

**Committee Meeting ABE60 (2)
Accessible Transportation Technology Subcommittee
86th Annual Meeting of Transportation Research Board
Tuesday, January 15, 2008
8:00 – 9:45 a.m.
Hilton Hotel, Bancroft Room
Washington DC**

ABE60-(2) Minutes, January 2008

ATTENDANCE

Members:

Kate Hunter-Zaworski, NCAT, Oregon State University
Joe Zaworski, NCAT, Oregon State University
Campbell McKee, UNWIN Ltd., UK
Kit Mitchel, Institute of Highways & Transportation, UK
Bill Crandall, Smith Kettlewell
Carol Schweiger, TransSystems Corp.
Jim Marston, UCSB
Charelene Wilder, Federal Transit Administration
Jonathan Klein, Federal Transit Administration
Jennifer Rephlo, SAIC
Brian Masson, MMTS
John Schoon, University of Southampton, UK
Akihiro Mihoshi, KINKI University, Japan

Friends

Yehuda Gross, US DOT
Cindy Johnson, SAIC
Aletha Goodine, US DOT, FTA
Shinya Kananura, ECOMO Foundation

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AGENDA:

1. Call to Order, Uwe Rutenberg, Chair
2. Introduction of new members, current members and friends
3. Review of previous meeting minutes for 2007
4. TRB Representative - Martine Micozzi
5. TCRP and ACRP Research Problem Statements and Synthesis topics
6. Yehuda Gross: Discussion of progress on USDOT Federal Initiatives, including Mobility Services for All Americans (including Demonstration of Enhanced Human Service Transportation Models: Phase 1 – System Development and Design),
7. Dr. Bill Crandall: "Update on solutions to transit communications barriers"
8. Dr. Kate Hunter-Zaworski: " Accessible websites in transportation"
9. Carol Schweiger: Participation in 2007 ITS World Congress held in Beijing, China October 9-13, 2007, and summary of MSAA/UWR program from Finland
10. Expected participation in 2008 ITS World Congress to be held in New York City November 16-20, 2008
11. Dr. Joe Zaworski: Rear-facing systems in US transit operations
12. Campbell McGee: Wheelchair tendencies and their consequences in transportation
13. 2009 Call for Papers and Session themes for TRB
14. Carol Schweiger: Liaison with TRB ITS Committee (AHB15)
15. Other subcommittee business

Call to order by Uwe Rutenberg at 8:10 am, who introduced himself as the new chair of the sub committee, replacing Carol Schweiger. Uwe thanked Carol for her dedication, leadership and great efforts over the past years.

There was a good attendance at the sub committee with representation from a variety of public and private organization, academia and federal agencies.

We had several excellent presentations:

1. Yehuda Gross, presented the progress of US DOT Federal Initiatives, including Mobility Services for All Americans (MSAA). Some of the points included:
 - Current human service transportation is complex, duplicative and expensive
 - MSAA uses ITS to simplify access and improve cost effectiveness
 - Mobility and Accessibility have a greater visibility in Congress now provided by the present Administration
2. Dr. Bill Crandall presented an update on solutions to transit communication barriers. He, Nelson, Nygard and Dr. Bentzen produced a Technical Assistance Bulletin on use by transit agencies to facilitate travel for person with disabilities in communication. A number of technologies to overcome barriers are addressed in this bulletin:
 - GPS and GIS
 - Accessible maps
 - Remotes Infrared Audible Signs
 - Vehicle "Destination" and "Next stop" signs
 - Real-Time Information Systems
 - Access to Ticket vending machines, especially for the vision impaired
 - Detectable warning surfaces
3. Dr. Kate Hunter-Zaworski presented research underway at the National Center for Accessible Transportation (NCAT) at Oregon State University, to make websites accessible in transportation for people with sensory impairments. The goal is to harmonize standards of W3W and 508, provide assistive technologies while putting the onus on the server not the user. Screen reader technology (for vision impaired) is different than visual access and requires a different logic.
4. Carol Schweiger, who is part of the International ITS Program committee, reported from the issues presented at the last ITS World Congress in Beijing 2007.
 - ASK-IT is a large European-funded project with 55 partners. It is a web-based system designed for inclusion to provide useful and reliable information for everyday life for persons with disabilities, but with the benefit for everybody.

- Carol mentioned that the next ITS World Congress be held in New York in November 2008 and urged all members and friends to submit papers to increase the visibility for accessibility in this venue.
5. Dr. Joe Zaworski presented a pressing problem Airlines have with the stowage of wheelchairs onboard aircraft in the cargo hold. His team has brought for the first time all stakeholders to the table. They included, airlines, wheelchair manufacturers, consumes, advocacy groups, ramp agents, and federal agencies. There is a great need to solve this problem and the stakeholders are enthusiastic to solve it.
 6. Campbell McKee spoke about the tendency of wheelchairs becoming longer and heavier and the consequences this has on transportation modes for:
 - Securement systems
 - Space allocations
 - Ramps and lifts, and
 - In case of accidents
 7. Carol Schweiger who is also a member of the TRB ITS committee indicated her willingness to liaise between our committee and the IS committee in the future.

There were very active and productive discussions on all topics and presentations from all participants.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am.