

## **Minutes of Committee Meeting**

### **Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility (ABE60) Transportation Research Board 87th Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 16, 2008, 8:00 am - 11: 30 am  
Hemispheres Room, Hilton, Washington, DC**

1. **Attendance** see Annex A

2. **Agenda** see Annex B

#### **3. Announcements**

3.1. The Committee sat in silence for a few moments as a tribute to Mary Kihl who passed away on 17 October 2007. Mary had been a long time member and friend of the committee.

3.2. Kit expressed his personal thanks to all the long standing members who had rotated off the committee, both for the service they had given to the Committee over the years and for the way they had accepted the TRB ruling on the need to change the membership of the Committee. He hoped that members who had rotated off would continue to attend meetings as friends of the Committee.

3.3. Approval of the 2007 Minutes The minutes were accepted as a true record of the 2007 meeting. Kit thanked Kate for preparing them.

3.4. Nomination of new Members: Currently we have only one opening and Charlene Wilder of FTA requested consideration for appointment to committee.

3.5. Emeritus Nominations: Kate will check with Martine on eligibility of the following committee members and friends; Bill Crandall, Lalita Sen, Kit Mitchell, Kate Hunter-Zaworski, Anne Frye, Mary Yvonne Dejeammes , Betsy Buxer.

#### **4. Discussion Items**

Mid year Meeting: The Committee is encouraged to participate in the Mid-Year meeting, which will be held in Baltimore 15 – 18 June 2008. The Committee has not participated in mid-year meetings in the recent past, except for years when TRANSED Conferences were held and a meeting was held during the conference. TRB has pointed out that the mid-year meeting is an opportunity to raise awareness of accessibility issues with the other committees from the Policy Group that do attend. A Major Ports and Harbours meeting will follow the Mid-Year Meeting this year. In 2009 the Mid-Year meeting will be on the West Coast.

Lalita Sen will see if it is possible to assemble a group of members to attend the 2008 mid-year meeting, but ABE60 will not organise any sessions of its own.

## **5. TRB Announcements:**

- 5.1 TCRP Summary Stephan Parker, TRB staff, summarised the procedure for the submission of proposals for research syntheses and research projects to TCRP. He urged those present to consider serving on a panel for a TCRP project.
- 5.2 Research Needs Data Base The TRB Research Needs data base has been live since fall 2007, and has already been accessed 7,000 times. The Committee will be providing ideas for research and copies of research problem statements; Kate Hunter-Zaworski will be responsible for getting this material added to the data base. TRB hope to have the first round of material on the data base by summer 2008, and will then start a process of updating it.
- 5.3 Martine Micozzi joined the Committee to tell us about TRB activities and concerns. Kit thanked her for her support throughout the year.
- 5.4 TRB is keen to encourage liaison with other committees: Our committee has many liaison relationships already. A new potential link is that the Native American Committee would like to work with our committee, in the context of accessible transportation and also of pedestrian safety.
- 5.5 Members of the Committee raised the question of the continuing problem of overlapping meetings and sessions with our closest committees. i.e. Paratransit Committee and the Committee on the Safe Mobility of Older Persons.

## **6. Reports of Sub-committees**

- 6.1 International ABE60(1). Ann Frye and Tom Rickert
  - 6.1.1 Ann Frye congratulated Transport Canada on the success of TRANSED 2007 and for the Final Report on the conference that provided a most useful guide for the organisers of future TRANSEDS, and would initially help the organisation of TRANSED 2010. She particularly thanked Muriel Fong, Transport Canada and Gavin Currie for all their hard work.
  - 6.1.2 Transed 2010 will be held June 14-20, 2010 in Hong Kong. The theme of the conference will be Sustainable Transport and Transport for All. The conference will be hosted by the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation, represented at the present TRB meeting by Bennie

Cheung, Mabel Chau and Rex Luk. Pre-conference workshops will be held on Monday June 14 and the main conference sessions June 15 -17. The exhibition will be held June 14 -16. Post conference study tours are planned to Southern China, Beijing, Macau, and possibly to other locations.

