

ABE-60 Research Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
8:00 am – 9:45 am
Date: January 10, 2018
Marriot, Howard University M1

In attendance:

Co-chairs

Andrea Lubin (AL)	Rutgers State University of New Jersey
Trevor Hanson (TH)	University of New Brunswick, Canada

Members and friends

Aline Alauzet	IFSTTAR
Anabela Simoes	Lusofona University
Anders Wretstrand	Llind Limiv
Aravind Bherathy	University of Michigan (Inclusive Mobility Lab)
Arianna Koudonnas	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Arjan van Andel	GIRO
Assel Dmitriyeva	NYU
Billie L (Beezy) Bentzen	Accessible Design for the Blind
Bridget Burdett	TDG New Zealand
Carol Tyson	DREDF
Cecilia Feely	Rutgers State University of New Jersey
Craig Devitt	Transport Canada
Drennan Hicks	Noblis
Eileen LU	Eden Social Welfare Foundation
Eric Sinagra	pathVu
Ilir Bejleri	University of Florida
Janet Glendenning	Canadian Transportation Agency
Janett Jimenez	CanLah, S.C.
Jennifer Tzuyng Ho	Eden Social Welfare Foundation
Joey Goldman*	Nelson/Nygaard
Judy Shanley	Easterseals - NVMM
Julie Babinard*	World Bank
Lalita Sen	Dept. of Urban Planning & Env Policy - Texas Southern U.
Ling Suen	ICSA Inc.
Manmohan Kaur Chugh	Svayam
Melissa Anderson	Melissa A. Anderson, LLC
Mohammed Yousuf	FHWA
Paul Curtis	Vectos
Pete Meslin	AEI

Peter Cosyn	Tractebel Engineering
Rex Luk	The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation
Richard A. Schultze	RLS & Assoc, Inc.
Roger Mackett	University College London
Sean M. H. Wang	Eden Social Welfare Foundation
Shannon Greenwell	MassDOT
Subhash Chandra Vashishth	Svayam
Susan Clarke	Canadian Transportation Agency
Todd Hansen	TTI
Tom Rickert	Access Exchange International
Wesley Major	Purdue University

**ABE060 Chairs*

1. Call to order, Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Andrea Lubin (AL) at 8:00 am. AL conducted an overview of the emergency procedures and the new TRB anti-harassment policy. AL welcomed everyone and invited attendees to fill out the attendance sheet, which included being a paper review and identifying areas of expertise. Attendees were invited to introduce themselves.

2. Overview of ABE60

AL described ABE60, including the function of its three subcommittees of which the Research Subcommittee is one. AL described the core focus of the ABE-60 Committee on Accessible Transportation & Mobility is on issues related to mobility needs for people with limited transportation options; that includes people with disability (whether they have mobility, sensory, cognitive or mental health related conditions); older adults; and persons without private transportation, which often includes low-income populations. AL also highlighted that the full committee and each of its subcommittees focus on both domestic & international issues addressing accessible transportation and mobility.

3. Announcements – TH

A total of 14 papers submitted to the ABE-60 committee were presented at the 2018 TRB meeting. Six were presented at a poster session on Monday and eight were presented in two lectern sessions convened on Monday and Tuesday.

TH provided an update on the TRANSED 2018 conference planning which held its planning meeting the day before. TH extended thanks to the Eden Social Welfare Foundation for its extensive efforts to organize this trip, build support for the conference among local officials, and to use the opportunity to encourage progress in accessibility among these officials.

TH conducted a brief overview of the minutes from 2017.

4. 2017 paper review process for 2018 meeting (AL)

This year 24 papers were submitted for consideration to ABE-60, one more than in 2017. Up to 60% of submitted papers were eligible for presentation, 20% can be recommended for publishing

- 14 for presentation (58%)
 - 8 were presented in 2 lectern sessions (Monday & Tuesday)
 - 6 were presented in a poster session on Monday.
- One paper has been selected for publication, with re-reviews of 3 other papers underway for potential publication as well. That decision will be made by the committee by January 30th.

