**Wednesday 15th January 2014**

**10.15 – 12.00**

**Gunston, Hilton Hotel, Washington DC**

**Minutes**

**Attendance**

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| **Ann Frye**, Co-Chair ABE60(1), Ann Frye Ltd, UK **Meeting chair** | **Judy Shanley** Easter Seals, USA |
| **Nina Frid** Co-Chair ABE60(1) Canadian Transportation Agency, Canada  **Eileen Lu** Eden Social Welfare Foundation, Taiwan  **Beezy Bentzen** Accessible Design for the Blind, USA | **Roger Mackett** University College London, UK  **Tom Rickert** Access Exchange International, USA  **Vasco Reis** University of Lisbon, Portugal |
| **Mohammed Yousef** FHWA, USA  **Kit Mitchell,** UK | **Catherine Holloway** University College London, UK |
| **Campbell McKee** Motivation, UK | **Sonal Chaudhry** Svayam, India |
| **Betsy Buxer** MV Transportation, USA  **Andres Balcazar**, GAATES, Mexico | **Eileen Lu** Eden Social Welfare Foundation, Taiwan |
| **Karen Wolf-Branigin** The Arc, USA | **Abha Negi** Svayam, India |
| **Anabela Simoes** ADI/CIGEST, Portugal | **Richard Schultze** RLS Associates Inc, USA |
| **Yoshikata Tanabe** Volpe/Central Japan Railway, USA | **Lilian Salazar** **Diaz**Tecnologico de Monterrey University, Mexico |
| **John Schoon** University of Southampton, UK | **Mary Crass** International Transport Forum, France |
| **Daniel Blais** Transport Canada, Canada | **Gwo-wei Torng** Noblis inc, USA |
| **Russell Thatcher** TranSystems Corp, USA | **Mary Jane Gravelle** Canadian Transportation Agency, Canada |
| **Rex Luk** Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation, Hong Kong | **Ling Suen** International Centre for Accessible Transportation, Canada |
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1. **Long Term Future of Transed Conferences**

Abha Negi reported on steps that had been taken to set up a permanent secretariat and website for Transed conferences to provide continuity between conferences and a lasting knowledge base both for participants and for future organisers.

She suggested that the responsibilities of the Secretariat could include:

* Creation and maintenance of a TRANSED website which will be the repository of all the information relating to the past conferences as well as announcement of the forthcoming TRANSED conferences. Undertake the content management of the website as and when required;
* Inviting bids online from the interested nations for hosting TRANSED conference;
* Floating of Request for Proposal (RFP) in consultation with the Chair and the Co-chair;
* Archiving of the papers and posters presented with a link to the TRB website;
* Maintaining the database of reviewers for the International Scientific Committee;
* Inviting and reviewing the credentials of prospective reviewers clearly keeping in mind the research driven nature of TRANSED conferences;
* Maintaining the database of International Steering Committees;
* Facilitating identification of relevant speakers in consultation with the Organizing Committee;.
* Outlining the preliminary responsibility of the Organizing Committee/Scientific Committee/International steering committee member who suggests the name of a potential speaker to send in an introductory letter to facilitate follow up by the host nation /TRANSED main secretariat;
* Maintaining a master database of all the delegates participating in the conference beginning with 13th TRANSED 2012;
* Maintaining the database of exhibitors and sponsors;
* The access to the information would be password protected and shared only with the host nation and changed with every passing TRANSED to ensure privacy;
* The Organizer’s Handbook will be uploaded on the main secretariat website and would be available to the host nation;
* Taking the handover of the live data including papers and posters of the current TRANSED conference from the host for archiving purposes and for making it available to the next host;
* Taking the handover of the Final Report from the host nation once it has been presented at TRB Meeting.

The secretariat would be provided by Svayam who would also manage the website.

The costs of the secretariat and website would be underwritten personally by Ms Sminu Jindal of Svayam.

The offer to provide and cover the costs of this service were warmly welcomed.

In the interests of good governance it was agreed that 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. This should be cleared in draft with TRB staff before being finalised. Nina Frid volunteered to draft the terms of reference in collaboration with Mary Crass. ACTION; NINA and MARY

1. **Knowledge Exchange: recent developments around the world**

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

**Russell Thatcher, TranSystems:**

TranSystems and three subcontractors—The Collaborative, KFH Group, and the Disability Rights and Education Fund—are completing work on TCRP Project B-40, titled “Strategy Guide to Enable and Promote the Use of Fixed-Route Transit by People with Disabilities.”