The pre-conference workshops will be limited to audiences of around 15 per workshop, and require pre-booking. The conference will be structured on four sub-themes: Economics, Issues for people with cognitive and sensory impairments, Green travel and Tourism. It may prove to be desirable to combine the topics of economics and accessible tourism. Other topics will include: Emergency evacuation and procedures for travel to and from major events. Kit expressed the committee's appreciation to Hong Kong team for all their hard work,

- 6.1.2.1 TRANSED organizers need to get permission from authors to make their contact information available, and to publish their papers and PowerPoint presentations on the conference web site and elsewhere, on a not-for-profit basis. Transport Canada will assist with contacting people, but mentioned the difficulties with privacy because they had not obtained delegates permission to release their contact details. The Hong Kong Organizers also need to get permission to publish delegate list with email and other contact information, as this could provide a useful list of experts for delegates and others after the conference.
- 6.1.2.2 The Call for Papers for TRANSED 2010 will be distributed in April 2008
- 6.1.3 The International sub-committee is starting to look at Transed 2013, with possible locations suggested as India, Brazil or South Africa
- 6.1.4 The Sunday Workshop on "Accessible Transportation and Pedestrian Infrastructure in Less-Developed Countries", organised for the Committee by Access Exchange International, had about 50 participants. Kit thanked Tom and Susan Rickert for organising the workshop, which had been a great success.
- 6.1.5 Other topics of Discussion:  
Tom Rickert reported that AEI has had a very busy year that included hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> annual roundtable and producing BRT accessibility guidelines for the World Bank. AEI also hosted three separate groups from China.

Another topic was the new emphasis on Accessible Tourism. Several participants discussed why some countries are moving ahead and others are not very successful.

6.1.6 TRANSED Proceedings Kit reported progress on getting the TRANSED Proceedings uploaded into the TRIS systems. Proceedings for all TRANSEDS from, and including, 1986 Vancouver are now in TRIS, although the set for 1989 may not be complete. He has provided TRIS with copies of the proceedings of the 1978, 1981 and 1984 TRANSEDS, for scanning and inclusion in the TRIS data base. When these are in, the TRANSED proceedings will be virtually complete, and represent a unique documentation of the development of accessible transport. He thanked Barbara Post, TRB Manager for Information Services, and her staff for the work they had put into achieving this.

## 6.2 ABE60(2) Technology Sub-Committee

Kate thanked Carol Schweiger for all the effort that she has contributed to the sub-committee. This year's meeting included presentations by Mr. Gross US DOT, Bill Crandell and his team on the US Access Board Technical Assistance Bulletin, Kate Hunter-Zaworski on Travel Web site Accessibility, Carol Schweiger on the ITS World Congress in Beijing and Dr. Joe Zaworski: STOW-IT that brought all stakeholders together. Campbell McKee raised the issue of increasing size of wheelchairs, problems for all transport modes. Carol Schweiger has agreed to continue to be the liaison with the TRB ITS committee.

## 6.3 ABE60(3) Sub-committee on Research

6.3.1 Paper Review: the number of papers submitted were very low this year. One paper on the acceptability of the gap between the sidewalk or platform and a bus or train was presented at a session that was built around the topic. One paper was recommended for a Poster Session.

6.3.2 Call for Papers for TRB 2009: The 2009 Annual Meeting will particularly address the issues of climate change, energy and sustainability. In addition, the ABE60 call for papers should add socially sustainable, accessible tourism, economics benefits of accessible transportation and economic costs of not providing accessible transportation.

6.3.3 Sessions for next year: Beezy Bentzen has suggested a session on the visibility of transportation information for passengers with low vision. This would be jointly sponsored by the Committees on Visibility and on User Information Systems. Beezy suggested a list of

speakers. The Committee requested that papers be produced for the session, and will consider the session after reviewing submitted papers. Ann Frye will correspond with Beezy for an international perspective. Other suggestions included sessions on the sizes of wheelchairs, on disaster preparedness and on issues related to Cognitive Impairments and Mental Health.

