

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility (ABE60) Transportation Research Board 88th Annual Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 1:30 pm - 5:30 p.m.
Caucus Room, Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC

In Attendance

Co-Chair

Kate Hunter-Zaworski
Kit Mitchell

Oregon State University
United Kingdom

Member

Beezy Bentzen
David Chapman
Joey Goldman
Jonathan Klein
Claude Marin-Lamellet
James Marston
Brian Masson
Campbell McKee
Anna Okola
Thomas Rickert
Uwe Rutenberg
John Schoon
Lalita Sen
Russell Thatcher
Christoffel Venter
Harry Wolfe
Joseph Zaworski

Accessible Design for the Blind
University of Delaware
Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates
Federal Transit Administration
INRETS-LESCOT
University of California, Santa Barbara
MULTIMODAL Transport Solutions Ltd.
C. N. Unwin Ltd.
World Bank
Access Exchange International
Rutenberg Design Inc.
University of Southampton
Texas Southern University
TranSystems
University of Pretoria
Consultant
Oregon State University

Emeritus Member

Betsy Buxer
David Lewis
Ling Suen

MV Transportation
HDR Consultants
International Centre for Accessible
Transportation

Friend

Tetsuo Akiyama
Julie Babinard
Chiranjivi Bhamidipati
Ron Brooks
Dennis Cannon
Mabel Chau Man-Ki
William Crandall

Tokyo Metropolitan University
World Bank
University of Virginia
Veolia Transportation
U.S. Access Board
The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation
Smith-Kettlewell RERC

Jules Eason	Federal Transit Administration
Buffy Ellis	KFH Group Inc.
Ted Finlayson-Schueler	School Travel Safety Rules
Murielle Fong	Transport Canada
Jon Foord	University of Manitoba
Ann Frye	Ann Frye Limited
Aletha Goodine	Federal Transit Administration
Robyn Hoeschen	Easter Seals Project Action
Sally Liff	Consultant
Chi Keung (Rex) Luk	The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation
Akihiro Mihoshi	Kinki University
Barbara Nelson	Transport Canada
Daisuke Sawada	EcoMo Foundation
Charlene Wilder	Federal Transit Administration
Michael Winter	Federal Transit Administration

1. Call to Order, Kit Mitchell, Kate Hunter-Zaworski, Co-Chairs

Kit Mitchell called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Introductory Comments, and Introduction of Members and Friends

Kit Mitchell asked members to introduce themselves. It was noted that the membership roster had been e-mailed to members and that it was also included on the committee website.

The minutes of the 2008 TRB Meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Tom Rickert and seconded by Jim Marston to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

Kit Mitchell asked for reports on sessions that had been held so far. Session 257 “International Changes in Travel Behavior, Driver Licensing and Occupant Fatality Rates over the Last 20 Years” was held on Monday January 12, 2009 and was co-sponsored by the Committee on Safe Mobility of Older Persons. He welcomed this cooperation, which he hoped would continue in the future. The session examined accident, injury and fatality rates around the world by age and gender. It was pointed out that women have lower fatality rates, but with the oldest age groups the difference between men and women is reduced.

Beezy Bentzen stated that the Committee on Safe Mobility of Older Persons needs an infusion of people from ABE 60.

Session 370 “Transportation for All—Dream or Reality? Global Best Practices” was held on Monday January 12, 2009 and was co-sponsored by the Paratransit Committee. A discussion of the North American perspective was followed by other research results. One speaker stated that in less developed countries jitneys are important. It was mentioned that this may have applicability in rural areas of the United States.

Uwe Rutenberg said that a speaker from Ireland presented case studies of countries where there is great use of public transportation. He wondered whether these are countries where people can't afford to buy a car.

Mr. Rutenberg added that North American cities were built for the car and land use lends itself to extending our cities around the core and dispersed development. This makes it difficult to provide public transportation.

Kit Mitchell stated that the type of mini bus service (jitney) that exists in many developing countries is carrying a high percentage of transport passengers. He said that we shouldn't limit our thinking to large buses. There are alternative systems.

Kate Hunter-Zaworski commented that synergy with other groups in the Public Transportation area that meet at same time as our committee would be good.

3. TRB Staff Announcements Martine Micozzi

Martine Micozzi presented certificates of appreciation to Kit Mitchell and Kate Hunter-Zaworski as outgoing co-chairs of ABE 60 They served from 2003-2009.

Betsy Buxer was awarded Emeritus Member status for her contributions to the committee and TRB over the years.

