

Draft Meeting Minutes
Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility
Research Sub-Committee ABE 60 (4)
Tuesday, January 15, 2013 3:45 pm – 5:30 pm
Jay Room, Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC

In Attendance

Anabela Simoes	ADI / CIGEST
Bill Wilson	Wyoming DOT
Brian McKenzie	U.S. Census
C. Marie Maus	Easter Seals Transportation Group
Catherine Holloway	University College London
Colin Rowan	Portland State University
Crystal Lyons	Crystal Fortune Lyons
Daniel Blais	Transport Canada
David Rishel	Delta Services Group, Inc.
Elaine Lu	Eden Social Welfare Foundation
Hiroto Inoi	Osaka University
Jim Marston	Atlanta VA
Joe Nien-Tsu Wang	Eden Social Welfare Foundation
John Schoon	University of Southampton
Jonathan Klein	USDOT / FTA
Karen Wolf-Branigin	Easter Seals / National Center on Senior
Lalita Sen	Texas Southern University
Linda Van Roosmalen	LINC Design LLC
Ling Suen	International Centre for Accessible
Ralph Hall	Virginia Tech
Roger Mackett	University College London
Russell Thatcher	TranSystems Corporation
Sunyop Kim	University of Missouri – Kansas City Transportation Transportation
Ugo Lachapelle	Université du Québec à Montréal

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. by Co-Chair Karen Wolf-Branigin. Copies of the meeting agenda (see Attachment 1) and an attendance sign-in sheet were distributed.

2. Introduction of Members and Friends

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

3. Review of Minutes 2012 Meeting

2012 meeting minutes were not available for review.

4. 2012 Paper Review Process

Co-Chair Karen Wolf-Branigin summarized the recent paper review process and circulated a form for members and friends to update their contact information and areas of expertise for the next paper review process that will begin in late Spring 2013. The group engaged in a short Question and Answer period:

Q: Are authors permitted to view the comments of other reviewers?

A: Yes, the TRB system allows for this

Q: Can reviewers expect to see the author responses to reviewer recommendations?

A: Yes, the TRB system allows for this, however not all authors provide responses to questions and only revise their papers.

Q: Is there a difference between presentation and publication?

A: Yes.

- Papers selected for presentation are included in podium sessions sponsored or co-sponsored by the Committee.
- Committees are invited to recommend 2-3 papers to TRB staff for publication in the Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board.
- TRB staff members make the final decision regarding the papers to include in this publication.
- Committees learn which papers are accepted for publication following the TRB Annual Meeting, typically in February/March.

Q: Why are some papers selected for podium or poster sessions when a reviewer recommends rejection?

A: Each paper has more than one reviewer and decisions are made based on the majority of reviewer opinions. Authors receive review recommendations and are invited to revise their papers. Reviewers are asked to re-review the revised paper and asked to accept or reject the revisions.

Karen Wolf-Branigin thanked members and friends that participated in the paper and poster review process and provided this update for the group:

- 18 papers were assigned to the Transportation and Mobility Committee for review
- 3 paper were submitted to TRB for re-assignment to a different committee
- 15 papers were distributed to 44 reviewers who then submitted 100 reviews. All papers had 3 or more reviewers.

- Of the 15 papers submitted, 8 were accepted for podium sessions and 7 were offered poster sessions.

