

Sub-Committee on International Activities

Tuesday 15th January 2013

8.00 – 9.45

Fairchild, Hilton Hotel, Washington DC

Minutes

Attendance

Members

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

Tom Rickert Co-Chair ABE60(1) Access Exchange International, USA

Mohammed Yousef FHWA, USA

Campbell McKee Motivation, UK

Betsy Buxer MV Transportation, USA

Karen Wolf-Branigin Easter Seals National Center on Senior Transportation, USA

Anabela Simoes ADI/CIGEST, Portugal

Claude Marin-Lamellet IFSTTAR-LESCOT, France

John Schoon University of Southampton, UK

Daniel Blais Transport Canada, Canada

Russell Thatcher TranSystems Corp, USA

Michael Winter US DOT/FTA, USA

Jonathan Klein US DOT/FTA, USA

Mary Jane Gravelle Canadian Transportation Agency, Canada

Ling Suen International Centre for Accessible Transportation, Canada

Friends & Visitors

Joe Nien-Tsu Wang Eden Social Welfare Foundation, Taiwan

Roger Mackett University College London, UK

Catherine Holloway University College London, UK

Sonal Chaudhry Svayam, India

Eileen Lu Eden Social Welfare Foundation, Taiwan

Abha Negi Svayam, India

Jana Sochor KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

Lilian Salazar Tecnologico de Monterrey University, Mexico

Stephen Minor US DOT/FTA, USA

Annette Williams SFMTA, USA

Nina Frid Canadian Transportation Agency, Canada

Richard Schultze RLS Associates Inc, USA

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1. Report on the work of Access Exchange International

Tom Rickert gave a report on the work of Access Exchange International. A copy of his report s attached.

2. Knowledge Exchange: recent developments around the world

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

- Russell Thatcher described two current projects focussing on:
 - Facilitating increased used of fixed route services for people with disabilities. For further information contact Russell: rhthatcher@transystems.com;
 - “Accessible Transit Services for All”, funded by FTA, which is looking at inclusive service designs and cost-effective paratransit operation. For further information contact Michael Winter Michael.Winter@dot.gov or Steven Minor Steven.Minor@dot.gov.

- Mary Jane Gravelle referred to a current consultation on air travel and guidelines for air carriers on when it is appropriate or necessary to require an accompanying person. The Canadian Transportation Agency hopes to be publishing guidance on this subject in the summer of 2013. For further information contact May-Jane at Mary-Jane.Gravelle@otc-cta.gc.ca.

- Lalita Sen described a DOT funded project on performance measures for transit services. Mobility management is an innovative approach for managing and delivering coordinated public transportation services that embraces the full family of public transit options. At a national level, there are currently no industry recognized performance indicators to measure and monitor performance of mobility management programs. This research looks at the state of mobility management practice throughout Texas, as well as national best practices in mobility management. Additionally, this research provides an overview of the varying roles of state departments of transportation in public transit

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mobility management efforts. The research also presents applied mobility management for agencies seeking to implement mobility management programs as well as a menu of performance measures that can be utilized based on the type and level of program implemented. The report will be listed as Project number TXDOT_RMC_6633 under Texas Transportation Institute's website.

- Mohammed Yousuf reported first on FHWA Exploratory Advanced Research:

The objective of this research is to develop concepts and prototypes that use new technologies such as robotics, artificial intelligence, and sensors that could improve Event Horizons related to wayfinding and navigation guidance. For purposes of this research, it is assumed that broadband wireless technology, Intelligent Transportation Systems, GPS, DSRC, etc, are widely available. The concepts so developed will be flexible to extend this research to find accessible transportation solutions for people with other disabilities such as sensory, cognitive and mobility and those who are aging.

Further information is at: FHWA BAA - New Technology Solutions for Wayfinding and Navigation Guidance for People with Vision Impairment and Other Disabilities

https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=320b91e25fb83b21d8f6ac7d2f84d9a9&tab=core&_cvview=0.

Technological Innovations in Transportation for People With Disabilities Workshop Summary Report

<http://fhwatest.fhwa.dot.gov/advancedresearch/pubs/11041/index.cfm>

Mohammed also reported on EquallyAble's 1000 Wheelchairs in 10 Countries Initiative. Coinciding with International Disability Day, the EquallyAble Foundation announced the "1000 wheelchairs in 10 countries" initiative. Along with Motivation UK and other global partners, EquallyAble plans to distribute 100 high terrain wheelchairs in

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10 countries each along with building capacity and service centers in the countries where this initiative will be offered. Work is in progress in Uganda, Pakistan will be next; other countries are being reviewed and will be added shortly.