The strategy guide will provide transit managers with a blueprint that can be used to grow fixed-route transit ridership by people with disabilities. Included in the overall strategy is guidance on: ensuring that fixed-route services are accessible and usable by riders with disabilities; improving pedestrian access to stops and stations; marketing and public information that stresses accessibility; trip planning services that provide information on system and surrounding pedestrian infrastructure accessibility; fare incentives; improved accommodation of riders who use mobility devices; and using the ADA paratransit eligibility determination process to encourage use of fixed-route transit services.

The strategy guide also includes a discussion of key factors considered by people with disabilities when deciding whether to use fixed-route transit versus paratransit services, which is based on survey responses from about 2,000 people with disabilities. The strategy guide should be available in the next three to four months.

**Daniel Blais, Transport Canada**

Accessibility projects at the Transportation Development Centre fall under two streams, a) larger and heavier mobility aids; and b) information and communication technologies to increase accessibility.

Recently Completed Projects:

Title: Defining the Scooter: An Interactive Workshop on Motorized Mobility Aids

Objective: Validate a proposed definition of motorized mobility aids and strategize on a way towards implementation.

Status: Final report being prepared and will be circulated by email to all ABE 60 members and contacts.

Upcoming Projects:

Title: Boarding technologies for passengers using mobility aids at railway stations where the station platform is not level with the car floor

Objective: Investigate, identify and test potential technological solutions that could be used to assist passengers using mobility aids to board trains at VIA Rail stations, where the station/stop platform is not level with the car floor.

Status: Request for proposal to be launched within 4 weeks.

Projects under Development

- Wayfinding technologies for airports

- Providing intercity rail passenger with real time information in rural areas

- National scooter user database

- Securement systems for scooters on board public transportation

Daniel also mentioned:

The World Tourism Summit entitled Destinations for All will take place in Montréal October 19 to 22, 2014 at the Palais des congrès de Montréal (Montreal Conference Centre). The call for abstracts has been launched and closes on March 3 2014.

The conference website is: <http://www.destinationsforall2014.com/>

For information on submitting an abstract go to: <http://www.destinationsforall2014.com/en/call-for-abstracts#.Utv2Fyj0Dbg>

For further information on all projects contact Daniel at [daniel.blais@tc.gc.ca](mailto:daniel.blais@tc.gc.ca)

**Roger Mackett, University College London, UK**

Roger chairs the Transport Working Group of the Age Action Alliance in the UK which is a consortium of organizations from the public and private sector that are interested in improving life for older people. The Age Action Alliance is organised by the Department of Work and Pensions which is a government department, and AgeUK, which is the leading charity concerned with older people.

The Transport Working Group is collecting evidence on the barriers to access for older people and ways of overcoming them with a view to putting the information on the website (<http://ageactionalliance>.org/theme/transport/) as a useful resource for those interested in improving accessibility for older people. The Working group is also carrying out surveys of users of mobility scooters and developing guidelines on the design of bus shelters.

**Anabela Simoes, ADI/CIGEST, Portugal**

1. At a European level, Anabela has finished FP7 projects in 2012 and 2013. Now, she’s involved in some proposals to H2020 issued from the HUMANIST research network;

2. At an international level, she’s started a collaboration with the department of Transport Engineering from the University of S. Paulo (Brazil) covering road safety and other issues related to road users' safety. 

3. At a national level, she’s started writing a document on inclusive mobility aiming at producing a guidance for a full accessibility of public transport systems. This document provides a holistic approach of accessibility based on the travel chain and the system dynamics, as well as the travellers' activity, instead of being centred on a static look to each element of the system. This approach allows for identifying gaps related to the activity limitations of different groups of travellers and finding solutions to bridging each gap. This project is looking for national funding but it is being slowly developed.

**Campbell McKee, Motivation, UK**

Campbell gave a brief update on Motivation’s work

• Launch of an emergency response wheelchair: low cost wheelchair designed for transitional use in crisis and emergency situations

• Imminent launch of low-cost packs of urinary continence management systems for developing countries, for spinal injury wheelchair users

For further information see [www.motivation.org.uk](http://www.motivation.org.uk)

He also mentioned CEN approval of Car Adaptation Protocol Initiative CAPI, as a CEN Workshop Agreement in October 2013. CWA 16697:2013

These are industry-led standards for the assessment of drivers, selection and specification of appropriate aids, installation and inspection of the complete adaptation of a motor vehicle for a disabled driver.