5. 2013 Sessions, Workshops and Poster Sessions

Karen Wolf-Branigin reported that Transportation and Mobility Committee issues were well represented at TRB 2013 and provided this update for the group:

- 75 people attended the 1/13/13 *Creating Age-Friendly and Accessible Environments* podium session co-sponsored by the Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility, Committee on Pedestrians, Committee on Bicycle Transportation. This was an invited session with seven presentations.
- 100 people attended the 1/14/13 *Preserving and Extending Mobility for Seniors, Part 2* podium session co-sponsored by the Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility and Committee on Safe Mobility of Older Persons. 4 papers from the selection review process were included in this session.
- The Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility poster session was held on 1/15/13 and attended by hundreds of participants. Seven paper authors were invited to present posters and 3 authors that submitted poster presentations comprised the 10 poster session.
- 45 people attended the 1/15/13 *Best of TRANSED 2012: Global Issues in Accessible Transportation* podium session sponsored by the Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility. This was an invited session with five presentations.
- The final Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility podium session *Systems, Standards, and Approaches for Supporting People with Disabilities* will be presented tonight. 4 papers from the selection review process were included in this session. **Note:** 27 people attended this session.

6. Report on Committee Research Coordinators Activities

Co-Chair Anabela Simoes, who was appointed in 2011 as the ABE60 Committee representative to the Committee Research Coordinators (CRC), reported the activity developed by this Committee since the start of the “Back to Basics Initiative” on October 2011. The aim of this initiative is to fostering and nurturing research agendas for TRB standing committees (SC). For this, some webinars were set up (one in 2011 and two in 2012) and a workshop with the representatives of all SC is carried out each year during the TRB Annual Meeting. Furthermore, a set of tools to help members writing successful RNS was provided. The main tool is the RNS database that is so far empty from any RNS submitted ABE60 Committee. This will be updated very soon and will be continuously updated according to yearly-submitted RNS.

A report including the provided tools (mainly websites) was presented by means of a PPT presentation that is attached to these minutes (Attachment 2).

7. 2012 and 2013 Research Statements

Co-Chair Anabela Simoes introduced the topic starting with a brief reference to the following Research Needs Statements (RNS) submitted in 2012:

Synthesis Statements:

- “Educational Programs in Universal Design and Accessibility” submitted to both TCRP and NCHRP.
- “Soft Factors’ That Limit Accessibility”

Full Research Statements:

- “Determining the Optimum Role of Accessible Taxis in Paratransit Service”

An updated list of submitted RNS highlighting the funded ones is presented in Attachment 3.

A brainstorming discussion was launched regarding ideas for new RNS. At the end, the following topics were selected:

A. Ramp equipped low floor bus design. The main issues are the customer safety related to the use of these vehicles and equipment. Linda Van Roosmalen linda@LINC-Design.com and Dave Rishel drishel@deltaservicesgroup.com volunteered to draft the statement.

B. Operator/customer communications for service delivered on ramp and lift equipped vehicles. Do operators communicate less with customers using ramps? Jonathan Klein jonathan.klein@dot.gov volunteered to draft the statement.

C. Customer perceptions about using different transportation modes Reasons why customers do not use particular modes (synthesis of current research). Sungyop Kim kims@umkc.edu and Lalita Sen sen_lx@tsu.edu volunteered to draft the research statement.

D. Crashworthiness design of Paratransit vehicles (specifically for those with after-market changes). Steve Yaffee syaffe@arlingtonva.us and Linda Van Roosmalen linda@LINC-Design.com volunteered to draft the statement.

E. Good practice criteria for training small Paratransit operators. (Customer service). Linda Van Roosmalen linda@LINC-Design.com volunteered to draft the statement.

F. Customer perceptions about safety. What potential accommodations, services, etc. will increase confidence of vulnerable customers to use public transportation? Ling Suen suenlics@aol.com and Catherine Holloway c.holloway@ucl.ac.uk volunteered to draft the statement.

G. Impact of accessible taxis on Paratransit operations (integration of taxis into Paratransit service). The Paratransit Committee may be taking the lead on this and ABE 60 can co-write and/or endorse.

It was also recommended that RNS authors should review work completed in Europe for statistics, findings, recommendations and solutions.

The deadlines for the submission of RNS (Syntheses and Full Research) were provided.

8. Other business

There was no other business set before the committee.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35.

Note: The minutes were distributed to all participants via Email by Karen Wolf-Branigin on 2/25/13.