

**Transportation Research Board
85th Annual Meeting
Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility (ABE60)
Wednesday, January 25, 2006, 8:00 am-11: 30 am
Hilton, Washington, DC
Meeting Minutes**

Attendance

Members

Tetsuo Akiyama	Tokyo Metropolitan University	Japan
Rob Barnes	Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (Secretary)	Canada
Billie Bentzen	Accessible Design for the Blind	
Betsy Buxer	Easter Seals Arizona	
William Crandall	Smith-Kettlewell RERC	
David Cyra	CYRA Etc	
Enne de Boer	Delft University of Technology	Netherlands
Maryvonne Dejeammes	CERTU	France
Ann Frye	Department for Transport	UK
Kate Hunter-Zaworski	Oregon State University (Co-Chair)	
Mary Kihl	Arizona State University	
David Lewis (Emeritus)	HLB Decision Economics, Inc.	Canada
Campbell McKee	CN Unwin Ltd.	UK
Claude Marin-Lamellet	INRETS – LESCOT	France
Kit Mitchell	Retired (Co-Chair)	UK
Thomas Rickert	Access Exchange International	
Uwe Rutenberg	Rutenberg Design Inc.	Canada
Carol Schweiger	TranSystems Corporation	
Lalita Sen	Texas Southern University	
Ling Suen (Emeritus)	International Centre for Accessible Transportation (ICAT)	Canada
Russell Thatcher	TranSystems Corp.	
Christoffel Venter	University of Pretoria	South Africa
Harry Wolfe	Maricopa Association of Governments	

Friends

Ward Bond	Talking Signs Inc.	
David Chapman	University of Delaware	
David Chia	Planners Collaborative, Inc.	
Gavin Currie	Canadian Transportation Agency	Canada
Cheryl Driscoll	Transport Canada	Canada

Claudine Dube	Transportation Development Centre	Canada
Ted Finlayson-Schueler	School Travel Safety Rules!	
Murielle Fong	Transport Canada	Canada
Ginger Gheradi	Ventura County Transportation Com.	
James Gattis	University of Arkansas	
David Kessler	Kessler Consulting	
David Knight	FTA	
Rex Knowlton	Wheels of Wellness	
Luc Lanthier	Transport Canada	Canada
James Marston	University of California, Santa Barbara	
Rosemary Mathias	TranSystems	
Akihiro Mihoshi	Kinki University	Japan
Anna Okola	Rutgers University	
Robin Phillips	WSDOT	
Jessica Rinks	University of Illinois	
John Schoon	University of Southampton	UK
Anabela Simões	Technical University of Lisbon / FMH	Portugal

The meeting agenda is in Appendix A

1. Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Kit Mitchell

2. Introduction

Kit welcomed Committee members and friends. He thanked the Committee Executive for their good work and support throughout the year. In particular, he acknowledged the outstanding work of Kate's assistant, Julie Barlow, and her contribution to making the Committee website work well with regular updates. Lastly, he thanked our TRB staff officer, Martine Micozzi, for her excellent Committee-related work through 2005.

Kit presented Dr. David Lewis with his Certificate of TRB Emeritus Membership and all acknowledged David's dedication and contribution to the accessible transportation field and the establishment of the Committee.

3. Minutes and Action Items are on Committee web site.

<http://kiewit.oregonstate.edu/ABE60/>

The Minutes from 2005 Meeting were adopted.

2005 Action Items:

3.1. The Committee Executive has tried to be more proactive in communications. Members of the Committee agreed that communications had been better during 2005.

4.1.3 Kit noted the ongoing work to attempt to locate and archive the proceedings of all TRANSED Conferences. He is in correspondence with the TRB Information Systems Manager Barbara Post. TRB are entering into the Transport Research Information System TRIS database the proceedings of all the TRANSEDS that are publicly available. This will probably include 1981, 1984 and all the TRANSEDS since and including 1989. The first TRANSED, 1978, was printed as a Loughborough University document that is not publicly available (Kit has a copy). Ling Suen will seek any records she has, possibly at her former workplace – Transport Canada’s Transportation Development Centre.