The theme for the TRB 2010 annual meeting will be: Investing in our Transportation Future: Bold ideas for Big Challenges.

Russell Thatcher and Lalita Sen have been designated the new co-chairs of the Accessible Transportation and Mobility Committee. There is a need for someone to replace them as co-chairs of the Research Subcommittee.

Martine Micozzi announced that the summer TRB meeting would be held in Seattle Washington on July 19-22 2009 and asked if a summer meeting of the committee was being considered.

Kit Mitchell asked if there was interest in a summer meeting. There was a general sense that additional travel was difficult in this economic environment and that many members were reserving travel allowances for TRANSED2010. It was decided not to plan a summer meeting.

Kit Mitchell thanked Martine Micozzi for her support for the committee.

Ann Frye noted that there was insufficient room space and time for holding subcommittee meetings and asked if a larger room and a more appropriate timescale could be provided. She added that people had traveled from all over the world to attend the meeting and that sufficient time and space for the meeting was the minimum courtesy that should be extended to them by TRB.

Martine Micozzi responded that the demand for space during the first two days of the conference is great and if the committee wanted a larger room for its subcommittees, consideration should be given to meeting at night, on the weekend or later in the week.

Russell Thatcher said that we need to make sure the subcommittees meet before the main committee.

4. Reports of Subcommittees

ABE60(1) Subcommittee on International Activities – Tom Rickert and Anne Frye, Co-Chairs

Plans for TRANSED 2010

Mabel Chau gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on planning preparations for TRANSED 2010. She said that the conference would be held at the Hong Kong Exhibit and Convention Center on June 2-4th 2010.

The focus of the 2010 TRANSED is sustainable transport and travel. It will have four themes. Technical advisors for the conference are Ling Suen and Uwe Rutenberg.

Input from members was requested on:

- a. Promoting TRANSED 2010. We are hoping to have 1000 delegates with 300-500 from overseas. How do we get people to promote and advertise the conference?
- b. Suggestions for Plenary speakers – four speakers. People who have done substantial research in area proposed with global or regional perspective, members from World Bank, etc.
- c. People who could provide in-kind support – sponsorships. 30% of the cost of the conference is being secured through government. Additional support is being sought from airlines, vehicle and equipment vendors.

\$25,000 has been set aside to support scholarships for persons with disabilities to attend the conference. To be selected for a scholarship, a person would need to have his or her paper chosen for presentation at the conference. Tom Rickert suggested sending donations to increase the defined scholarship fund. It was noted that donations could be sent via bank transfer for the scholarships.

It was noted that the Institute of Transportation Engineers has a worldwide membership and that they should be contacted about sponsoring a scholar.

Mabel Chau noted that Anne Frye suggested contacting organizations so they can offer certification for attending TRANSED 2010.

Dave Chapman pointed out that cruise lines in Hong Kong are building a new terminal and that water accessibility is an up-and-coming issue.

Jen Tuck of Princess Cruises is a possible resource.

Lalita Sen recommended advertising the conference with APTA publications as a way of attracting managers and operators.

The World Bank is a possible source of support. Dubai has done a lot of work on accessibility and has developed guidelines. It would be desirable to have more participants from the Middle East.

Campbell McKee said that there is a need for people who are willing to serve on the Scientific Committee. Thirteen members of Scientific Committee are outside of Hong Kong. The main job of Scientific Committee members is to help with the paper review.

Kit Mitchell pointed out that if TRANSED 2010 is successful in getting many abstracts, we will need more reviewers.

Kate Hunter-Zaworski asked if we can have reviewers who are not a part of Scientific Committee. Mabel Chau said yes, if the reviewer is asked by a member of Scientific Committee to assist in the review of the paper.

Efforts will be made to organize post conference study tours.

Mabel Chau said that this is the second time TRANSED has been held in Asia. (2004 it was held in Japan) and that Hong Kong will be an excellent venue.

A conference planning meeting is being scheduled in Hong Kong in August 2009 for people on the Steering and Scientific Committees.

2013 TRANSED Proposals

Tom Rickert indicated that proposals for TRANSED 2013 had been received from South Africa and India. Cristoffel Venter gave a PowerPoint presentation on South Africa's proposal. A representative from India addressed the committee and said that Delhi was interested in hosting TRANSED 2013.

Tom Rickert stated that we are still open for other proposals to be submitted. He added that draft proposals need to be submitted by June 30th so they can be circulated and a final decision made.

