

Sub-Committee ABE60(1)
Sub Committee on International Activities
Monday January 23rd 2006
8.00 am – 9.45 am
Bancroft Room, Hilton Hotel, Washington DC

Minutes

Attendance

Maryvonne Dejeammes, Co-Chair ABE (60)1, CERTU, France
Ann Frye, Co-Chair ABE (60)1, UK
Kate Hunter-Zaworski, National Centre for Accessible Transportation,
Oregon State University, (Co-Chair ABE60) USA
Kit Mitchell, Institute of Highways and Transportation, (Co-Chair ABE
60), UK
Harry Wolfe, Maricopa Association of Governments, USA
Campbell McKee, C N Unwin Ltd, UK
Betsy Buxer, Easter Seals Arizona, USA
Rosemary Mathias, Transystems Corp, USA
Gavin Currie, Canadian Transportation Agency, Canada
Luc Lanthier, Transport Canada, Canada
Akihiro Mihoshi, Kinki University, Japan
Tetsuo Akiyama, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan
Jim Marston, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA
Anabela Simoes, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal
Ling Suen, International Centre for Accessible Transportation, Canada
Bill Crandall, Smith-Kettlewell Foundation, USA
Tom Rickert, Access Exchange International, USA
Christo Venter, University of Pretoria, South Africa
Rob Barnes, Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, Canada
Murielle Fong, Transport Canada, Canada
Cheryl Driscoll, Transport Canada, Canada
Daniel Blais, TRANSED 2007 Secretariat, Canada
Eric Heyrman, INRETS, France
Lalita Sen, Texas Southern University, USA

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on January 10th 2005 were agreed.
There was one matter arising: TRB support for participants from

developing countries to attend TRB Annual Meeting and TRANSED conferences. Kit and Kate had raised this issue with TRB after last year's meeting and reported that it was "being considered". The sub-committee agreed that it was not satisfied that there had been no further progress in the past year and urged that TRB give prompt and full consideration to a subject which they regarded as being fundamentally important to extending knowledge and expertise in the field of transport accessibility. Kit and Kate agreed to raise it again at the TRB Divisional Chairs meeting later that day.

Action Point: Kit and Kate to convey concerns of Sub Committee about lack of progress on this issue to TRB and to report back.

Preparations for 11th Transed 2007

There would be a dedicated meeting later that day to discuss the detail of the Transed preparations so the discussion was restricted to broad issues. Murielle Fong circulated a summary paper on key activities. The full presentation is attached to these minutes.

A number of points were by the organisers:

- An on site meeting in Montreal of the international steering committee was proposed for October 2006;
- The social and accompanying persons programme would be fully accessible;
- There would be a choice of technical visits before and after the conference; if possible at least one visit would be to a rural area;
- The exhibition would run for two days and would be open to the public as well as to delegates;
- The conference languages would be French and English, the possibility of adding Spanish was being considered.

In discussion the following points were made:

- The sub-committee congratulated the organisers on the efficiency of their forward planning and commented that this was the first time that a communications plan had been developed for Transed;
- At previous Transed conferences there has been significant demand (mainly from potential delegates from Africa) for formal letters of accreditation to the Conference to enable them to apply for visas;
- On the same topic it was stressed that it was important to have an outline programme well in advance of the event to help those who needed to make a case for funding or permission to travel;

Bids for Transed 2010

Initial expressions of interest had been sought by the end of 2005. Although no formal bids had yet been received, a very clear expression of interest had been received from Hong Kong. They had been unable to complete the application in time because of other pressures but were keen to make a bid.

South Africa (Western Cape) had indicated that they would not be in a position to bid for 2010 but would like to be considered for 2013. There had been no further indication of whether Rio would be likely to bid.

It was agreed that it would be sensible to postpone the decision until January 2007 and to let Hong Kong know that they had another 6 months (until 1st July) to submit a bid.

The goal would be to have a firm candidate to announce in Montreal in 2007.

Action point: Ann to let Hong Kong know of Sub-Committee decisions

Post meeting note: done

Report on the work of Access Exchange International

Tom Rickert gave a full report of the work of Access Exchange International over the past year. A copy of his report is attached.

In addition to a major focus on the development of bus rapid transit in Latin America, AEI had been involved, through Kit Mitchell, in advising the Government of Vietnam on bus accessibility.

Maryvonne noted that CERTU had also been working on bus rapid transit guidelines and offered to provide details.

Action point: Maryvonne to circulate details of CERTU BRT study.
Post meeting note: included in attached note on French accessibility laws

Looking forward, Ling and Lalita reported on a workshop in India in early March which they would be supporting, Tom would be working in rural Tanzania and Tetsuo reported on an Asian Transed which he was organising.

Knowledge exchange

Rob gave an update on new accessibility laws in Ontario. Details are attached.

Maryvonne summarised new French accessibility laws which would achieve full accessibility within 10 years. A summary is attached.

Ann reported on a COST action (under the auspices of the European Science Foundation) on access to coaches/interurban buses/OTRBs. A CD rom containing the recommendations from this project COST 349 as well as earlier projects on low floor buses and heavy rail would be put on the Committee website.

Action point: Ann to send CD to Kate to upload to website

Post meeting note: done

Kit reported that he had been working with TRB to gather the proceedings of all the Transeds so that they could be put on the TRB database and library. He had everything post 1995 and was making progress in obtaining earlier data.

Ling gave an update on the ICAT website which now included details of design standards. These could be found at;
www.icat-ciat.org/guidelines.html.

Other Business

Ann reported that she had left the UK Department for Transport and would be setting up in business to work independently in the mobility/transport sector. The UK Government would, however, continue to support her to work with TRB and Transed. Her new contact details were: ann@frye.demon.co.uk