6.3.4 Research Problem Statements: In 2007 Members and friends did develop 4 synthesis and 3 research topics problem statements. In 2006, one was picked up by Project ACTION, new Research Statements include: Monitoring effective implementation of policy get into practice, Needs and Gaps in Accessibility, A model for measuring accessibility, Accessible Taxis Business models that support successful implementation, Data collection on Travel Behaviours and Meta Data needs. Also re submittal of previous research topics such as: shared space, Pedestrian detection, lighting for pedestrians.

6.3.5 Research Needs Data Base, Topics should be submitted to Russ and Lalita for input and then forwarded to Kate for uploading into Database. It was noted that many of the needs in less develop countries needs do not coincide with TRB. Tom Rickert was asked to use AEI to invite for input and put into research needs data base. There is a list that Ling maintained since 1997. Russ will forward to Kate for loading.

6.3.6 Bill Bell Award: The next award will be presented at TRANSED 2010.

6.4 ABE60(3) Joint Committee on Transportation for Seniors. This sub-committee meeting concentrated on progress with the ITN network. ITNs are now being implemented in about ten new areas, including Orlando Florida. ITN is providing software to plan and manage networks, and is licensing the service to suitable areas. The new services seem to be going very well.

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Problem Statement</b>	<b>People Responsible</b>	
Accessible Taxis	Russ and Bill Orleans	
Data collection on travel Behaviours	Kate and Bill ???	
Meta Data Needs	Harry Wolfe	
Highway Grade Crossing	Daniel Blais	
??	David Chiu	Revise and resubmit Problem Statement

## 7. Reports on Liaison with Other TRB committees

- 7.1 Safe Mobility of Older Persons: two sessions were held that celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Special Report 218. An ICADI Conference will be held in Florida Feb 20-24, 2008 which will include a transportation track and a transportation pre-conference.
- 7.2 Rural Public and Intercity Bus.....No report
- 7.3 Paratransit: Russell reported on their research sub-committee topics of interest: Volunteers to supplement paratransit services, efficiencies of zonal paratransit, emergency response and recovery, rider assistance policy : door to door versus curb to curb. Managing transitions in Paratransit when contracts are rebid and causes changes of software and impacts on service. Discussion of need for larger data base of accessibility data that would reduce burden on agencies to respond to many surveys.
- 7.3.1 The Sunday Workshop on Taxis was very well attended .
- 7.4 ITS: Carol Schwieger...Get notes from Carol
- 7.5 Pedestrian : ask Lois and BZ for notes Pedestrian committee is meeting at the same time in Marriott hotel...
- 7.6 Ferry Transportation: David Chapman- US Access Board now has an Advisory Committee meeting on emergency communication for hearing impaired passengers. It extends recommendations for US flag vessel and Foreign Flag that embark in US ports. Access Board Guidelines for Access to Passenger Vessels published in June 2006 do not cover small vessels. There are concerns with small vessels and small crews having the capability to provide visual communication. There is a lot of work to do to bring ferry transport up to the accessibility level of other modes of public transport. Many public agencies are unaware of the guidance available to make vessels more accessible. There are significant challenges including high tidal ranges and design conditions that are very difficult, so that the majority of ferries on tidal waters are not fully accessible. Cruise Lines have made progress in accommodating people with disability. Brazil also has a new standard.
- 7.7 Airport Terminals and Ground Access Committee. Research suggestions do not consider passengers issues. So far, they have mainly been concerned with ground access to terminals. Ann Frye mentioned that the European regulation on passenger rights and passenger handling will apply to all European Carriers.

- 7.8 Kit reported that the co chairs of the Native Americans Transportation Committee are very concerned with pedestrian issues and would like to be involved with our committee.
- 7.9 The Sub-Committee on Personal Transportation Devices is a committee that is concerned with small personal mobility aids. Kate mentioned the problem statement that the committee had prepared several years ago the focused on shared right of ways. This committee also ties in with other committees that are interested in non motorized transport.
4. **Roundtable:** a number of members shared research experiences from their home jurisdictions. A number of items were shared in confidence and will not be reported in the minutes.
8. **Adjourn at 11:45 am.**

ANNEX A  
 ABE60 COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE

**January 16, 2008 TRB ABE60 Committee Meeting, Washington D.C.**

**Cochairs**

Kate Hunter-Zaworski	Oregon State University	
Christopher Mitchell	Inst. Highways & Transportation	UK

