

Sub-Committee on International Activities

Tuesday 13th January 2015

19.30 – 21.30

Marriott Marquis, Supreme Court, Washington DC

Minutes

Attendance

Ann Frye, Co-Chair ABE60(1), Ann Frye Ltd, UK **Meeting chair**

Nina Frid Co-Chair ABE60(1)
Canadian Transportation Agency,
Canada

Eileen Lu Eden Social Welfare
Foundation, Taiwan

Lalita Sen, Texas Southern
University, USA

Campbell McKee Motivation, UK

Claude Marin-Lamellet, IFSTTAR,
France

Joe Nien-Tsu Wang, Eden Welfare
Foundation, Taiwan

Anabela Simoes, Portugal

Richard Schultze, RLS & Associates,
USA

John Schoon University of
Southampton, UK

Subash Chandra Vashishth,
Svayam, India

Russell Thatcher TranSystems Corp,
USA

Rex Luk Hong Kong Society for
Rehabilitation, Hong Kong

Judy Shanley Easter Seals, USA

Tom Rickert Access Exchange
International, USA

Vasco Reis University of Lisbon,
Portugal

Rosario Macario, University of
Lisbon, Portugal

Shuchita Rawal, Svayam, India

Bruno Aguiar, University of Lisbon.
Portugal

Abha Negi Svayam, India

Richard Schultze RLS Associates
Inc, USA

Lilian Salazar Tecnologico de
Monterrey University, Mexico

Mary Crass International Transport
Forum, France

Janett Jimenez Santos Can Lah SC,
Mexico

Luis N Filipe, University of Lisbon,
Portugal

Ling Suen ICSA Inc, Canada

1. Matters arising: Update on setting up permanent Transed Secretariat

At the 2014 meeting of ABE(60)1, following a report from Svayam on the setting up of a permanent secretariat for Transed. It was agreed that in the interests of good governance, terms of reference should be drawn up covering the role of the secretariat, its reporting lines (through the Transed sub-committee and ABE 60) and its relationship to TRB. Nina Frid had prepared a draft in consultation with Russell Thatcher and Ann Frye and it was circulated for preliminary views at the meeting. Abha Negi commented that it was very much in line with the terms proposed by Svayam. It was agreed that the draft would be circulated by e-mail to all those attending inviting comments. **Action: Ann & Nina**

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2. Preparations for Transed 2015: feedback from ABE(60)5

Rosario Macario gave a brief summary of the presentation she had made at ABE(60) 5 of the preparation for Transed 2015 to be held in Lisbon from July 28th – 31st. A copy of the full presentation is attached.

Rosario noted that, in the light of comments made by attendees at ABE (60)5 a decision had been taken to offer significantly lower rates for attendants/caregivers. This was warmly welcomed.

Although there had been a high level of interest expressed in the conference, it was now vital to turn that interest into registrations. All those attending were urged to register for the Conference as soon as possible. **Action: All**

3. Report on the work of Access Exchange International

Tom Rickert gave a report on the work of Access Exchange International over the past year. He emphasised in particular his work on providing transport to get children with disabilities to school in developing countries, noting that in some countries fewer than 10% of disabled children got any schooling.

Full details of Tom's work are attached.

4. Knowledge Exchange: recent Developments around the world

A number of participants reported on projects and developments. These included:

Claude Marin-Lamellet: France: policy: the act adopted in 2005 planned that all public transport networks, public building as well as private commercial area should be accessible after 10 years. We are now at the end of that period and it has been recognized that the goal will not be achieved. So the French government has modified the act to cancel the 10 years limit; now, if a public transport network is not accessible, the public transport authority has to produce a master plan detailing the process of accessibility development, with no time limit (but the plan has to be timed). Local accessibility commissions have to evaluate the master plan and give agreement; an administrative local control is supposed to be done, with possible financial penalties.

Research: IFSTTAR is running a study on the use of electric scooters and mobility aids other than wheelchairs in public transport; this study has been commissioned by the French technical administration in charge of rules in public transports. We have conducted interviews of public transport operators and a computerized model has been designed to test the behaviour of the mobility systems in various situations: braking, lateral movement. The final results will be delivered by the end of March.

