**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility (ABE60)**

**Transportation Research Board 96th Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**Marriott Marquis, Howard University – M1, Washington, D.C.**

**In Attendance**

**Co-Chairs**

Joey M. Goldman Nelson\Nygaard Associates

Julie Babinard The World Bank

**Secretary**

Kenneth Joh Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

**Members**

Aline Alauzet IFSTTAR

Melissa Anderson Cole

Billie Louise Bentzen Accessible Design for the Blind (ADB)

Peter Cosyn Tractebel Engineering

JoAnne Chalom In Focus Mobility

Mary P. Crass Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - International Transport Forum, France

Virginia Dize National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

Trevor Hanson University of New Brunswick

Todd Hansen Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Andrea Lubin Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center

Rex C.K. Luk Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation

Roger Mackett University College London

Abha Negi Global Forum for Empowerment

Lilian Salazar Technology Institute of Monterrey, Mexico City Campus

Richard Schultze RLS and Associates, Inc.

Judy L. Shanley Easter Seals, National Center for Mobility Management

Aaron Steinfeld Carnegie Mellon University

Ling Sheung Suen Intelligent Computer Systems and Applications, Inc., Canada

Sally Swanson Sally Swanson Architects

Mohammed Yousuf Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

**Friends**

Susan Clarke Canadian Transportation Agency

Maria Angelica Deeb City of Mesa, AZ

Lise Dirks Urban Transportation Center @ UIC

Suzie Edrington VIA Transit Authority

Daphne Federing HDR

Charlotte Frei Wight & Company

Janet Glendenning Canadian Transportation Agency

Ahsan Habib Dalhousie University

Mark Hallenbeck TRAC – University of Washington

Janett Jimenez-Santos Can Lah, SC, Mexico

Stuart Locke University of Waikato, New Zealand

Eileen Yeh-Lin Lu Eden Social Welfare Foundation

Wesley Major Purdue University

Barbara McCann US Department of Transportation

Don McKenzie TDG Auckland, New Zealand

Pete Meslin Newport-Mesa Unified School District

Daniel Mo Hang Seng Management College
Sanu Nair Svayam, India

Ross Peterson GridWorks

Susan Rickert AEI

Tom Rickert Access Exchange International

Lalita Sen Texas Southern University

Anabela Simoes Universidade Lusófona

Manmohan Singh Svayam, India

Jordan Snow Easter Seals/NCMM

Russell Thatcher Thatcher Consulting, LLC

Helena Titheridge University College London

Mitch Tsao Eden Social Welfare Foundation

Mark Venti City of Mesa, AZ

Joe Nien-Tsu Wang Eden Social Welfare Foundation

Ming-Hsiung Wang Eden Social Welfare Foundation

Anders Wretstrand Lund University, Sweden

Carol Wright Easter Seals/National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

**Emeritus Members**

Kit Mitchell Retired, formerly Transport Research Laboratory

**TRB Staff**

Steve Andrle Liaison to Committee

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chairs Joey Goldman and Julie Babinard. Copies of the meeting agenda and a sign-in sheet were distributed.

**2. Introductions of Members and Friends**

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

**3. Review of Minutes of 2016 Meeting**

The minutes of the 2016 meeting were reviewed. Ken Joh summarized the main points of the meeting. The minutes were approved.

**4. Updates on Initiatives**

**a. Outcomes of Mid-Year Meeting**

Julie Babinard provided a brief update on the outcomes of the mid-year meeting. An online survey was conducted that comprised of 16 questions to gather feedback on the activities of the ABE60 Committee. Survey respondents were split evenly between committee members and friends of the committee. Most respondents participated in various activities of the Committee, but many have not been involved in subcommittee activities. In terms of topics that respondents would like to see covered by the Committee, these include emergency situations and evacuations, demographic trends with the aging population, planning and design, and rural accessibility. Respondents also suggested increasing networking opportunities and sharing of information, such as coffee hour, and mentoring of new committee members. In conclusion, Ms. Babinard stated that the committee comprises a diverse group of members and most respondents would like to see more participation and engagement.

