

Sub-Committee Meeting ABE60(4)
Accessible Transportation and Mobility Sub-Committee on Research
87th Annual Meeting of Transportation Research Board
Tuesday, January 15, 2008, 10:15 – 12noon
Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington D.C.

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Members:

Bill Crandall, Smith-Kettlewell
Jim Marston, University of California-Santa Barbara
Kit Mitchell, Co-Chair of Committee, Institute of Highways & Transportation (Retired)
John Schoon, University of Southampton
Joey Goldman, Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates
Kate Hunter-Zaworski, Co-Chair of Committee, Oregon State University
Harry Wolfe, Consultant
Uwe Rutenberg, Rutenberg Design, Inc.
Jonathan Klein, Federal Transit Administration
Brian Masson, MultiModal Transport Solutions Ltd.
Beezy Bentzen, Accessible Design for the Blind
Betsy Buxer, TranSystems Corp.
Lalita Sen, Co-Chair of the Subcommittee, Texas Southern University
Russell Thatcher, Co-Chair of the Subcommittee, TranSystems Corp.

Friends:

Antonio Paez, McMaster University
Shinya Kawamura, ECO-MO Foundation
Jan-Dirk Schmocker, Tokyo Institute of Technology
David Myers, Clemson University
Akihiro Mihoshi, Kinki University
Charlene Wilder, Federal Transit Administration
Yinyi Ma, Delft University
Kitae Kim, New Jersey Institute of Technology
Taha Hossein Rashidi, University of Illinois-Chicago
Jamie Osborne, San Francisco MTA
Bhuiyan Alam, University of Toledo
Robert Clavel, CERTU
Lingqian Hu, University of Southern California
Feng Zhang, University of Maryland-College Park
Bill Orleans, Interested Citizen

AGENDA (See Attachment E-1)

1. Call to Order, Introductions and Approval of the Minutes of the 2006 Meeting

Lalita Sen, Co-chair of the Subcommittee called the meeting to order. She welcomed

attendees, distributed copies of the meeting agenda, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. An attendance list was circulated. Kate Hunter-Zaworski, Co-Chair of the full Committee, also circulated a master contact list of Committee members and friends and asked attendees to check the information on the list and update it if needed.

Comments on the minutes of last year's meeting of the Subcommittee were invited. It was noted that Jim Marston and Bill Crandall should be added to the list of those in attendance. A MOTION to accept the minutes with this correction was made by Kit Mitchell, SECONDED by Bill Crandall, and passed unanimously.

2. Mission of the Subcommittee

The mission of the subcommittee was explained for newcomers by Lalita Sen. The mission as stated includes promoting research in the areas of accessibility and mobility for seniors, persons with disabilities and other transportation-disadvantaged persons through calls for paper for the annual meetings, review and selection of papers for presentation and publication using committee members and friends as reviewers, and promoting research through the development of synthesis and full research statements that are submitted to the TCRP program of the TRB. The Subcommittee also accepts and reviews nominations for the William Bell Award and makes recommendations regarding this award to the full Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility.

It was also noted that the full Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility had a particular focus on international issues and that this focus was also reflected in the Subcommittee.

3. Call for Papers in 2007 and Paper Review Process and Session Planning Process

The paper review process in 2007 and the subsequent session planning process for the 2008 Annual Meeting was summarized by Lalita Sen. A list of papers submitted showing the ratings for presentation and the recommendations for publication was distributed. It was noted that only four papers were referred to the Subcommittee for review. One paper was on general community accessibility, not specific to seniors, persons with disabilities or other transportation disadvantaged populations, and was returned for reassignment. Only three papers therefore ended up being reviewed by the Subcommittee. It was noted that with only three papers, the Subcommittee was able to arrange for thorough reviews of each and had five independent reviews for each paper. Lalita Sen thanked those in attendance who helped with the paper review process.

All three papers were accepted for presentation. One paper on research of vertical and horizontal gaps between stations/stops and vehicles was presented in Session 602, "Mind the Gap." A second paper about a scooter loan program in London was included in Session 520, "Testing, Testing." The third paper was presented in a poster session on "Transit Strategies Targeting Elderly People." All three sessions were sponsored by ABE60.