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Judy Shanley: Easter Seals is interested in developing international partners, especially to focus on youth transition and mobility and transportation. Judy Shanley, Easter Seals Asst. Vice President, Education & Youth Transition developed a paper on the connections across school and public transit to assure that youth have mobility and transportation knowledge as they leave secondary settings. For additional information, please contact Judy Shanley, jshanley@easterseals.com

Easter Seals is a partner on a national technical assistance center, the [National Center for Mobility Management \(NCMM\)](#). NCMM, funded by the Federal Transit Administration, is charged with helping build the capacity of communities to implement mobility management systems and coordinated transportation, to facilitate mobility and transportation options for all.

Janett Jimenez: In July 2014 it was published the Mobility Act for Mexico City, which replaced the Transport and Highway Act. Legislation changed from giving priority to vehicles towards pedestrians' mobility. I was involve on the draft of this document concerning people with limited mobility, including people with disabilities. Currently the draft of the Regulation for the Mobility Act is in process. I am on the right time to give proposals for regulating the accessibility for the different modes of transport. There are time constraints for proposals and struggling with the issues and information that need to be addressed in the regulation.

Russell Thatcher noted that his company--TranSystems--together with The Collaborative, KFH Group, and the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF) completed TCRP research and prepared a report titled "TCRP Report 163: Strategy Guide to Enable and Promote the Use of Fixed-Route Transit by People with Disabilities." Russell noted that the ADA created a link between fixed-route transit and ADA paratransit: if people with disabilities can't use fixed-route transit service to complete a trip, the local transit agency is obligated to provide ADA paratransit. Demand for ADA paratransit service has increased from 15 million trips in 1990 to 45 million trips in 2000 to 105 million trips in 2013. The newly published Strategy Guide provides practical suggestions for how to make it possible for more people with disabilities to travel by fixed-route transit. It covers system accessibility, employee training, fixed-route service monitoring, pedestrian infrastructure improvements, public information and marketing, travel training and trip planning, fare incentives, and eligibility determination. Case studies which examine the costs and outcomes of implementing specific strategies are included. The report can be ordered online at <http://www.national-academies.org/trb/bookstore>.

John Schoon: Design of crossings at intersections and other unsignalled crossings do not consider the needs of pedestrians who require additional time and space when crossing. Observation-reaction time, length of the crossing unit (up to 2m) are not considered, and no safety margin is included. Therefore crossing times

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may be up 50% longer than the design allows when configuring layout and estimating safe sight distances. Particularly for disabled people and those otherwise encumbered such as people with wheelchairs, mobility scooters and prams, crossing becomes a high risk activity or cannot be made. Our research is examining the implications of current design approaches in order to suggest ways of making crossing designs more responsive to the needs of pedestrians -- especially disabled people.

Mary Crass: Mary Crass of the International Transport Forum informed the committee of the accessibility-related themes in the 2015 summit programme on Transport Trade and Tourism.

First, a panel session entitled Transport for Tourists and Travellers: Improving the User Experience will focus in part on ensuring that transport systems are fully accessible for older and disabled tourists.

In addition, Ann Frye will be organising a side event entitled Capitalising on Grey-haired Globetrotters, which will explore the economic aspects of increasing tourism among older people.

Mary also noted that the 2016 Summit will focus on Green and Inclusive Transport, and will feature a strong emphasis on equity issues in transport including as they relate to access for older and disabled users of the transport system.

Ling Suen/Daniel Blais: The Canadian Transportation Development Centre (TDC) has two accessibility projects to report on: the one on motorized mobility aids (MMA's or scooters) has been completed with publication pending, while the other is currently ongoing. The completed project was a workshop to validate the proposed definition for MMA's. The results indicated that separate definitions and guidelines should be established for transportable and non-transportable motorized mobility aids. The objectives of the second TDC accessible transport project are to investigate, identify and test potential technological solutions for passengers using mobility aids to board trains.

