

**Sub-Committee Meeting ABE60(4)**  
**Sub-Committee on Research**  
**85th Annual Meeting of Transportation Research Board**  
**Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 10.15 – 12noon**  
**Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington D.C.**

## **Minutes**

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### Members

Carol Schweiger, TranSystems Corp.  
Ling Suen, International Centre for Accessible Transportation, Canada  
Kit Mitchell, (Retired) Institute of Highways & Transportation, U.K.  
Maryvonne Dejeammes, CERTU, France  
Bill Crandall, Smith–Kettlewell, USA  
Rob Barnes, Ministry of Transportation of Ontario  
Campbell McKee, C.N. Unwin, Ltd., UK  
Harry Wolfe, Maricopa Assn. of Governments  
Lalita Sen, Co-Chair for the Subcommittee Texas Southern University, USA  
Russell Thatcher, Co-Chair of Subcommittee, TranSystems Corp.

#### Friends

Jim Marston, Univ. of California Santa Barbara  
Anabela Simoes, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal  
Gavin Currie, Canadian Transportation Agency  
Lawrence Harman, Harman Consulting – LLC  
Calvin Green, Montgomery County Transit  
Richard Wallace, Altarum Institute, University of Michigan  
Claude Marin-LaMellet, INRETS-LESCOT, France  
John Schoon, University of Southampton, UK  
David Koffman, Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates  
Bryna Helfer, Federal Transit Administration  
Daniel Blais, TRANSED 2007 Secretariat

### **AGENDA** (See Attachment E-1)

#### **1. Call to Order, Introductions and Approval of 2005 Minutes**

Lalita Sen, Co-chair of the Subcommittee called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. She welcomed attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves. An attendance list was circulated. An updated Accessible Transportation and Mobility Committee contact list was also circulated and those in attendance were asked to check and update contact information on the list.

Comments on the minutes of last year's meeting of the Subcommittee were invited. Extra copies of the minutes were available for those who had not

received them or downloaded them from the Committee website. A MOTION to accept the minutes as written was made by Kit Mitchell, SECONDED by Rob Barnes, 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.

## **3. Review of 2005 Paper Review Process and Session Planning Process**

An overview of the review of papers submitted in 2005 and the subsequent session planning process was presented by Lalita Sen. A list of all papers submitted showing the ratings for presentation and the recommendations for publication was distributed. A copy of the two regular sessions and the poster session planned for 2006 also was distributed. A total of 16 papers were received. Fourteen were accepted for presentation (8 in regular sessions and 6 in poster sessions). Two regular sessions were sponsored by the committee and one additional session was co-sponsored with other committees. One poster session also was sponsored by the committee. Carol Schweiger commented on the increased number of poster sessions this year. She noted that there seemed to be a change in the thinking on poster sessions - that they were more accepted and respected. She also noted, though, that with the additional sessions the poster session room was quite crowded.

Lalita also indicated that four papers were recommended for publication (one with revisions). Lalita noted that final recommendations for the publication of papers strictly followed the peer ratings and recommendations. The selection of papers for presentation also was done largely based on reviewer ratings, but some leeway was used to develop sessions with consistent topics and themes. Several attendees noted that the process seemed to work better in 2005.

A discussion followed on the review process using the new in-house software developed by TRB. It was noted that there were still some issues with passwords and codes and that more technical support from TRB was needed. Problems uploading comments and accessing papers online for re-review were also mentioned by some committee members.

Kit Mitchell noted that TRB has established a working group to evaluate the paper review process. He welcomed comments and agreed to pass them on to

the working group. It was noted that there still is an issue with reviewers seeing revisions made to papers. It also was suggested that TRB develop a simple overview so that authors and reviewers have a better idea of the complete process and each step in the process. Clarification and guidance on the policy regarding papers that are presented or published elsewhere also was requested. Ling Suen indicated that there was a need to clarify the difference between publication in the TR Record versus inclusion on the Annual Meeting CD. She also indicated some issues with the paper revision process. She noted that if a paper is revised in response to reviewer comments, the revised paper is not the version that gets presented and included on the CD. It also was noted that the option for poster sessions needs to be included and reflected in the automated system.

Lalita noted that some reviewers waited until the last minute to complete reviews and that some reviews had to be reassigned. She asked for cooperation in the coming year with timely review of papers. She also urged all attendees to attend the sessions and the poster session sponsored and co-sponsored by the committee.

#### **4. Possible New Research Topics**

Russell Thatcher reviewed efforts to develop and submit research topic statements in 2005. It was noted that the deadline for submission of synthesis research topic statements was March 31, 2005 and that the deadline for full research topic statements was June 15, 2005. It was noted that five synthesis topics and one full research topic were developed and submitted with the endorsement of the committee. Four of the synthesis topics were new and one was a resubmission of a topic proposed in prior years.