The committee executive was pleased with the diversity and quality of papers submitted this year. ABE60 released three calls for papers in early summer 2017:

- Accessible Transportation and Mobility for Older Adults, People with Disabilities, and Other Transportation-Disadvantaged Populations
- Exploring the issues and opportunities for autonomous vehicles in meeting the transportation needs of persons with a disability
- Innovations in emergency management for ensuring accessibility and mobility for persons with a disability

ABE60 was the sole sponsoring standing committee (SC) for two sessions relating to the first two calls for papers, while joining ABR30 (SC on Emergency Evacuations) and ABE30 (SC on Transportation Issues in Major Cities) for a lectern session 530 “Evacuating Pedestrians and Careless Individuals During Disasters”. Response to these calls was better than when first proposed in 2017.

The paper review coordinators (AL and TH) aimed to assign at least 5 reviewers per paper, with a minimum of 3 reviewers reading and scoring each. AL and TH expressed thanks for all those who took the time to review and lend their expertise to this process. AL and TH emphasized that review coordinators had no role in the review of their own papers as per TRB’s Conflict of Interest policy.

AL noted that the committee has a list of about 250 people that it can draw from to review papers, but just over half are registered in the TRB Reviewer Pool. The remainder comes from the sign-up sheet like the one circulated at previous meetings. AL asked that people go to the MYTRB website, update their profile and expertise so that the review coordinators can easily assign papers to reviewers.

5. Invited speaker presentations - TH

TH and AL discussed that in planning the subcommittee meeting this year, there was an interest in sharing accessible transportation research in areas that can expect to see increased focus over time, including air travel and invisible disability. The following presenters gave 5-minute presentations:

- a. **Susan Clarke**, Manager, Accessible Transportation, Centre of Expertise for Accessible Transportation, Canadian Transportation Agency: *discussing Aircraft cargo holds and mobility aids*
- b. **Wesley Major**, Graduate Student, Purdue University – *discussing Aviation and disability-related complaints*
- c. **Roger Mackett**, Professor, University College London – *discussing barriers to travel for people with mental impairments such as dementia, learning disabilities and mental health conditions*

6. **Current research being conducted around the table on accessibility – AL**

- Aravind Bharathy (aravindb@umich.edu) and Dr. Clive D’Souza (crdsouza@umich.edu), University of Michigan Center for Ergonomics - Data-driven tools for designing accessible built environments for users of wheeled mobility devices to help us move beyond minimum requirements of the ADA standards. See TRB Paper# 18-02377. The web-based tool can be accessed for free after sign-up at <http://dsouzalab.engin.umich.edu/research/anthro/index.php>. Feedback and suggestions for improvement are welcome.
- Tom Rickert – 50 schools “Bridging the Gap” in Africa to help kids get transportation to school. Guide now available.
- Todd Hansen – Studying preference for Transportation Network Company (TNC) transport among r persons with visual disabilities, focus groups held in Austin TX.
- OpenSidewalks (Taskar Center for Accessible Technology) - Pedestrian wayfinding app, TRB IDEA, SPIR app to detect sidewalk condition and problems
- Joey Goldman – about to begin NHCRP synthesis on marketing for rural public transit systems
- Bridget Burdett- New Zealand policy level project between transport and well-being
- Judy Shanley – National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM) - assessment of value of peer mentoring to raise engagement in transportation decision-making
- U of Florida – find a ride database collection of all transport service providers in the state of Florida, building a simple web-based tool to help identify transport options*
- USDOT action project – safe intersection crossing, robotics automation grant*
- Beezy Bentzen – tactile walking surface indicators for intersection
- Trevor Hanson – rural volunteer driver programs
- Cecelia Feely/Andrea Lubin – study completed on gaps in transportation services for persons on the autism spectrum. State legislation inspired by report passed May 2017.

