**Draft Meeting Minutes**

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

**Transportation Research Board Mid-Year Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, July 28, 2016, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET**

**In Attendance**

**Co-Chairs**

Joey M. Goldman Nelson\Nygaard Associates

Julie Babinard The World Bank

**Secretary**

Kenneth Joh Texas A&M University

**Members**

Billie Louise Bentzen Accessible Design for the Blind (ADB)

Peter Cosyn Tractebel Engineering

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

Virginia Dize National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

Ann Frye Ann Frye, Ltd., United Kingdom

Kate Hunter-Zaworski Oregon State University

Andrea Lubin Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center

Rex C.K. Luk Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation

James R. Marston University of California, Santa Barbara

Abha Negi Global Forum for Empowerment

Lilian Salazar Diaz Instituto Tecnologico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Mexico

Richard Schultze RLS and Associates, Inc.

Lalita Sen Texas Southern University

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

Anabela Simoes ULHT

Aaron Steinfeld Carnegie Mellon University

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

Karen Wolf-Branigin The Arc of the U.S.

Carol Wright National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

Mohammed Yousuf Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

**Friends**

Melissa Anderson US Access Board

Carolina Burnier Noblis

Howard Caro-Lopez United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) (Department Office of Civil Rights)

Sonal Chaudhry Svayam, India

Susan Clarke Canadian Transportation Agency

Suzie Edrington Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Svetlana Grechka Regional Transportation District

Todd Hansen Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Trevor Hanson University of New Brunswick

Eileen Yeh-Lin Lu Eden Social Welfare Foundation

Roger Mackett University College London

Jeff Maltz Silver Ride

Sheryl Miller toXcel

Tom Rickert Access Exchange International

Uwe Rutenberg Rutenberg Design, Inc., Canada

Russell Thatcher Thatcher Consulting, LLC

Subhash Chandra Vashishth Svayam, India

Joe Nien-Tsu Wang Eden Social Welfare Foundation

Jinghua Xu Fehr & Peers

**Young Members**

Janett Jimenez-Santos Can Lah, SC, Mexico

Aaron Zisook Rutgers-Bloustein/Rutgers-CAIT/NJ Transit/ASAN NJ

**TRB Staff**

Steve Andrle Liaison to Committee

**1. Introductions**

The mid-year webinar/phone call was joined by 23 participants at the start of the meeting, and a few joined later. There were participants from North America, Europe, and Asia. Joey M. Goldman and Julie Babinard introduced themselves as co-chairs. Joey Goldman provided brief instructions on how to use the comment box and to familiarize with the tools to mute and unmute. Participants were able to view a dynamic list of attendees. Joey Goldman welcomed new members and friends and mentioned that many people joined the committee in the past few months.

**2. Welcome New Members and Friends**

Joey Goldman welcomed Ken Joh as Secretary. He introduced the new co-chairs of the International Activities Subcommittee, Judy Shanley and Mary Crass. He also introduced Andrea Lubin and Trevor Hanson as the new co-chairs of the Research Subcommittee. Mohammed Yousuf will lead the Technology Subcommittee.

**3. Committee Updates**

Julie Babinard provided an update to the committee on the follow-up discussion with TRB regarding accessibility of the conference meeting facilities and how to address the accessibility issues and concerns raised during the annual meeting. They discussed a number of issues such as emergency evacuation procedures and issues, fire drill, accessibility services provided such as microphones, conference registration, and other issues.

Steve Andrle from TRB discussed several changes to improve accessibility in the annual meeting facilities, including the following: 1) widening the aisles of the poster session from 10’ to 15’ for easier wheelchair access; 2) providing microphones; 3) handouts to show evacuation procedures provided in each room; 4) at least one elevator operating on emergency power; 5) hotel staff on each level who are trained to handle bomb threats, fire, and active shooters, and other emergencies. Guests can indicate special needs (e.g., inductive loops) when registering. TRB looked into conducting an accessibility audit but their legal staff was not willing to do it as the TRB hotels are already ADA compliant. However, he mentioned that specific complaints would be addressed.

Joey Goldman reminded participants of the August 1 paper deadline to be submitted on the mytrb website. They also have a separate committee for call for posters for individuals working in the area of accessible transportation, the submittal form is available on the committee website, with a deadline of September 15th. He encouraged members and friends to update their contact information on the website.