For further information see [www.emg-group.com](http://www.emg-group.com)

**Mary Crass, International transport Forum, France**

Mary reported that the ITF 2014 Annual Summit will be on Transport for a Changing World. Among the global economic and societal megatrends explored in terms of their impact on transport will be ageing populations, urbanization, and inclusive growth. Link to website: ITF is introducing a new masterclass on urban design including discussion of user-based planning and universal design;

ITFD also has planned a high-level plenary on pursuing green and inclusive growth.

The 2013 Summit on Funding Transport featured a side event on Funding Accessible Transport organised by Svayam (Abha Neghi) and in which Ann and Lalita participated;

Questions related to reciprocal recognition of parking badges continues to be a challenge. Mary suggested that we consider a place for this on the 2015 Transed agenda.

**Abha Negi, Svayam, India**

Abha highlighted two projects in particular:

Making metro rail friendly to older and disabled people

Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India funds the States under the Union of India under JNURM (Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission) to develop public transport infrastructure such as Metro Rail/ Mass Transit projects.

To ensure that these projects remain accessible and inclusive to the diverse user groups such as those with reduced mobility, children, elderly & disabled, Ministry has proposed to empanel access experts who would help/ advise the existing & upcoming transport infrastructure projects in ensuring accessibility for all.

Making Police Stations and office buildings under Delhi police disabled friendly

In the process to make the Legal System accessible & friendly to persons with disabilities & the elderly, Delhi Police (Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India) has sought help / expert opinion from Svayam & to undertake access audits of all Police Stations, Office Buildings etc.

In this exercise, a total of 181 police stations, 11 district DCP’s offices and other units offices functioning in the Union Territory of Delhi are to be inspected and detailed audit report shared.

The Audit Report would then be implemented under the Central Scheme “SIPDA” (Scheme of Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act) with grant from the Government of India.

**Catherine Holloway, University College London, UK**

Catherine gave a brief overview of a number of active projects:

1. Accessibility symposium: <http://theaccessibilitysymposium.wordpress.com/>
2. New MSc Transport, health & Policy: <http://www.cege.ucl.ac.uk/thp>

1. New project on dementia with Prof. Nick Tyler : <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/news-articles/1213/11122013-UCL-takes-the-lead-on-dementia-challenge-ESRC-NIHR-funding>
2. Transport for London project on escalator use by wheelchair users: currently working with TfL to issue guidance on this issue so that wheelchair users can use escalators safely
3. TARSAN group launch: <http://www.cege.ucl.ac.uk/arg/Pages/TARSAN.aspx>
4. Sensewheel +arg map: Currently developing a force measuring hand rim which will automatically produce accessibility maps for wheelchair users. General overview can be found here: <http://modellingonthemove.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/MoM5-Holloway.pdf>

**Kit Mitchell, UK**

Kit gave an update on two UK initiatives:

1. The Forum of Mobility Centres (Centres to advise elderly and disabled drivers on choice of car, adaptations available, and driver fitness to drive) has set up an Expert Panel to disseminate best practice on assessing drivers for fitness to drive.
2. Swansea University has been awarded a small project, funded by the Welsh Government, to report on the mobility of older people.  This ran an open one day seminar in Swansea in December, and is now developing a bid for funding for a larger project to look at issues, particularly in rural Wales, and suggest ways to improve the mobility of older people in Wales.

**Lilian Salazar, Monterey University, Mexico**

Lilian explained the accessibility audit she is working on in Metrobus, L-4 in Mexico City.

She also talked about efforts to make audits faster and easier by using an App that she is still developing. The methodology has been improved, and instead of publishing in a paper guide, she trying to put it in an App to allow many others to use it.

**Rex Luk, Hong** Kong Rehabilitation Society

Rex reported that TRANSED2010 keeps on influencing Hong Kong and neighbouring cities:

* **Shenzhen**, the city in Mainland adjacent to HK, has developed their accessible minibus service for wheelchair users. Besides, there are 100 wheelchair accessible taxi running in Shenzhen;
* **Macau** Government is going to study and plan for the development of Rehabus Service for  people with mobility difficulties in Macau;
* **Taiwan** Accessible Buses and Taxis have been running in and the fleet size is expanding:
* **Malaysia** are actively developing accessible tourism and hosting international events on accessible tourism.

1. **Feedback from ABE60(5)**

Nina Frid gave an update on the discussions that has taken place in the meeting of ABE (60) 5 covering both the progress with preparations for Transed 2015 in Lisbon and the preliminary letters of intent received for Transed 2018.

For details of those discussions, see minutes of ABE (60) 5.

1. **Report form Access Exchange International**

Tom Rickert gave an update on the work of Access Exchange International (copy attached).

The meeting adjourned at 12.00