7. **Solicitation of research needs statements (TH)**

TH discussed the ways to facilitate progress on broader research needs in accessibility and transportation:

1. Preparation of Research Needs Statements (RNS)
2. Submission of synthesis ideas to ACRP, NCHRP and TCRP

The RNS serve two main purposes: to develop a clear statement of research needs that could be incorporated into the machinery of TRB to fund priority research items (e.g. TCRP projects); to provide a vetted research area that can enable others (e.g. academics, students, etc) to conduct relevant research on their own. Proposed study topics may be submitted by anyone or any TRB Committee. The syntheses are smaller scoped projects of about \$40,000 USD: For each topic, the project objectives are (1) to locate and assemble documented information; (2) to learn what practice has been used for solving or alleviating problems; (3) to identify all ongoing research; (4) to learn what problems remain largely unsolved; and (5) to organize, evaluate, and document the useful information that is acquired.

Here is a link to information about RNS:

<https://rns.trb.org/rnsinstructions.asp>

ABE-60 research subcommittee wants to increase its participation in submissions for Research Needs Statements (RNS) and Syntheses. It has three current RNS, though they have not been updated since 2015:

- [Developing and Sustaining Volunteer Driver Programs as an Effective Mode of Low-Cost Accessible Transportation](#)
- [Accessible Wayfinding for Transit Facilities: Narrative Routes and Real-time Location Information](#)
- [Accessible Wayfinding for Transit Facilities: Tactile Pathways](#)

TH and AL congratulated Beezy Bentzen who put considerable effort into developing the last two, updating and consolidating them into a submission to TCRP, which is being funded for over \$200,000 in FY2018. The project is entitled “Tactile Walking Surface Indicators to Aid Wayfinding for Visually Impaired Travelers in Multimodal Travel”.

Action item: update RNS on volunteer driving, remove last two on wayfinding

Several people offered ideas for RNS/Synthesis/Problem statement; the general idea is presented here, while TH and AL will work with each to solidify titles and create a plan for completion and submission:

- Tom Rickert - Horizontal and vertical gap issue in BRT bus
- Roger Mackett – Barriers to travel for people with mental impairments
- Scott Windley - Benefit-costs of transit accessibility upgrades vs. maintain paratransit
- Judy Shanley/Andrea Lubin - Framework to assess promising mobility management practices
- Anders Wrestrand - The role of accessibility in sustainable urban mobility plans and policies; Approaches for quantifying equity and accessibility
- Lalita Sen - Enhancing signage for accessible wayfinding
- Trevor Hanson – Volunteer driver programs, autonomous vehicles and accessibility
- Lilian Salazar Diaz - Best practices for including accessibility in the academic curricula of university design and construction programs
- Peter Cosyn – Quantifying the impact of accessibility measures

Action item (TH/AL): Create a RNS/Synthesis/Problem statement plan for ABE60

The deadline for synthesis submissions (\$40,000) for this funding cycle are:

- NCHRP February 16, 2018
- TCRP March 16, 2018 (Selected by May 2018)
- ACRP (Date not available yet, was September 2017)

Guest speaker - Cynthia Jones, TRB committee research coordinator. She recommended interested parties search google for “TRB CRC” to access resources on developing research need statements, etc.

8. Other business and action items

- Request made that ABE 60 issue its annual call for papers earlier than late spring to enable interested researchers adequate time to respond by the typical July 31 TRB paper submission deadline. ***Action item (TH/AL): coordinate new calls for paper in the next few weeks following TRB***
- Point made that there are benefits to submitting papers focused on accessibility issues to TRB committees that do not typically address accessibility topics. This approach will help spread awareness as to the relevance of accessibility issues throughout the transportation sector.
- Point made that ABE 60 should continue its efforts to build partnerships with related committees including but not limited to the Paratransit committee and the Rural transportation committee.
 - One way to achieve that goal is to develop and co-sponsor workshop sessions with other committees.
 - Request made that ABE 60 circulate a list to all members and friends indicating everyone’s committee memberships and friend status beyond ABE 60.
 - Suggestion made that ABE 60 consider pursuing a strategic approach whereby the Committee’s involvement and partnerships with other TRB committees is more formally tracked and documented.

9. Adjournment (9:45 am)

Minutes prepared by Trevor Hanson and Andrea Lubin