One paper, "Laboratory Experiments to Assess the Gap Between Public Transport Vehicle and Platform as a Barrier for the Disabled," was recommended for publication.

In addition to the two paper sessions and one poster session, ABE60 also sponsored a Sunday Workshop (#162) on "Accessible Transportation and Pedestrian Infrastructure in Less Developed Countries, which was organized and facilitated by Tom Rickert. It was noted that the workshop was attended by more than 50 persons and that it was well received.

The International Subcommittee of ABE60 also sponsored Session 405 on "The Best of TRANSED 2007," which presented highlights and the best papers from the 2007 TRANSED conference. Finally, ABE60 co-sponsored Session 466, "Intermodal Pedestrian and Trespass Issues."

Lalita Sen thanked all committee members and friends who assisted in arranging and facilitating the sessions and workshops.

General discussion on the 2007 paper review process followed. Much of the discussion centered on reasons why only three papers were referred to ABE60 for review. It was suggested that some papers might be referred to other committees even though they address accessibility and mobility issues. This might be happening with committees the paratransit committee, rural transportation committee, as well as committees that address pedestrian and signalization issues, or senior transportation issues. In general, it was suggested that accessibility might be more a part of the mainstream and included more often in many research areas.

It was also suggested that perhaps the 2007 TRANSED conference attracted some of the papers that might otherwise have been submitted for the Annual Meeting.

A question was also raised about the assignment of papers by TRB and whether they get to the appropriate committees for review. It was noted that each committee reviews the papers it is first assigned and notifies TRB if it is felt that there could be a more appropriate assignment. It was also noted that the various committees work fairly well together to make sure that the final assignments are appropriate.

4. Call for Papers for 2008

There was discussion about the focus of the Call for Papers to be issued in 2008 for the 2009 Annual Meeting. A copy of the Call for Papers used in 2007 for the 2008 Annual Meeting was distributed as a guide and starting point. It was noted that the focus of the 88th Annual Meeting in 2009 would be "Environment, Energy and Sustainability."

Several areas of focus that were in keeping with the Annual Meeting theme were suggested for possible inclusion in the Call for papers. These were:

- Sustainability of transportation for older adults
- Socially sustainable transportation
- Accessible transportation to support groups and tourism

- The economic benefits of accessible transportation
- The economic costs of not providing accessible transportation
- Integrated transit that includes pedestrian issues and feeder options
- Successful implementation of stop announcement policies on fixed route services

It was suggested that the Subcommittee explore the opportunity to include some of the above topics in joint Calls for Papers with the Paratransit Committee and the Older Drivers Committee.

There was discussion of possible sessions that could be sponsored that would be in keeping with the planned theme of the 2009 Annual Meeting. Brian Masson suggested a session on the vision for transport in 2020, with a focus on multimodal systems and customer service. Beezy Bentzen also suggested a session on visibility of transportation information to travelers with impaired vision that might be co-sponsored by the Committee on User Information Systems and the Committee on Visibility (AND40).

5. Research Statements Proposed in 2007

Russell Thatcher reviewed efforts to develop and submit research topic statements in 2007. A summary of research statements developed by Committee members and friends and submitted by the Committee was distributed. It was noted that four synthesis research topics and three full research topic were developed and submitted. The topics were:

Synthesis Research Topics:

- ◆ Advanced Technologies for Pedestrian Detection and Accident Avoidance
- ◆ ADA Complementary Paratransit Rider Assistance Policies
- ◆ Accommodating Pedestrians with Disabilities and Transit Vehicles in Shared-Space Schemes
- ◆ Applying Universal Design Principals to Transit Schedules and Information

Full Research Topics:

- ◆ Measuring and Understanding the Use of Fixed Route Services by Riders with Disabilities
- ◆ A Handbook for Lighting in Transit and Pedestrian Environments
- ◆ Maximizing Benefits and Addressing Challenges of Volunteer Driver Transportation programs

The synthesis topic on advanced technologies was submitted to both TCRP and NCHRP. The synthesis topic on rider assistance polices and the full research topic on volunteer driver programs were submitted with the Paratransit Committee. The volunteer driver program topic was also submitted with the Rural and Intercity Bus Committee.