**b. Accessibility of Conference Facilities**

Julie Babinard thanked Steve Andrle for addressing the conference accommodation and accessibility issues raised during last year’s committee meeting. She invited comments and questions regarding this issue. One committee member asked whether some of the presentations could be more accessible for persons with visual impairments. Ms. Babinard responded that the committee will look into the issue. Another committee member asked whether interpreters could be provided for persons who are hearing impaired. Ms. Babinard responded that interpreters have not been assigned in the past, but a request can be made to TRB in advance. Joey Goldman added that TRB registrants can indicate whether they need any special accommodations or requests, and TRB will assign a person to provide assistance to attendees. A third committee member commented that guidelines should be provided to presenters to make the presentation more accessible. Mr. Goldman responded that the TRB has previously put together an accessibility guideline for the poster session, but the committee is continuing discussion with TRB on incorporating an overall accessibility guideline for TRB presentations.

**c. Welcome to New Committee Members and Friends**

Joey Goldman welcomed new members and friends to the committee. He encouraged attendees to go to mytrb.org to sign up as a friend of the committee and to get updates on committee activities.

**d. Restructuring of Subcommittees**

Joey Goldman described the restructuring of the subcommittees based on the survey results from the mid-year meeting. The committee reviewed the existing subcommittee structure to determine missing areas and to ensure a nexus of research, policy, and practice. He invited to committee to provide feedback on the restructuring of subcommittee.

**5. ABE60 Activities, Subcommittee Input to Full Meeting**

**a. Policy and Practice Subcommittee, ABE60(1)**

Judy Shanley provided a brief overview of the subcommittee activities. There were 25 attendees from diverse backgrounds. The mission of the subcommittee is to create a forum to share international experiences and to apply them to practice. The subcommittee will learn from meetings such as TRANSED and to inform TRANSED in the subcommittee’s work.

Mary Crass stated there were five priorities that were important to the subcommittee. One of the big barriers to tangible progress in the field of accessibility was that still within education, the concept of accessibility is not well engrained in the curriculum. She proposed a brainstorming for this topic as a first priority. The second priority is linking accessibility to a larger policy framework such as a workshop for next year’s TRB to promote dialogue. A third priority is to distinguish between urban and rural accessibility and their context particularly in developing countries. A fourth priority is disaster and emergency response and a fifth priority focusing on having a resilient and accessible transport system.

**b. Technology Subcommittee, ABE60(2)**

Mohammed Yousef provided a brief overview of the subcommittee activities. The subcommittee discussed the state of motivation and practice. Topics of discussion include wayfinding and navigation and new transit systems. His main takeaway from the meeting is that there are many things happening in the technology realm and there is a larger piece that ties to policy. Mr. Yousef also stated the next steps of the subcommittee is to hold a webinar or online survey to establish more interest areas.

Peter Cosyn added that there were 40 participants from diverse backgrounds. He stated that the important point of the meeting is that technology can be broad from signage to flashing beacons at bus stops so there is much interest in how technology can be used to improve accessibility.

**c. Research Subcommittee, ABE60(4)**

Trevor Hanson provided a brief overview of the subcommittee activities. There were 28 attendees. He stated there were 23 papers submitted to the committee this year, an increase from last year. Among those papers, 15 papers were selected for presentation (8 lectern sessions and 7 poster sessions), and 2 papers were selected for publication. There was a minimum of three reviewers for each paper. Mr. Hanson stated there were 141 paper reviewers but noted some friends of the committee are not on the reviewer list. In terms of call for papers, there were three last year, one was a broad call for papers on mobility and accessibility and two were specific calls for papers relating to resilience and autonomous vehicles. There was also a working session at the subcommittee meeting and identified nine specific areas for research, some of which align with the policy and practice subcommittee.