Kate Hunter-Zaworski said that because there is so much effort involved in assembling proposals, we should move toward a pre-proposal process.

Tom Rickert commented that there hadn't been a lot of competition in the past and it was good to have two proposals.

Report on activities of Access Exchange International (AEI)

Tom Rickert noted that a workshop was held in Mexico. 300 people from Latin America wanted to have the United Nations convention on rights of persons with disabilities to push for a successful accessible transportation program.

South Africa has seen progress on bus rapid transit.

A fixed route specialist from San Francisco has relocated to Bangalore and will lead a workshop in Delhi in March 2009 on accessibility for vehicles and infrastructure.

A Transit Access Training Toolkit is being prepared for developing nations in concert with the World Bank. By June it is hoped that there will be available a series of Posters, and Public Service Announcements for small transit operators around the world.

AEI will hold its annual round table on Thursday January 15, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at APTA headquarters.

ABE60(2) Sub-Committee on Advanced Technology and Accessible Transportation, Uwe Rutenberg, Chair

More time is needed to cover our material in our subcommittee. 36 people attended the meeting.

The following topics were presented:

- a. Uwe Rutenberg – noted pressing problem of accommodating persons who use large wheelchairs
- b. Brian Masson - introduced a new technology using cell phone
- c. Bill Crandall – mentioned that an audio signage system demonstration was undertaken in Seattle.
- d. Joe Zaworski – gave a presentation on wheel chair stowage aboard aircraft – technology for transfer from wheel chairs to seats
- e. Carol Schweiger – listed papers of interest and wanted to remind ITS about meeting accessibility
- f. Daisuke Sawada made reference to improvements in accessibility in Japan since 2006
- g. Yuhuda Gross – (FHWA ITS Joint Program Office) The goal of the Mobility Services for All Americans (MSAA) initiative is to improve transportation services and simplify access to employment, healthcare, education, and other community activities by means of the advanced technologies of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and through extending transportation service partnerships with consumers and human service providers at the federal, State, and local levels. FHWA is still seeking partners to participate in this initiative.

- h. Campbell McKee: “Wheels within wheels” – discussed how Europe is coping with big chairs in transportation.

Other committee business included a request from Ling Suen to include presentations with the minutes. Beezy Bentzen mentioned that there are still barriers for communication for people with disabilities.

Janet Barlow indicated the need for making work zones more accessible for people with disabilities. Uwe Rutenberg mentioned the lack for consideration of passenger’s needs for all modes. Operation, cost, infrastructure and performance seem to be the most important issues.

Robin Philips mentioned the risk for OTRB programs not to provide lifts for buses. One mode seemed to receive little attention is the accessibility of ferries for elderly and disabled passengers.

ABE60(4) Subcommittee on Research – Russell Thatcher and Lalita Sen, Co-Chairs

- a. There were 24 attendees at the Subcommittee meeting
- b. Report from Anabel on European Union Project – Access to All.
- c. Over past year Lalita Sen coordinated paper review process. The Committee was successful in receiving eight papers. They were distributed for review and three papers were recommended for presentation and a report on TREK at the University of Oregon. Session 669 will be held on Wednesday.
- d. Worked with Brian Masson to put together session 370.
- e. Three of the eight papers that were received were presented in Session 669 and one paper is being presented in a poster session.
- f. For 2010, the theme is “Bold ideas to meet big challenges.” One possible session could focus on opportunities for investing in accessibility and mobility. For example, bus stops and accessible right of way, making more facilities accessible, or investing in mobility managers. It was suggested that there be a special paper call associated with this topic.

It was recommended that other than a specific call for papers for this session, we would not have a general call to avoid conflicting with TRANSED.

There was discussion on possible workshops that would precede the conference. Suggestions included:

- a. Designing accessible bus stops - Beezy Bentzen
- b. Workshop on accessible taxis - Will Rodman and Buffy

It was noted that workshop ideas are due by June 1st.

There was discussion of possible research topics that might be developed for submittal this year. Ideas included:

- a. Measuring and understanding insufficient service - David Chia.

- b. Handbook for lighting in Transit and Pedestrian Environment – Harry Wolfe.
- c. Maximizing benefits of volunteer driver transportation programs - Will Rodman.
- d. Full research on better models for measuring accessibility - Lalita Sen.
- e. Full research on programs that support successful taxi information - Will Rodman and Bill Orleans.
- f. David Lewis noted that there was a final ruling in Canada on free air travel for attendants for people with disabilities. He added that the question now is how to define eligibility factors. It was also noted that Australia is doing the same thing and has a companion card. Mr. Lewis agreed to work on a research statement on this topic.
- g. Synthesis on best practices for transportation for specific ethnic groups with possible ties to what the Tribal Transportation Committee is addressing - Joey Goldman.