In addition, the Société d'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) and the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec (MSSS) mandated the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) to conduct a study titled *Avis de santé publique sur la circulation des aides à la mobilité motorisées sur le réseau routier, 2011* (*Public Health Notice on the Use of Motorized Mobility Aids on the Road Network*). The recommendations include developing a legislative framework to regulate the use of MMA's for Quebec. The Quebec government is expected to announce regulatory measures to address issues in this regard."

Lilian Salazar: last year I was working in Universities Campus Accessibility Audits. It includes all the campus facilities as buildings and open spaces, as well as the surroundings in public space in order to guarantee that pedestrians, people with disabilities and people using public transportation can arrive. This work involved the architecture students of Tec de Monterrey University at Mexico

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City, where they got the training for the audits, and performed the document with solutions including plans.

Anabela Simoes: 1. participation at an international seminar organised by the Florida Institute of Technology and NASA (under invitation): Risk-taking in life-critical systems, with the following presentation: Risk-taking across ageing. A book will be published by Springer composed of the different participations.

2. Another book chapter on road safety and older drivers.

Under my mission as co-chair of the research subcommittee, I've attended CRC workshops and webinars and provided support to members willing to submit RNS.

Campbell McKee: I am Chairman of Motivation Charitable Trust which provides low-cost appropriate wheelchairs to WHO standards to developing countries, via international aid agencies. www.motivation.org.uk

- We work in the context that up to 100 million people who need a wheelchair do not have access to one. In the developed countries of the world, approximately 1.2% of the population are wheelchair users. In the other countries of the world this proportion is less than 0.3%. Without mobility aids, there can be no access to transport.
- We are working with the Government of India on a joint programme with ALIMCO (Artificial Limb Manufacturing Company) to introduce improved Wheelchair services centres across the country, together with the provision of high-quality wheelchairs within the Indian Government's improved reimbursement programme.
- We are also working closely with the Chinese Federation of Disabled People to introduce training in wheelchair service provision to WHO standards. This will be done also in conjunction with former staff of the Hong Kong Rehabilitation Society.
- Both these initiatives will be further steps towards improving the availability of mobility aids to millions of people, as a first stage towards accessible transport.

I am also President of the European Mobility Group (EMG), which consists of companies which adapt or convert cars to enable disabled people to drive themselves. Our 40+ Member companies across Europe convert or adapt some 25,000 cars a year. Our principal goals are the development of improved standards of construction and supply, and of customer care; and technology transfer between Member companies, leading to innovative solutions becoming available to more disabled people who wish to drive themselves. www.mobilitygroup.eu

- We are reviewing the availability of rental cars across Europe for drivers with a disability. This is an integral part of generating accessible tourism, for those whose journey plans are not suited to accessible public transport

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options. While the major car rental companies claim to offer accessible vehicles, the reality of the situation at local depots can often mean that local staff are unfamiliar with both the equipment available to them, and of the specific needs of disabled people. The EMG is drawing up details of locally-based specialist companies, including Member companies, who can provide a tailored service provided by specialists in the needs of drivers with disabilities.

TRANSED PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

Terms of Reference

Purpose

Establishing a Permanent Secretariat for TRANSED conferences will ensure knowledge transfer from one host to the next, will support the planning and delivery of a high quality event to advance research, policy and programs related to accessible transportation around the world.

Roles and responsibilities

The Permanent Secretariat would play a key role particularly between the TRANSED conferences.

Once the host for the next TRANSED is chosen – the Permanent Secretariat will work closely with the host to provide advice on the lessons learned from previous events, on planning of the event based on the Organizer's Handbook and on solicitation of sponsors, the conference program and other important milestones.

The Permanent Secretariat will be responsible to create and maintain the TRANSED website which will warehouse information related to the past conferences, as well as announcement of the forthcoming TRANSED conferences.

The Permanent Secretariat's web site will archive the papers and posters presented at past TRANSED's with a link to the TRB website.

Once the host chosen for the next TRANSED has launched its web site, the Permanent Secretariat's site should provide links on its site to that of the host's.

The solicitation of bids, review of interest and bids to host and selection of the host for the next TRANSED would rest with the TRB ABE60 – International Sub-committee. The Permanent Secretariat will assist in reviewing the Letters of Interest/Proposals and in distributing them to the selection committee members.