Russell Thatcher thanked all members and friends who assisted in developing research topics in recent years and noted that several topics on access and mobility had been accepted for funding. A synthesis research topic submitted in 2006 on "Bus Rapid

Transit Accessibility for Riders with Disabilities” had been selected for funding by Project ACTION. Two full research topics submitted in 2006 were also selected for TCRP funding. These included “Driver Recruitment, Retention and Performance in ADA Complementary Paratransit Operations,” and “A Handbook for Planning and operating Flexible Public Transportation Services.” Research on “Effective Approaches for Increasing Stop Announcements by Transit Operators,” which was recently suggested by ABE60, had also been funded by Project ACTION.

6. Possible New Research Topics for 2008

The process for soliciting new research topics in 2008 was discussed. Copies of the invitations to submit statements for synthesis research and full research were made available to attendees. It was noted that the deadline for synthesis statements was March 31, 2008 and for full research was June 15, 2008.

Significant discussion followed on possible research topics for 2008. This included the resubmittal of prior topics as well as several new topics. Following is a list of the topics mentioned. Individuals who agreed to work on the statements, as well as other individuals who would be approached for assistance with the development of the statements, are also noted.

Possible Full Research Statements:

- ◆ A Handbook for Lighting in Transit and Pedestrian Environments (Harry Wolfe, Beezy Bentzen)
- ◆ Needs and Gaps in Accessibility (Joey Goldman, Charlene Wilder)
- ◆ Monitoring the Effective Implementation of Access Policies (Russell Thatcher)
- ◆ Planning for Future Needs (Charlene Wilder, David Myers)
- ◆ A Model to Measure Accessibility (Lalita Sen, Bhuyian Alam)
- ◆ Taxi Business Models That Support Accessible Taxi Operation (Bill Orleans, Russell Thatcher)
- ◆ Visibility of Pedestrian Signals in the Context of Crossing Decisions (Beezy Bentzen)

Possible Synthesis Research Statements:

- ◆ Advanced Technologies for Pedestrian Detection and Accident Avoidance (John Schoon, Charlene Wilder)
- ◆ Accommodating Pedestrians with Disabilities and Transit Vehicles in Shared-Space Schemes (John Schoon, Beezy Bentzen, Bill Crandall)
- ◆ Data Collection on Travel Behaviors of Persons With Disabilities and Seniors (Kate Hunter-Zaworski, Jan-Dirk Schmocker)

Kate Hunter-Zaworski mentioned that TRB had developed and would be maintaining a database of topics needing research. The database would be for broad use by researchers in government, university and other organizations. It was agreed that the Subcommittee should forward topic statements from recent years that had not yet been funded.

There was also discussion about reaching out more broadly for research needs and topics. Outreach to the international community and to developing countries was discussed in particular. It was suggested that perhaps a notice could be placed in the newsletter that is distributed by Access International. Russell Thatcher agreed to discuss this with Tom Rickert.

7. Other Business

Russell Thatcher described the William Bell Award and the process used to select recipients. He noted that Ann Frye had been the recipient in 2007 and that the award had been presented to her at the 2007 TRANSED Conference in Montreal.

It was noted that the next award would be presented at the 2010 TRANSED Conference in Hong Kong. The process calls for an announcement that nominations are being accepted at the Annual Meeting in 2009. Nominations will be accepted through March of 2009. A recipient will be selected by August 2009 and the award will first be announced at the Annual Meeting in 2010.

Attendees were invited to raise other business. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Attachment E-1

**Accessible Transportation and Mobility Committee: Subcommittee on
Research ABE60(4)
87th Annual Meeting of Transportation Research Board
Tuesday, January 15, 2008, 10:15am - 12:00pm,
Bancroft Room, Hilton Hotel
Washington DC**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Introductions & Approval of the Minutes of the 2007 Meeting
2. Mission of the Subcommittee
3. Call for Papers in 2007 and Paper Review Process and Session Planning Process
4. Call for Papers for 2008
5. Research Statements Proposed in 2007
6. Possible New Research Topics for 2008
7. Other Business
8. Adjourn Meeting