subcommittee, ABE 60(5)**

Joey Goldman gave a brief announcement of the subcommittee meeting. Eden Social Welfare, the host of the 2018 TRANSED conference in Taipei, will present on the conference planning progress. He encouraged members and friends to attend the subcommittee meeting.

**b. TRB Announcements**

*Note that this item was discussed out of order.*

Julie Babinard introduced Steve Andrle of TRB, who provided a report. Steve Andrle reported over 14,000 attendees at TRB this year and over 6,000 submitted papers. He mentioned that the conference accommodation and accessibility issues that were raised in last year’s meeting have been addressed. He announced the theme of the 2018 TRB Annual Meeting, “Transportation for a Smart, Sustainable, and Equitable Future.” He announced that the TRB Executive Committee is planning for the 100th anniversary of TRB on November 11, 2020. He also mentioned the TRB task force on diversity and inclusion. Mr. Andrle also mentioned a new policy on specialty conferences, where TRB will manage the logistics for future conferences. Mr. Andrle noted the large number of subcommittees in ABE60 and asked the Committee to review the role and structure of its subcommittees to make more space. Mr. Andrle also mentioned that a contractor has been hired for Transportation Research Record so TRR will no longer be published in-house.

One committee member asked if it would be possible to reschedule the main ABE60 Committee meeting to Wednesday to allow better reporting of the subcommittee meetings. Mr. Andrle suggested Wednesday afternoon as a possible time slot for the main committee meeting.

Ms. Chisholm-Smith of TRB provided a brief update on the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP), which celebrated its 25th anniversary. She announced TCRP’s deadlines for panel nominees (due January 19, 2018), synthesis ideas (March 16, 2018), and problem statements (June 15, 2018).

**7. Theme Presentation and Discussion**

Julie Babinard introduced the first guest speaker, Tom Rickert, who presented findings from his team’s report on transport to school for children with disabilities in developing regions. They developed a guide focusing on 14 case studies from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. These efforts have helped to improve walkability and provide better transport options for children with disabilities. Janett Jimenez-Santos and Pete Meslin, contributors to the guide, shared their experiences and insights working with schools, children, and parents in developing countries.

Joey Goldman introduced the second guest speaker, Subhash Chandra Vashishth, who discussed the work of Svayam, India. His presentation discussed the accessible guidelines developed by Svayam for Indian railways, hospitals, and airports. Mr. Vashishth also described other recent activities conducted by Svayam.

**8. Information Sharing, Partnerships, Opportunities to Work Together and Other TRB Standing Committees**

Joey Goldman invited committee members to provide announcements and updates from other subcommittees on opportunities to work together with the ABE60 Committee. David Chia, former chair of the paratransit subcommittee, announced the meeting times for the main subcommittee and the taxi subcommittee. Yvette Rivera and Danielle Nelson from the US DOT introduced themselves. Subhash Chandra Vashishth made a brief announcement about nominations of Svayam’s accessibility awards. Several other ABE60 members and friends provided brief announcements and suggestions on other committee meetings and activities relevant to ABE60.

**9. Other Business**

Joey Goldman reminded the ABE60 Committee on the strategic plan and the mid-year meeting. He also suggested developing a workshop for next year.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.