**Members**

David Chapman	University of Delaware	
Joey Goldman	Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates	
Jonathan Klein	Federal Transit Administration	
James Marston	University of California, Santa Barbara	
Brian Masson	MuliModal Transport Solutions Ltd.	UK
Campbell McKee	C.N. Unwin Ltd.	UK
Gerhard Menckhoff	World Bank	
Thomas Rickert	Access Exchange International	
Uwe Rutenberg	Rutenberg Design Inc.	Canada
John Schoon	University of Southampton	UK
Russell Thatcher	TranSystems Corp.	
Harry Wolfe		
Joseph Zaworski	Oregon State University	

**Young Members**

Daniel Blais	Transport Canada	Canada
Christopher Hart	Adaptive Environments	

**Friends**

Bhuiyan Alam	The University of Toledo	
Rhianna Babka	University of California, Berkeley	
Andrew Bata	New York City Transit	
Rachel Beyerle	ASSHTO	
Miranda Carter	Department for Transport	United
Mabel Chau Man-ki	The Hong Kong Society of Rehabilitation	Hong Kong
David Chia	Planners Collaborative, Inc.	
William Crandall	Smith-Kettlewell RERC	
Murielle Fong	Transport Canada	Canada
Ann Frye	Ann Frye Limited	UK
Mary Leary	Easter Seals Project ACTION	
Dana Loll	USDOT	
Akihiro Mihoshi	Kinki University	Japan
David Myers	Clemson University	
Eric Schreffler	ESTC	
Charlene Wilder	Federal Transit Administration	
Michael Winter	U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)	

ANNEX B  
ABE60 COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA  
**Transportation Research Board  
87th Annual Meeting**

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**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order, Kit Mitchell, Kate Hunter-Zaworski, Co-Chairs
2. Introductory comments, and introduction of members and friends, All
  - Welcome of new members by the Co-Chairs
  - Review of Minutes of the 2007 Meeting and Action Items, Co-chairs  
(see Committee web site for 2007 minutes)
  - Nomination of new members, emeritus members  
Note: There was a rotation of Committee members in April 2007; the list of Committee members is available on the Committee web site.
  - Report on workshop 162 "Accessible Transportation and Pedestrian Infrastructure in less-developed Countries" held on Sunday 13 January 2008
  - Consider whether to arrange a mid-year meeting during 2008. Martine Micozzi advises that Committees which have begun doing so have commented that they have found it beneficial, particularly in liaising with other TRB Committees. Members of ABE60 have commented that others in the transportation community are often ill informed about accessibility issues, and it would benefit other committees to have your expertise available in other TRB fora.
3. TRB Staff Announcements (when TRB staff members are available)
4. Reports of Sub-committees
  - 4.1 ABE60(1) Sub-committee on International Activities  
Tom Rickert and Ann Frye, Co-Chairs
    - Report on TRANSED 2007
    - Plans for TRANSED 2010
    - Report on activities of Access Exchange International.
  - 4.2 ABE60(2) Sub-committee on Advanced Technology & Accessible Transportation  
Uwe Rutenberg, Chair

4.3 ABE60(4) Sub-committee on Research  
Russell Thatcher and Lalita Sen, Co-chairs

- TCRP Results of 2007 proposals for Projects and Syntheses
- Call for Papers 2008
- TCRP/Project Action Topics for 2008
- Awards - report for information

4.4 ABE60(3) Joint Committee on Transportation Options for Seniors  
Kathy Freund Chair. Report by Kathy Freund or Kit Mitchell

5. Report on Liaison Activities with Other TRB Committees:

- Safe Mobility for Older Persons: Rosemary Gerty, Kit Mitchell
- Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation: Jon Burkhardt
- Paratransit: Rosemary Gerty
- ITS: Carol Schweiger
- Pedestrian: Lois Thibault
- Ferry Transportation: David Chapman
- Airport Terminals and Ground Access: Harry Wolfe

6. Major Accessibility Developments/Projects – Roundtable Discussion

7. Other Business/Other Session Reports

8. Adjournment