The Permanent Secretariat will maintain a databank of contacts. These will include:

- The list of reviewers for papers and posters consisting of attendees of the ABE60 - International Activities and TRANSED Planning Sub-Committees who express an interest in assisting with paper reviews;
- The list of members of the TRB ABE60 Committee and attendees of its other Sub-Committees;

- A list of delegates who participated in previous conferences (subject to data protection requirements);
- A list of exhibitors and sponsors.

The Permanent Secretariat will also facilitate identification of relevant speakers in consultation with the host and its Organizing Committee.

At the closing of a TRANSED event, the Permanent Secretariat will assist the host with pulling together the Final Report to ensure knowledge transfer for future events.

Membership

The Permanent Secretariat will report to the TRANSED Planning Subcommittee of the TRB ABE60 committee.

Meetings

The Permanent Secretariat's representative would be expected to attend, whenever possible and as required, the meetings of the TRB ABE60 committee and subcommittees during TRB's Annual Meeting when TRANSED-related planning is discussed.

Minutes

Minutes prepared by the TRB ABE60 committee will reflect reports and information provided by the Permanent Secretariat.

The Permanent Secretariat's report would be included in the TRB's TRANSED Planning Subcommittee report.

Activities of Access Exchange International during 2014

See AEI Newsletters dated June 2014 and January 2015 for details.

The mission of Access Exchange International is to promote accessible transportation for persons with disabilities and seniors in less wealthy countries around the world.

1. Workshops and events

- AEI coordinated our 15th annual Roundtable on Accessible Transportation in Developing Countries, co-sponsored with the Intl. Centre for Accessible Transportation (ICAT) and held in January 2014 at facilities provided by APTA in Washington DC. This was our largest Roundtable at APTA to date.
- Our Executive Director was hosted by colleagues in Mexico City, joining them for a series of meetings in April focused on paratransit. AEI in turn hosted Mexican colleagues who participated with AEI in TRB's International Paratransit Conference in Monterey, California, in October, as well as a tour of paratransit programs in San Francisco.
- Our Executive Director was in Washington DC, Sept. 29-Oct. 3, participating in meetups with ten agencies to consult together about accessible transport matters, including luncheon "brown bags" with World Bank and Interamerican Development Bank staff and meetings with colleagues at EMBARQ, USAID, and the USICD. We also met with staff of the CTAA, Easter Seals Project Action, the United States Access Board, the AARP, and TRB.

2. Publications

AEI newsletters were sent to more than 1,700 addresses in eighty countries in June and again at year's end, including a Spanish version for colleagues in Latin America. Approx. one hundred news items in our field were summarized from 33 countries, with a primary focus on Asia and Latin America, supplemented by reports from Europe, North America, and Africa. The most active countries in terms of news received were Mexico, India, China, Indonesia, South Africa, Peru, and Bolivia. Special features in our newsletters documented progress and challenges in the inclusive design and operation of paratransit and in bus rapid transit.

4. Making resources available: The Resources section of our website at www.globalride-sf.org was updated, with more than one hundred annotated links providing a prime resource for practitioners in less-wealthy countries. Queries regarding specific resources increased sharply during 2014. AEI responded in detail to requests from practitioners in eighteen countries.

5. Upcoming:

- We continue our current focus to promote the implementation and expansion of paratransit, bus, and rail services in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and eastern Europe. Challenges range from promoting research to further reduce the platform-to-bus gap at BRT stations, to testing seat belts on auto-rickshaws, to underlining the need for municipal mobility managers to better serve public, private, and non-profit paratransit providers. We plan to further this work in 2014 to "make access happen" around the world.
- Within this context, an emerging initiative by Access Exchange International is the promotion of affordable transportation to enable children and youth with disabilities to get to school in developing regions. This emphasis was reflected in our January 2015 Newsletter and resources are now being sought to create a guide to promote new thinking on "transport to school" issues and to follow up with a spectrum of activities with international stakeholders.

-- Submitted by Tom Rickert, Executive Director