A list of all of the research topics developed and submitted by committee members and friends from 1998 through 2005 was distributed. A list of all of the topics related to access and mobility that had been selected and funded to date was also distributed. Russell noted that the lists had been prepared to give members and attendees a better understanding of all of the topics proposed to date as well as the topics selected and funded.

The list of statements prepared by committee members and friends also included topics being considered for submission in 2006. It was noted that two of the synthesis topics submitted in 2005 were being considered for resubmittal in 2006. These were: Stop Announcement and Vehicle Identification Practices; and ADA Complementary Rider Assistance Policies. Two new full research statements were also being considered. These were: Driver Recruitment, Retention and Performance in ADA Complementary Paratransit Operations; and Impacts of Trends Toward More Vigorous ADA Paratransit Eligibility Assessments. Russell gave a quick overview of each of these topics.

It was noted that the deadline for submission of research topic statements would be the same in 2006 - March 31, 2006 for synthesis statements and June 15, 2006 for full research topics. There was a general discussion of possible research topics for the coming year. Bryna Helfer suggested research on paratransit management practices (to complement the proposed research on driver performance). Kit Mitchell suggested research on volunteerism and the use of volunteers to provide transportation.

Carol Schweiger noted that the Technology Subcommittee had expressed interest in the topic of emergency evacuation. Others also indicated interest in emergency transportation as a research topic. Bryna Helfer noted that there would be a study by OSHA of emergency evacuation of transit-dependent populations. David Koffman suggested that this might be a topic for a workshop in 2007. Bryna suggested that the committee work with the Safety and Security Committee and noted that Stephan Parker was the contact. Campbell McKee suggested that the research also look at international issues and efforts. Bryna Helfer, Carol Schweiger and Lalita Sen agreed to pursue the topic of Emergency Evacuation and Disaster Preparedness as a possible full research topic and to involve Kate Hunter-Zaworski as well.

Carol Schweiger noted that the Technology Subcommittee had agreed on two possible research topics. One was the Convergence of International Experiences with Transit Technology for Persons with Disabilities. Carol Schweiger and Kit Mitchell agreed to pursue this topic and indicated that they would invite David Lewis to assist. The second was Training for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities in Using Wireless Technologies in Transit Services. Lalita Sen agreed to consider developing this topic.

John Schoon also discussed possible research on Advanced Technologies for Pedestrian Detection and Accident Avoidance. He agreed to work with Carol Schweiger to develop this topic.

## **5. Call for Papers for 2007**

There was discussion about the focus of the Call for Papers for 2007. A copy of the Call for Papers used in 2005 was distributed. Martine Micozzi of TRB noted that the theme of the 2007 Annual Meeting would be "Transportation Institutions, Finance and Workforce: Meeting the Needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Ling Suen suggested that the 2005 Call for papers be revised to emphasize training and workforce needs. Carol Schweiger requested that a bullet on "advanced technologies to improve accessibility and mobility" be added to the Call. Bryna Helfer requested that a bullet on integrating modes of transportation be added.

## **6. Roger Tate and William Bell Awards**

Russell Thatcher reported on the status of these two awards. He noted that in 2005 the oversight of the Roger Tate Award was transitioned to the Rural Transportation and Intercity Bus Committee. He noted that the next award would

be made in 2006 at the Rural Transportation and Intercity Bus Conference in Washington State.

Russell also noted that, as per committee discussions and agreement in 2005, the William Bell Award would be presented every three years at the TRANSED conferences. The next award would therefore be made at the conference in Montreal in 2007. The process called for an announcement at the full committee meeting this year that nominations were being accepted. Nominations will be accepted until March 31, 2006 and a selection would be made by August 2006. The recipient would then be notified and an announcement of the award would be made at the Annual Meeting in 2007. Russell noted that he had copies of nomination forms and invited anyone interested in making a nomination to contact him. He also noted that the nomination forms were on the committee's website.

## **7. Other Business**

Attendees were invited to raise other business.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

**Accessible Transportation and Mobility Committee:  
Subcommittee on Research ABE60(4)  
85th Annual Meeting of Transportation Research Board  
Tuesday January 24, 2006  
10:15 AM – 12:00 PM  
Hilton Hotel  
Washington DC**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order, Introductions & Approval of the Minutes of the 2005 Meeting
2. Mission of the Subcommittee
3. Review of 2005 Paper Review Process and Session Planning Process
4. Research Statements Proposed in 2005 and Possible New Research Topics for 2006
5. Call for Papers for 2007
6. Roger Tate and William Bell Awards
7. Other business
8. Adjourn Meeting