6.2 Rosemary Mathias reminded the Committee that Roy Lave, Paratransit Committee, is writing an account of the early history of paratransit and is looking for material. Ling will attempt to locate Canadian documents.

Committee Member Nominations:

Kit reported that 3 new members were being recommended for nomination: Jim Marston (University of California), Ana Okola (Rutgers University) and Jessica Rinks (University of Illinois) as a Young Member. [Post meeting note: On 28 March, invitations to join the Committee were sent to Ms Anna Okola, Dr James Marston, Dr Anabela Simoes, Ms Jessica Rinks, Ms Robin Phillips, Professor Tetsuo Akiyama and Ms Bryna Helfer.]

3. TRB Announcements

Diane Schweiger, TRB staff, reported on TCRP-related matters, and indicated that TCRP Projects and respective Panels had been selected. She encouraged the Committee members and friends to serve on Panels and to visit TRB’s TCRP website:

<http://www4.trb.org/trb/crp.nsf>

She also noted that there is a new Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP), and invited submissions related to aviation and airport accessibility.

Synthesis Problem Statements are due March 31, 2006 and Regular Problem Statements are due June 15, 2006. These will be screened during summer 2006 and 25-30 problem statements will be selected for consideration by the TOPS committee.

Kit noted that TRB had developed and distributed its Critical Issues document to Committees and asked members to forward comments to him as soon as possible. Kit had raised as an issue of the needs of passengers with disabilities and aging Americans in the

design of public transportation services. It was suggested that our Committee and the Paratransit Committee could prepare a joint response for TRB.

Kit also noted a TRB request for Committees to identify any current, unmet transportation data needs. Harry Wolfe indicated the need to have travel information on the number of trips according to age group. Kate Hunter-Zaworski expressed an interest in establishing a data base on eligibility to specialized transit/paratransit services and asked members/friends to e-mail her any available information on the topic.

Martine Micozzi, our Committee TRB staff officer, was able to visit the meeting. Kit expressed the Committee's appreciation for her excellent effort throughout the year in support of ABE60 and its Sub-Committees.

4. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Note: Individual Sub-committee minutes are also posted on our Committee website – please access them for more detailed information.

4.1 Sub-committee on Research ABE60(4) – Lalita Sen

Lalita Sen, Co-chair, reported on the Committee's 2005 paper review process. Sixteen papers were received, with 4-5 reviewers assigned per paper. The Committee sponsored two paper sessions and one poster session:

355: "Accessibility and Mobility Policy and Planning"

677: "Road Crossings and Path-of-travel Issues for Persons with Disabilities"

#241: "Accessible Transportation and Mobility".

ABE60 also co-sponsored 4 other sessions:

#158: "Complete Streets: Balancing User Needs in Suburban Design"

#310: "Paying It Forward – Resources for Seniors' Transportation"

#510: "Roundtable on Best Practices in Coordinated Transportation"

#800: "Accessible Pedestrian Signals: Translating Research into Practice"

Some Committee members raised the concern that they just did not have the time to properly review the paper(s) that had been assigned to them. It was decided that Lalita would first contact potential paper reviewers early in the process to determine if they could review the paper(s) in the given timeframe.

It was also noted that the logistics related to our poster session were poor – it was difficult to locate the displays and the aisle width between the poster displays was not adequate in terms of accessibility/movement of all attendees, particularly those using mobility aids. Kit also emphasized that a paper that is deemed to be appropriate for a poster is not a “failed paper”. They are presentations of topics that are judged likely to work better as an interactive conversation with small groups rather than as a non-interactive formal presentation to a large audience. They also allow the Committee to include more presentations than it is able to in its allocation of sessions.

Lalita also noted that the Committee can only recommend up to one third of the papers it receives for publication.

Beezy Bentzen noted that many pedestrian accessibility-related papers had been forwarded to the Pedestrian Committee for review.