For further information see: <http://www.equallyable.org/1000-wheelchairs-in-10-countries-initiative/>

- Campbell McKee introduced Motivation a UK based charity which supports people with mobility difficulties around the world. For further information see: www.motivation.org.uk
- Michael Winter mentioned that from March 2013 all Federal research money would be put out to tender (no funds earmarked) and this should give greater opportunity to organisations and companies to seek funding. For further information see <http://www.fta.dot.gov/map21/>.
- Catherine Holloway described her work in measuring the external environment in terms of its usability by wheelchair users and also looking at issues of bus boarding and falls on buses.
www.ucl.ac.uk/arg/PAMELA
- Roger Mackett is looking at free bus travel and its impact on the mobility of disabled and older people. He also reported that he was recently appointed as chair of the UK Transport Working Group of the Age Action Alliance (<http://ageactionalliance.org/>) which is just being set up.
- Annette Williams is looking at the installation of new bicycle facilities such as cycle tracks (bikeways) in a way that does not impede accessibility for people with disabilities. She is examining design issues such as the need to provide access across cycle tracks for Paratransit drop offs at the curb, safe crossing of cycle tracks by pedestrians and customers using transit, and accessing parking for people with disabilities across a cycle track at parking buffered cycle tracks.

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She is also developing standards for the San Francisco taxi fleet for back seat payment devices often called Passenger Information Monitors (PIM). The City wants to assure that persons with visual impairments can use the monitors and get the necessary passenger information in an audible format. For more information on either or both projects contact Annette at Annette.williams@sfmta.com.

- Nina Frid reported that ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) had recently completed an updated manual on meeting the needs of people with disabilities in air travel. The work has been led by the Canadian Transportation Agency. For further information:
 - Materials about the 7th Meeting of the Facilitation Panel of ICAO, 22 to 26 October 2012, Montréal, Canada
<http://www.icao.int/Meetings/FALP/Pages/FALP7-2012.aspx>
 - Report of the Persons with Disabilities Working Group
<http://www.icao.int/Meetings/FALP/Documents/Falp7-2012/WP2/WP.2.EN.pdf>. This link contains the Manual on Access to Air Transport by Persons with Disabilities, covering all phases of travel by air.

- Daniel Blais is working on Boarding Technologies for Travellers Using Mobility Aids at Unattended Railway Stations. The project objective is to investigate, identify and implement potential technological solutions that could be used to assist passengers using wheelchairs to board trains independently, or with minimal assistance at unmanned stations. Work will be carried collaboratively with the following stakeholders: the disability community, the Canadian Transportation Agency, VIA Rail Canada, and the Transportation Development Centre. Stakeholders will benefit by increasing the independent accessibility for wheelchair users to the VIA Rail's network. For further information contact Daniel Blais at daniel.blais@tc.gc.ca

- John Schoon is developing an area of interest in the topic of “energy expenditure of disabled pedestrians related to infrastructure” - this

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could include bio-medical, but other approaches as well. For further information or ideas contact John Schoon at jgs2@soton.ac.uk.

- Ann Frye reported that the European Union is planning to introduce an Accessibility Act aimed at removing barriers to the single market created by different access standards and requirements in member states. For further information see http://www.epc.eu/events_rep_details.php?pub_id=3027&cat_id=6. She also mentioned that a report by UN Habitat on Sustainable Cities, which included a chapter on accessibility issues, would be published in October. For further information contact Ann: ann@annfrye.co.uk

3. Feedback from ABE60(5)

There was a brief report on the items discussed at ABE60(5). The key points were:

- There was a strong legacy from Transed in Delhi in terms of political interest and positive follow up on a range of access issues.
- Plans were well in hand for the Lisbon event in 2015.
- The question of whether translation into another language would be helpful in Lisbon was raised, It was suggested that Mandarin might be the most useful second language.

There was a round table discussion about the themes that would be useful to feature in the Lisbon conference. These included:

- Access to rail services
- Pedestrian access
- ICT developments
- Workshops by mode rather than by broader theme
- Accessible tourism
- How to move from theory to practice in delivering accessibility
- Driving issues
- Parking and international reciprocity of parking badges
- Accessible taxis
- Concerns for disabled women
- Issues for people with multiple disabilities.

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Plans for the 2018 Transed were in development. A request for proposals would be drawn up and circulated in the next few months. ACTION: ANN

There had already been a number of informal or tentative expressions of interest including: Taiwan, Malaysia, Jamaica and Sydney.