David Lewis urged extending the research of the Committee to include the Airport Cooperative Research (ACRP) program.

It was noted that Project Action funded a prior research statement developed by the committee on issues with accommodating persons who use oversized wheelchairs.

5. Triennial Self-evaluation

Kit Mitchell explained that the Triennial self-evaluation was a look at work completed during the past three years and the development of a strategic plan for the future. He said that a draft of the self-evaluation was mailed out to committee members for review and comment.

6. Committee Report

Kit Mitchell commented that the Committee had accomplished a great deal over the past three years. He cited the following:

- a. We have more young members.
- b. Submitted and received funding for more Committee research proposals. We have had five projects funded: 3 by TRB/TCRP and 2 by Project Action.
- c. Disseminated proceedings of all TRANSEDS since 1978 to TRB for input into the TRIS Database. Thanks was extended to Barbara Post in Information Management.
- d. Held joint meetings and workshops for committees, such as the Joint Session with the Committee on Safe Mobility for Older People.
- e. Made progress in moving accessibility from specialty topic to a part of mainstream planning.

- f. Developed a database of guidelines of good practices. It has been through AEI, but still needs to go through TRB.

Brian Masson noted that a database of European experiences with demand responsive transportation has been developed and can be found at www.flexibletransport.org.

Kit Mitchell said that he didn't have the number of papers sponsored by the Committee and that were published by TRB. He asked for assistance in identifying those papers.

Kate Hunter-Zaworski noted that several years ago our Committee was reorganized and we were made a part of the Policy and Organization Group. There was a great deal of discussion in the committee on whether placement in that group was good or not. After looking at it, we may not be a good fit. Public Transportation might be better place for our committee.

Dave Chapman pointed out that Ferry transportation was moved from marine to transit and the move has had a positive effect. He supported the idea of moving the Committee to the Transportation group.

Ann Frye asked whether placement in the Public Transportation Group would limit our committee.

Kate Hunter-Zaworski said it would not.

The Committee moved and accepted by acclamation that we ask TRB to move us to the Public Transportation Group. It was stressed that accessibility is becoming main stream for operators and our committee wants to work in concert with them.

Kit Mitchell reviewed the scope of the committee. He said that the current scope is a rather bland statement and not very good. Dr. Mitchell said that the Committee tried to change it three years ago, but nothing happened and so we will try again.

Kit Mitchell asked for input on changes. He said that after the meeting he and Kate Hunter-Zaworski would work on revising the written scope of the committee. It was suggested that reference be made to user-based services and that additional focus be given to public input.

Kit Mitchell reviewed the objectives of the Committee and commented that they were fairly general. The objectives are:

- a. Defining the scope of the committee
- b. Strengthening research community
- c. Helping conduct research
- d. Helping disseminate research
- e. Collaborating
- f. Helping improve quality of research

g. Monitoring state of the art.

Four more specific objectives are:

- a. Collaborating and coordinating with other committees on related issues.
- b. Insuring TRB is a model of excellent practices
- c. Collaborating and representing TRB on accessibility and mobility issues
- d. Fostering an understanding of the issue from the user perspective

Dr. Mitchell asked if there were other specific objectives that the Committee should be pursuing. Some suggested additional objectives were:

- a. Encouraging TRB to consider accessibility
- b. Adding more professionals with disabilities to Committee membership
- c. Fostering an understanding the disability issue from the user perspective (i.e. persons with disabilities). It is unfortunate how few professionals with disabilities have participated in Committee activities.

Tom Rickert said that we need to get a mechanism where we do more of this.

Kit Mitchell responded that if Tom could think of a draft, to provide it to our committee.

We want to have the following types as members on our committee:

- a. People with disabilities
- b. Young people
- c. Manufacturers
- d. Operators
- e. Members of other TRB Committees

Dave Chapman said it was also important to have people on the committee who are part of or representing advocacy groups. One group missing is operators.

Jim Marston said that he would like to have TRB programs in large print or in Braille. Ron Brooks said that he registered for the conference, requested accommodation and it was provided.