Kit acknowledged the very good quality of the papers we received this year.

Russell Thatcher, Co-chair, spoke to the Committee’s 2006 Call for Papers. It was decided that the theme would again be general in nature – that approach seems to produce the best results in terms of the numbers of papers received. He also noted sub-themes related to finance, institutional and workforce issues. The Committee had submitted 5 Synthesis topics to TCRP – none of which were selected. He was pleased that one topic that the Committee had developed dealing with “Transportation for Large Wheelchairs” had been picked-up by Project Action.

The Committee discussed several possible Research topic areas for submission to TCRP, including:

- Lighting Levels for All Passengers at Airports/Terminals
- Wayfinding for Passengers with Disabilities at Airports
- Convergence of International Transit Technologies for Passengers with Disabilities
- Using Advanced Technologies for Pedestrian Detection and Accident Avoidance
- Gap Reduction in Bus Rapid Transit Modes
- Measurement of the Effects of Accessibility on a Traveller with Disabilities’ Quality of Life
- Impact of Quiet Cars on Persons with Disabilities
- Training for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities in Using Wireless Technologies in Transit

Beezy Bentzen also noted that the Pedestrians Committee has established a Roundabout Sub-committee.

William G. Bell Award: Russell Thatcher indicated that the deadline to submit nominations for this Award is March 31, 2006. Nominations should be forwarded to Rob Barnes, Secretary to ABE60 – details are posted on the Committee’s website.

4.2 Sub-Committee on International Activities ABE60 (1) – Ann Frye

Ann Frye, Co-chair, expressed that TRB should consider providing some financial assistance for people from developing countries to attend TRB events. Kit indicated that he has raised this matter with TRB before – perhaps some sort of scholarship could be arranged? The Committee will continue to pursue this with TRB.

Lalita Sen noted that TRB had established an International Committee and that the Committee should appoint a delegate to participate.

Ann described plans for the next TRANSED conference in Montreal, Canada in June 2007, and said that she has been very impressed with the quality work of the organizing committee. Murielle Fong, Transport Canada, indicated that the deadline for paper abstracts is February 15, but that date may be relaxed somewhat by a month. Notice for registration will be sent out in September, 2006. It was noted that it would be appropriate at future TRB Annual Meetings to have the TRANSED Steering Committee Meeting scheduled before the ABE60(1) meeting to allow for better reporting back of progress.

Ann also noted that, while she had “nothing in hand” regarding potential hosts/bidders for TRANSED 2010, she expected Hong Kong to submit a proposal for 2010, and that a proposal for 2013 is likely from South Africa.

Tom Rickert, Access Exchange International, spoke briefly on his ongoing international accessibility efforts, particularly in developing countries, noting his visits to seven Colombian cities during the past year in the course of preparing Bus Rapid Transit Accessibility Guidelines for the World Bank, which is funding BRT projects there. In other developments, AEI hosted groups from Japan and China for study tours of accessible transport in the San Francisco Bay Area. Tom also reported that three AEI publications had been translated into Vietnamese during the year He distributed his organization’s latest newsletters, reporting on events in our field around the world, to Committee members.

With respect to any international accessibility developments, Maryvonne Dejeammes spoke to France’s new accessibility legislation that requires access to public transportation services in 10 years. Rob Barnes noted Ontario’s new Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act that calls for the development of accessibility standards

across both the private and public sectors. A Transportation Standards Development Committee has just been established to develop a new, proposed standard for public transportation services across the province.

The Indian NGO Samarthya has arranged a first Indian National Conference on Accessible Transportation, to be held in Delhi 17 - 19 March 2006. Lalita Sen, Ling Suen and Kit Mitchell would be attending to make presentations. Tom Rickert unfortunately has a prior commitment that makes it impossible for him to attend.

Professor Akiyama is planning to hold a Japanese TRANSED during 2006.

