

MINUTES
2009 Annual Meeting
TRB Access Management Committee (AHB70)
January 14, 2009 – 8:00 am
Washington, DC

In Attendance:

Members

Kristine Williams, Chair (CUTR – Florida)
Bill Frawley, Secretary, (TTI – Texas)
Stephen Ferranti (SRF & Associates – New York)
Vaughn Lewis (Maryland State Highway Administration)
Grant Schultz (Brigham Young University – Utah)
Del Huntington (Kittelson & Associates – Oregon)
Joe Bared (FHWA – Virginia)
Frank Broen (Teach America Corp – Florida)
Jeffrey Altman (Mississippi DOT)
Xiao Kuan Yang (Beijing University of Technology – China)
Marc Butorac (Kittelson & Associates – Oregon)
Basil Psarianos (National Technical University of Athens – Greece)
Robert Jurasin (CH2M Hill – Connecticut)
Christina Hopes (Maricopa Area Council of Governments – Arizona)
Neil Spiller (FHWA – Washington, DC)
Donna Lewis (Mercer County – New Jersey)

Friends

Rich Cunard (TRB – Washington, DC)
Eddie Shafie (AECOM – Texas)
Jerry Gluck (AECOM – New York)
Jim Gattis (University of Arkansas)
Phil Demosthenes (Parametrix – Colorado)
Ed Kosola (FHWA – Washington, DC)
Evangelos Kaisar (Florida Atlantic University)
Brad Strader (LSL Planning – Michigan)
Steve Thieken (Burgess & Niple)
David Plazak (TRB/SHRP2 – Washington, DC)
Robert Layton (Oregon State University)
Yingwu Fang (Virginia DOT)
Dane Ismart (Louis Berger – Florida)
Michael Manore (Chair, Visualization Committee – Wisconsin)

Visitors

Brian Hutchins (BH Consulting LLC)
Jan Pettersson (Swedish Road Department – Sweden)
Wakeel Idewu (Louisiana State University)
Moe Zarean (Iteris, Inc)

Call to Order/Introductions/Minutes

Kristine Williams called the meeting to order.

All attendees introduced themselves.

Frawley asked if there were any comments or revisions to the 2008 mid-year minutes that had been distributed via e-mail; there were none. Motion to approve – Jurasin, second – Broen; approved.

Chair Remarks

Membership

Williams informed the group that this is a year when we have one-third of our members rotating off (membership ends in April) – TRB requires rotation after 3 terms (9 years). Williams thanked those who will rotate off for their service to the committee; there will be a membership discussion during the Executive Session following this Committee meeting.

Annual Meeting

We have had several sessions that we sponsored or co-sponsored; attendance was not what I would desire, perhaps because of night sessions.

Schultz stated that Rich Cunard said our slots were not the best due to our move to this building this year – it should improve over time.

Seven papers were submitted in the general call for the annual meeting – 2 were presented in podium sessions, others in a poster session. We can publish up to 25% of the papers. We had a few co-sponsored sessions, including with Metropolitan Policy and Planning Committee.

TRB Survey

People stated that they want to participate in TRB for the contribution to society and professional development; TRB is moving toward “Practice Ready Papers.” We should keep this in mind in our paper reviews.

Chair Meeting

Our web site received accolades and the triennial review went very well.

Highlights of 2008

We have been successful in variety of ways. Baltimore Conference was very successful; Williams presented Vaughn Lewis, Conference Chair, with a certificate of appreciation.

Our Committee has also had tremendous success in research efforts – NCHRP 3-99 and the State of the Practice Synthesis were funded; Jerry Gluck will do the synthesis; the 3-99 contractor has not yet been announced. These projects will be the foundation for the next Manual update; we also need to submit the problem statement to obtain funding for

the Manual update, while these research efforts are underway. We will need to support the contractors for these two projects.

Xiao Kuan Yang, from China (member) is here; the Manual has been translated into Chinese. Yang state that there are many processes in publishing the Manual in China – such as what to do with the cover. Williams stated that keeping the same basic cover with Chinese letters would probably be best. There was consensus of the Committee to take that approach.

Williams went to Thailand and spoke with transportation officials – they are quite interested in access management. They have challenges similar to ours, with their cultural differences. They have frontage roads with turnarounds over the highways. I have pictures that I will post on the Access Management web site.

Liaison Roles

We will only be asking for highlights and key reports during the Liaison Reports section of the meeting; we also have a Liaison Report Template from Outreach Subcommittee – Frawley presented the template recommended for approval by the Outreach Subcommittee.

Motion to approve and use the template – Butorac; Second – Broen; Approved.

Access Management Manual

We have sold about 3900, selling about 50 per month. There are enough printed to make it through 2009, Cunard has asked if we should reprint the current one or wait for the update. Consensus was that the update is probably at least 4 years away and we should reprint the current version.

Strategic Issues for Coming Year

Williams stated that we need to support the contractors working on the two research efforts and Jeff Altman in the development of the 2010 Conference to be held in Natchez, MS.