Andrea Lubin briefly described the nine research topics: 1) resiliency and emergency evacuations; 2) assessment on universal access and design; 3) cost benefit analysis of accessibility; 4) cost and benefits of sidewalks; 5) use of guidance surfaces to providing wayfinding in transit facilities; 6) low cost and low technology ways to improve accessibility; 7) influence of transportation on extended time for persons with disabilities to graduate from postsecondary school; 8) voluntary drivers; 9) economic and mobility cost of disability on families.

**6. Announcements**

**a. TRANSED Planning (Subcommittee ABE 60(5))**

Joey Goldman gave a brief announcement of the subcommittee meeting. Eden Social Welfare, the host of the next TRANSED conference in Taipei, will present preliminary plans for the 2018 TRANSED. He encouraged members and friends to attend the subcommittee meeting.

**b. TRB Announcements**

*Note that this item was discussed out of order.*

Joey Goldman opened the discussion by introducing Steve Andrle of TRB, who provided a report. Steve Andrle reported 14,000 attendees at TRB this year and over 6,000 submitted papers; 19 percent of papers will be accepted and 60 percent will be presented at over 800 sessions. He mentioned that the conference accommodation and accessibility issues that were raised in last year’s meeting have been addressed. He announced the theme of the 2018 TRB Annual Meeting, “Transportation: Moving the Economy of the Future.” He announced a new task force for the TRB Executive Committee on diversity and inclusion. Mr. Andrle also mentioned some language issues regarding the term “accessibility”, as there were some papers submitted to the call for papers by the ABE60 Committee that did not fit the scope. In these situations, TRB staff would move the paper to the appropriate committee for review. He added that international conferences such as TRANSED will be carefully reviewed and need approval by the Executive Committee. One committee member asked if the Executive Committee would approve a conference series such as TRANSED, Mr. Andrle replied that each international conference regardless of whether it is a series would require approval.

Dianne Schwager provided a brief update on the TCRP program, which will be 25 years this year. She announced that TCRP is looking for panel nominees, synthesis ideas due in March, and problem statements due in June.

**7. Theme Presentation and Discussion: The Economic Benefits of Investing in Accessible Transportation**

Julie Babinard introduced the guest speakers of the presentation: Daphne Federing, Stuart Locke, and Mary Crass.

Stuart Locke, a professor of finance at the University of Waikato, discussed the economics of enhancing accessibility such as shared use paths, using a quantitative approach, and providing examples from New Zealand.

Daphne Federing, a principal economist at HDR, discussed the legal and regulatory aspects of the cost of accessibility. Her presentation focused on how ADA requirements and regulations translate into costs and benefits. Benefits include user benefits and non-user benefits; for persons with disabilities, these include time savings, improved safety, and convenience.

Mary Crass, head of institutional relations and summit at the International Transport Forum, discussed the policy implications of enhancing accessibility. Her presentation was based on a roundtable discussion about the economic benefits of improved accessibility to transport systems.

**8. Information Sharing, Partnerships, Opportunities to Work Together and Other TRB Standing Committees**

Joey Goldman invited committee members to provide updates from other subcommittees on opportunities to work together with the ABE60 Committee. David Chia, chair of the paratransit subcommittee, provided an update. He announced a workshop next year on autonomous vehicles, in addition to a synthesis statement on reasonable accommodations based on ADA. There will be two conferences to be held next spring. Beezy Bentsen made a statement encouraging members and friends of ABE60 to participate in other committees to promote accessibility and mobility issues. Tom Rickert announced that several ABE60 members are developing a guide to promote transportation to school for persons with disabilities in developing countries. Kit Mitchell announced a mid-year meeting hosted by the Committee on Safe Mobility of Older Persons in August 2017 focusing on the impact of advancing awareness and utilization of AV technologies by older drivers.

**9. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.