Kit had been in Viet Nam in December 2005 to advise an NGO Viet Nam Assistance for Handicapped persons (VNAH) on accessible transport. This visit had culminated in a half-day workshop with the Ministry of Transport, at which various departments reported progress on accessibility over the past two years, and Kit made a general presentation on international good practice and things Viet Nam could do to improve the situation there. The attitude of the Ministry of Transport was most encouraging.

4.3 Sub-committee on Advanced Technology and Accessible Transportation ABE60 (2) - Carol Schweiger

Carol Schweiger, Co-chair, noted a couple of ITS-related events: a joint FHwy/ITS initiative and the ITS World Congress. She also indicated that she was the Committee liaison with TRB's ITS Committee.

The Sub-Committee had been briefed on two Federal initiatives. These were:-

- 'United We Ride', which provides:
 - (1) A Framework for Action self-assessment tool;
 - (2) State Leadership Awards;
 - (3) National Leadership Forum on Human Service Transportation Coordination;
 - (4) State coordination grants; and
 - (5) A technical assistance program known as "Help Along the Way."

United We Ride workshops have been held in all 10 FTA regions.

- 'Mobility Services for All Americans' An RFP for model deployment by agencies will be released shortly. The thrust of this RFP will be agencies designing the "one stop shop." Information about it can be found at <http://www.its.dot.gov/msaa/index.htm>. Foundation research on this initiative has included what a 'One Stop Shop' would look like to a user.

The Sub-Committee had also had a presentation from Anabela Simoes on the EU project ASK-IT (Ambient Intelligent System of Agents for Knowledge-based and Integrated Services for Mobility Impaired Users). ASK-IT is a powerful information system based on the Semantic Web and XML internet protocol designed to present “just in time, just in place” information to people with disabilities. The slides for the presentation are attached to the minutes of Sub-Committee ABE60 (2), available on the Committee web site.

4.4 Joint Sub-Committee on Seniors’ Transportation Mobility Options ABE60 (3) - Kit Mitchell

Kit reported on Session #310, jointly sponsored by our Committee and the Safe Mobility of Older Persons Committee, entitled “Paying It Forward: Using Public Policy to Guide Resources for Senior Transportation”. The session dealt with the need for resources to provide transport for older people that is economically feasible and sustainable, and for seniors who are no longer able to drive their own personal vehicles. The session was very well attended and it was noted that there is ongoing research on the transportation needs of seniors and what is really going on in terms of volunteer transportation.

5. Triennial Self Evaluation

Kit noted that this revised document is posted on the Committee’s website and thanked members for their input. The Committee has not yet received any feedback from TRB on the document.

6. Reports on Liaison Activities with Other Committees

Safe Mobility of Older Persons Committee (ANB60)

Kit indicated that there was a new Chair of this Committee, Karlene Ball of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He also reported on some highlights of the recent White House Conference on Aging.

- Over 1200 participants voted on a series of resolutions regarding a broad range of issues
- Participants ranked transportation options for older Americans to be among the top three issues facing seniors
- The need to keep Americans driving safely into older age was ranked 47th
- The top 50 resolutions, including these two, will be sent to the President and Congress to help guide national aging policies for the next 10 years

Kit also expressed the need to re-convene/establish the ad-hoc committee comprised of the Chairs of the various Committees involved with transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Rural and Intercity Bus Transportation Committee (APO55)

It was noted that the Chair had changed from Jon Burkhardt to Robert R Isaacs.

Paratransit Committee (APO60)

Rosemary Mathias reported on 2 excellent sessions sponsored by this Committee:
#559: “Paratransit Operations, Planning and Regulation: From Texas to Thailand”
#587: “A Model for Many Reasons: Analytical Approaches for Paratransit Applications”

She also spoke to the Paratransit Workshop; “International Paratransit: What We Can Learn from Paratransit in Other Countries” held on Sunday morning. The workshop was very well-attended and deemed a success. This Committee has expressed a strong interest in the area of accessible taxis. Members and friends were asked to forward any related information to the new Chair, Buffy Ellis.