**4. Survey of Members and Friends**

Julie Babinard discussed the results of the online survey. The objective of the survey was to do a temperature check on how the committee was doing and to gather feedback on the activities. The turnout was good, with 37 responses from friends and members of the committee. The majority of respondents were either a committee member or have been one in the past, that imparted good knowledge about the committee. The majority of respondents had been involved with the committee for more than 2 years. More than half indicated that they have not been involved in any subcommittee. The level of involvement in the committee was mostly in reviewing papers, making presentations at the Annual Meeting, and attending meetings in committee and subcommittees. Joey Goldman stressed the importance of attending the full ABE60 committee meeting at the Annual Meeting and mentioned that one-third of the respondents have not yet attended one. 85% of the respondents said expectations were met in the meetings. Some positive comments talked about providing a unique environment to meet peers, global focus, promoting new ideas, and finding contacts in the field. Some negative comments revealed that some meetings have been too long, too little relevance for non-US participants, and too much business and administrative focus on the meeting. Suggestions of what they wanted to see in future meetings were discussions on specific topics, and presentation from non-TRB members. Few other suggestions were to have a brainstorming session for the TRB mission, focusing on non-US issues as well, efficiently managing the meeting, identify a topic of interest to have discussion sessions, not repeating the subcommittee meeting remarks, and having an informal coffee session for the members to know each other. Other comments suggested to end the discussion with an implementable points of research outcomes, discussion of research needs and findings by research committee other than administrative needs, strategic planning sessions on the subcommittees’ activities, and need for collaboration among subcommittees.

Julie Babinard discussed the particular objective of the committee which is “to study problems relating to the transportation disadvantaged and the services that various modes of transportation should provide for them as well as an assessment of the impact and value of programs directed at improving their mobility.” One half of respondents knew the objective but some said it was too broad while others said it was too narrow and confusing. Some suggestions involved focusing on low-income population and developing countries. One half of respondents said that the objective should be reviewed, for example the term “transportation disadvantaged”, other respondents said focus should be more on design aspects, education and programs that includes technology. Priorities for the committee were sharing information among members, promoting new research opportunities, and seek collaboration with other organizations on issues that are relevant for transportation. There was also strong feedback on using the committee as a forum for networking, push for advocacy, and develop recommendations for TRB initiatives. Critical issues respondents have identified were looking at emergency situations, impact of mobility on health and education, aging population needs, need to focus on urban design and technological aspects, developing resources, travel training, street planning, autonomous vehicles, automated transit, and rural accessibility.

Joey Goldman discussed about the personal expectations the respondents had mentioned. They included different approaches to include accessibility, connecting members, mentoring, more knowledge dissemination, and having a detailed list of everyone’s interest.

Steve Andrle expressed appreciation of the survey. He emphasized on the personal communications in the meeting. For example, the social returns of the emergency systems are being researched. There was a conference in June arranged by STA looking at the measures of value of emergency management. He also mentioned a demand-responsive transportation conference coming up in Breckenridge, Colorado on Sept. 26 which has a health track. Paratransit committee, rural and intercity bus, and the full committee can collaborate on the overlapping and interrelated topics for a possible campaign to expand these research areas. The co-chairs agreed to his suggestion and mentioned that they will seek collaboration with other committees as well.

Joey Goldman mentioned some additional comments such as the need for a better oversight in the planning and managing of TRANSED, doing a better job at distributing the call for papers, developing strategic partnerships and bringing outside representatives, making better use of the internet and message board, supporting younger members to participate and finally, conducting an organized job fair.

Julie Babinard wrapped up the discussion by mentioning that welcoming diversity would be beneficial to the committee. The committee objective would be updated keeping in mind about improving collaboration and learning opportunities. She mentioned the Annual Meeting can be more constructive by selecting a topic for discussion during the meeting. Two potential topics have come up: emerging trends related to older adult transportation and disaster planning. The committee will encourage more informal networking and more joint sessions with other committees.

**5. Discussion/Questions and Answers**

The co-chairs opened up the lines to a brief discussion and Q&A by the meeting participants.

**6. Announcements from Participants**

Participants made the following announcements: 1) Co-sponsoring workshop on ‘guidelines for the application of crossing solutions of roundabouts and turn lanes’ happening in the January TRB meeting, 2) 22nd rural intercity bus conference in North Carolina on October 2nd, early-bird registration until October 1; 3) Roundabout conference on May 13-15.

**7. Conclusions**

Julie Babinard concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for joining, and mentioned she hopes to take the survey results forward and that Andrea Lubin and Trevor Hanson would appreciate everyone’s participation in reviewing the papers.