4. Long term future of Transed Conferences

There was a discussion about the need for continuity of Transed Conferences. A number of actions were identified:

- A dedicated Transed secretariat to provide continuity between conferences. Abha Negi repeated her offer to provide such a secretariat for Transed, initially on a pro bono basis. She would circulate her proposal for consideration. ACTION: ABHA.
- A handover document from one Transed organiser to the next with key practical suggestions and timelines on the organisational process. Abha volunteered to produce such a document and to circulate it by mid February ACTION: ABHA.
- A dedicated Transed website that carried over from one conference to the next and provided information and contacts between conferences. Again, Abha offered to provide such a website through her organisation. She would circulate proposals. ACTION: ABHA
- A chat room or on-line forum through which people could seek information and exchange ideas between conferences was also discussed. Abha offered to host a chatroom on the Transed website. It was noted that there was some facility for information exchange on the ABE60 website run by Joey Goldman. It was agreed that Abha would link up with Joey and with Catherine Holloway, who was keen to see a resource for researchers, to discuss the best way forward and make recommendations. ACTION: ABHA, JOEY, CATHERINE.

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There was also a discussion about the role of TRB and other possible sponsoring bodies. It was noted that there was no prospect of financial support from TRB, whose engagement rested on the participation of individuals through the Committee structure. It was suggested that it would be helpful to approach other international bodies in the field such as the International Transport Forum to see if they would be willing to add their support, not in financial terms but in terms of web links, promotion and dissemination.

ACTION: ALL TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND NOTIFY ANN.

It was suggested that the Transed branding needed to be refreshed. It was recognised that the name was now a successful brand but that the strap line of “elderly and disabled persons” was now dated and inappropriate as it focussed on minority rather than inclusive solution. It was agreed that a new “strap line” should be developed and suggestions were invited. **ACTION: ALL TO SUGGEST NEW STRAP LINE AND NOTIFY ANN.**

Activities of Access Exchange International during 2012

See AEI Newsletters dated June 2012 and January 2013 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 actively supported the International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED 2012). Our Executive Director was a member of the conference Secretariat and participated in the September event in New Delhi. This was the first TRANSED to be held in a megacity in the developing world. AEI's Executive Director contributed papers on findings from our new paratransit guide (see below) and on how to enhance public participation in the planning and implementation of bus rapid transit in developing regions.

AEI also coordinated our 13th annual Roundtable on Accessible Transportation in Developing Countries, co-sponsored with the Intl. Centre for Accessible Transportation (ICAT) and held in January 2012.

2. Publications



• By far the major work of Access Exchange International during 2012 was the completion and dissemination of our guide, *Paratransit for mobility-impaired persons in developing regions: Starting up and scaling up*. Very much a team effort, the 90-page publication included extensive contributions by Tom Rickert, Richard Schultze, and Richard Weiner, as well as case studies based on interviews with practitioners in New Delhi, Cape Town, Istanbul, Moscow, São Paulo, Kuala Lumpur, and rural France. Positive comments have been received to date from fifty recipients of the guide in 23 countries.

• AEI newsletters were sent to more than 1,600 addresses in eighty countries in June and again at year's end, including a Spanish version for colleagues in Latin America. Nearly one hundred news items in our field were summarized from 32 countries, with a primary focus again on Asia and Latin America, supplemented by reports from Europe, North America, and Africa. Special features in our newsletters documented progress and challenges in accessible transport in Turkey, India, Malaysia, Brazil, and Saudi Arabia. . . . Our Executive Director also authored the lead article in a special issue on accessible transport published by the International Forum for Rural Transport and Development.

• The Resources section of our website at www.globalride-sf.org was updated and more than 130 annotated links continue as a prime resource for practitioners in less-wealthy countries.

3. Consultation & referral: Our responses to queries from fourteen countries addressed the gamut of modes, from bus rapid transit (Brazil, Ghana, Colombia), light rail (Ethiopia), paratransit (Turkey, Mexico, Bangladesh, Tanzania, South Africa), and air travel (United Nations), to public participation (Colombia), accessible tourism (Philippines, South Africa), and study opportunities for persons with disabilities (Japan). A review of the year noted multiple consultations on various topics with stakeholders in Turkey, Ethiopia, Colombia, Mexico, South Africa, and Malaysia.

4. Upcoming: Access Exchange International now faces the challenge of following up our newly published paratransit guide with concrete actions to promote the implementation and expansion of paratransit services in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and eastern Europe. Ideas based on international experience as documented in the guide need to be thoroughly reviewed by stakeholder communities. For example, large cities need to consider establishing mobility managers to better serve public, private, and non-profit paratransit providers by identifying existing services and fostering less-expensive provision of driver training, maintenance, fuel, and insurance while identifying gaps in service that could be met by enlisting the different sectors to enhance services for persons with disabilities and seniors. The implementation of such strategies will be discussed at our 14th annual roundtable in Washington DC in January of 2013.

-- Submitted by Tom Rickert, Executive Director