The following research issue recommendations were made:

- a. Cognitive impairment and mental health
- b. Older adults
- c. Economic Disadvantages
- d. Persons with Disabilities who can't travel independently
- e. Key elements of good access solutions

People should be made aware of accessibility issues by:

- a. Encouraging other committees to take accessibility into account noting that it is not specialized.
- b. Placing symbol of accessibility on the TRB program. The facilities offer standard levels of accessibility.

It was noted that the Hilton Hotel is difficult to use for persons with disabilities.

Russell Thatcher said that there are accessible vehicles available for traveling from one hotel to the other and that we need to request them.

Charlene Wilder said one thing missing in the Committee was coordination with human services transportation.

Kate Hunter-Zaworski said that coordination with human services transportation was a focus of the Paratransit Committee. However, it was noted that we could address it in our committee as well.

Russell Thatcher stated that Kate Hunter-Zaworski wanted to move the Committee website from Oregon State University to another host. Dr. Hunter-Zaworski said that if an organization was interested in being a host for the Committee website, to please let us know.

It was noted that TRB has a basic link to information about the committee, but it relies on each committee to have its own larger website.

Kate Hunter-Zaworski said it would be good to have a host without fire walls and one with the newest scripting.

David Chapman said it would be helpful to have a one page description of what is on the site. He said that he would then explore the possibility of the University of Delaware hosting it.

It was agreed that the current TRB statement of the scope of the Committee needed to be widened to reflect the activities in which the Committee was already participating.

7. Presentations to the Committee

Claude Marin-Lamellett gave a PowerPoint presentation on EuroAccess. Full details of the project are available on <http://www.euro-access.org>

Michael Winter said that he had been involved in disability issues for 30 years and that the Euroaccess approach is well done. He added that it doesn't just look at the problem, but the policies that lead to the problem.

Kit Mitchell said the issue is that there are regulations, but they are not applied, particularly in the developing world. He said that the Joint Committee on Transportation Options meets tonight and he would attend.

8. Report on Liaison Activities with Other TRB Committees

Kit Mitchell reported that the Joint Committee on Transportation Options would meet the evening after the main Committee meeting and he would attend.

Kit Mitchell said that FHWA is preparing a handbook on design of highways for older drivers. There will be a presentation on what is going to be in the handbook.

Kate Hunter-Zaworski asked if Kit Mitchell was going to continue as Liaison to that committee. Dr. Mitchell said that he remained a member of the committee.

Rural Public and Intercity Transit Committee –Kate Hunter Zaworski said that she would ask for the Committee notes.

Para-transit committee – It was noted that the research subcommittee and full committee would meet tomorrow

David Chapman – Ferry Committee – he said that the Committee meets tomorrow.

Harry Wolfe recommended that the Committee on Airport Terminals and Ground Access jointly sponsor with ABE60 a session on Best Practices in Making Airports More Accessible

One friend of the committee commented that school buses should be considered as a part of passenger transportation. He said that he had the impression that many school bus routes aren't linear and smaller buses would be better suited to such service.

It was noted that a key role of the committee is to get students with disabilities on regular buses.

There was discussion of a possible joint session on accessible taxis and improving ground transport to airports. There was also discussion of a possible session on making airports more accessible.

Russell Thatcher said that more accessible ground access to airports is needed. This would encompass regular airport shuttle buses, and car rental shuttles.

9. Major Accessibility Developments/Projects – Roundtable discussion

Harry Wolfe suggested that with release of new data from the Census Bureau on persons with disabilities and travel characteristics and that we should look at harvesting the data and cosponsoring a session. He added that there is a need to evaluate the reliability of the American Community Survey; and noted that the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) file allows for cross tabulating transportation data and persons with disabilities. It was noted that the smallest Public Use Microdata Geographic Areas had 100,000 people and that the margin of error might prohibit its use.

Ann Frye reported on the publication of new guidance from the International Transport Forum on Cognitive Impairment, Mental Health and Transport. This had been a much neglected area. Copies were available via the ITF website at <http://www.internationaltransportforum.org>

Project Action is developing a Strategic Plan and has submitted a first draft of the plan to FTA.

The Global Travel Training Community is an online forum for travel trainers from around the world to talk about what they are doing.

It was noted that FTA is developing self-assessment tools to assist transit agencies in monitoring and improving wheelchair lift and other access equipment reliability and maintenance, elevator maintenance and reliability, stop announcements, and ADA paratransit service delivery. Once developed, the tools will be posted on FTA's website.

10. Other Business/Other Session Reports - nothing was presented

11. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.