Pedestrians Committee (ANF10)

Beezy Bentzen briefed the committee on a number of activities related to the Pedestrian committee. Kit also expressed the view that road safety issues related to pedestrians, crosswalks, sidewalks and other pedestrian infrastructure is fundamental issue to accessibility, particularly in developing countries.

Ferry Transportation Committee (APO85)

David Chapman noted the increasing amount of ferry use in the provision of public transportation services and the critical need to integrate travellers with disabilities across modes linked to ferry services.

Airport Terminals and Ground Access (AVO50)

Harry Wolfe noted the ongoing effort to increase the awareness, and sensitivity to, seniors with special needs and persons with disabilities.

7.0 Major Accessibility Developments/Projects – Roundtable Discussion

Ann Frye reported on the completion of the European Science Foundation COST 349 project on accessible long distance bus and coach services (looking at best practice in vehicle design, infrastructure and other aspects including the economic case – this report is posted on our Committee website). She also indicated that the European Conference of

Ministers of Transport are looking into taxi accessibility. They are working with the International Road Transport Union and the major European vehicle manufacturers/converters.

David Lewis noted the U.S. Department of Justice guidelines on accessibility, including a regulatory impact analysis.

Rob Barnes reported on Ontario's new Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, that calls for the development, implementation and enforcement of accessibility standards across both the public and private sectors, including public/passenger transportation services under provincial and municipal jurisdiction. The first two Standards Development Committees to be established are to deal with customer service and transportation. Further information can be accessed at the following website:

<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/accessibility/index.html>

Tom Rickert reported on the issue of rural transport in developing countries, and also on the growth of Bus Rapid Transit. The guidelines on accessible transport "Enhancing the mobility of disabled people: Guidelines for practitioners", Overseas Road Note 21, produced in Britain by TRL and DFID are proving useful (and are available for download from the ICAT and Access Exchange International web sites). Tom has also been drafting accessibility guidelines for Bus Rapid Transit for the World Bank.

8.0 Other items

David Lewis noted that Professor Sandra Rosenbloom has been appointed to TRB's Board of Directors. This is the first time that a person specializing in the accessibility field has been appointed – this is very good news for the many Committees involved with accessibility issues.

Lastly, David Lewis again thanked Committee members for their effort and support in his receiving the Emeritus status.

9.0 Adjournment: Kit Mitchell thanked everyone for their active participation in the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Appendix A

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Kit Mitchell, Kate Hunter-Zaworski, Co-Chairs
2. Introductory comments, and introduction of members and friends, All
 - Welcome of new members by the Co-Chairs
 - Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting and Action Items, Co-chairs, and Secretary, Rob Barnes (see Committee website for minutes)
 - Nomination of new members, emeritus members
3. TRB Staff Announcements
 - TCRP Project and Synthesis Results
4. Reports of Sub-committees
 - 4.1 ABE60(1) Sub-committee on International Activities
Maryvonne Dejeammes and Ann Frye, Co-Chairs
 - TRANSED 2004, 2007
 - Retaining TRANSED Proceedings
 - 4.2 ABE60(2) Sub-committee on Advanced Technology & Accessible Transportation
Carol Schweiger, Chair
 - 4.3 ABE60(4) Sub-committee on Research
Russell Thatcher and Lalita Sen, Co-chairs
 - Call for Papers 2006
 - TCRP/Project Action Topics for 2005
 - William Bell Award 2006
 - Roger Tate Award
 - 4.4 ABE60(3) Joint Committee on Transportation Options for Seniors
5. Triennial Self Evaluation/Strategic Plan (see copy on Committee website)
6. Report on Liaison Activities with Other TRB Committees:
 - Safe Mobility of Older Persons
 - Rural and Intercity Bus Transportation
 - Paratransit
 - ITS
 - Pedestrians
 - Ferry Transportation
 - Airport Terminals and Ground Access

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7. Major Accessibility Developments/Projects – Roundtable Discussion

8. Other Business/Items

9. Adjournment