National Conferences

Baltimore - 2008

V. Lewis – thanked all those who helped put the conference together. Thanked Hopes for obtaining sponsorships and Hiles for student poster competition. There were 226 registrants. We lost FHWA support for proceedings – so we had to back off Broen’s efforts to what we could afford to pay. Overall, the conference broke even financially. We discussed ways to save money on future conferences – including credit card registration expenses. APA has begun continuing ed requirements for AICP – we were not able to provide those in Baltimore – if we can for Mississippi, it may help attendance. The paid sponsorships was new for the Baltimore conference – Hopes took the lead on that and handled the money. 8 paying sponsors brought in over \$8,000 to the conference – exceeded our goal. We will continue in the future. Hiles took the lead on the student poster competition – 5 submittals. We will continue this also. I received much help and

it was a great experience. We did officially pass chairmanship of the Conference Subcommittee to Jeff Altman.

Natchez, Mississippi - 2010

Altman – distributed promotional information for the conference and Natchez. We will do a call for papers very soon. Broen will take care of a logo for the call for papers. When do we need to create a theme for the conference?

Huntington – I came up with “Moving Forward” for the Portland conference a few years ago.

Last year’s theme was “Sustainable Solutions for Transportation” but we do not always have themes. There was discussion that we could continue using this theme.

Co-sponsorship opportunities – Geometric Design will be doing their own conference and won’t be able to work with us.

Bared has discussed opportunities with the Joint Subcommittee on Intersections – they worked with us in Baltimore; perhaps they could continue to work with us. Altman stated that there is a new continuous flow intersection in Natchez, which may be of interest to people working with intersection issues. Altman will approach Cunard about getting the 2010 conference on the TRB calendar very soon. There will be a link on the TRB calendar to www.accessmanagement.info. The conference dates are October 10-13.

Sunday night we will have a social event at a plantation – outdoor event with some indoor activities. We have an opportunity for a riverboat event for Tuesday night. There are also walking tours people can do. Hotels near the convention center should be a little less than \$100; plantation accommodations are about \$125.

There was consensus that we won’t need to review abstracts at the mid-year meeting, given the October 2010 timing of the conference.

Broen – we may want to identify and highlight “Practice Ready Papers” in a track; have an “Issues” track; maybe have shorter presentations (~7 minutes) about the issue, then have discussion among attendees to exchange information. One could be case studies – ask what can you use out of this case study right now? Then ask if anybody has a similar case study? We could develop the call for papers with this idea in mind.

We will also state in the call that speakers will have to pay a registration fee. Gattis stated that he has had experience including the statement, “per TRB practice, . . .”

We could market the Practice Ready Papers idea by putting out a publication that looks like a magazine, that contains that abstracts and related questions. After the conference, we could publish a second volume that includes answers and comments provided in the sessions. It could appear as a PDF on the web site and “publish” it that way, thereby not

incurring printing expenses. We could include our sponsor from the last conference. Consensus to move forward with the “AM News” idea.

Williams asked if it is possible to submit the abstracts on-line; other conferences do this and it would standardize the abstract process. Broen indicated that he could develop this idea and get back to the Committee.

Sponsorships

Hopes reminded the group that there was a promise to keep the sponsors’ names on-line for one year. Lessons learned – we had a very solid process, considering we did it for the first time. We will have money flow to me and I will direct it appropriately. There was only one Silver sponsor – if anyone has insight into why anyone sponsored or did not at a particular level, please let me know. Also, let me know if there were any comments or complaints from the sponsors. We can get started much earlier for the Mississippi conference. The Baltimore sponsors were local or national companies with local offices. We will have two pushes for sponsorship – one about the time of the call for abstracts and one about six months prior to the conference.

Student Poster Competition

There will be another competition in Natchez. We will get a group to work with Hiles at the mid-year meeting. We can improve volume of entries with additional advertising. There was a suggestion that there needs to be more opportunity to see the posters and interact with the students. Morgan State University helped coordinate student involvement with other University Transportation Centers in the area.

There are ITE student competitions in Mississippi – Altman will coordinate; Frawley will attempt to coordinate with SWUTC in Texas. Dan Turner is a contact for University of Alabama.

There was a reduced student registration fee that basically covers the expenses of them being there – no profit to the Committee. We will repeat this in Natchez.

Altman will send conference information to Frawley, who will send it to the Committee.

Ron Giguere AM Champion Award

V. Lewis – we don’t have anything together right now; it was discussed at the Conference Subcommittee; there was discussion of having a session at the Annual Meeting in Giguere’s honor, or a session at the National Conference, or a paper award.

Williams asked for a volunteer to take the lead on establishing the appropriate honor method. Hopes will do so. Williams stated that it can be difficult to select a single champion to receive an award. Demosthenes, Gluck, and V. Lewis will help Hopes (and contact Art Eisdorfer for ideas).

ITE Journal AM Articles

Gattis – the idea came in June 2008 and was discussed at the July mid-year meeting. Four articles are lined up – Introduction to Access Management; Access Management Techniques; Access Management Impacts; How to Start an Access Management Program.

They also want two sidebar articles – Corridor Management; Access Management in Interchange Areas.

ITE wants some peer review and asked us to identify reviewers – we have volunteers to do so.

The articles probably will be published in the Fall.

Jurasin – Transportation Planning Council – had a survey of interesting issues – access management was highly rated.

Gattis – there is an opportunity for a ½-day workshop at the Geometrics Conference in Valencia, Spain (June 2010).

The Guide for Geometric Design of Driveways is going through final revisions – hopefully will be published in next few months. There is a need to expand the scope and research effort, according to the panel.

Williams expressed thanks to Gattis for leading the effort on getting the articles published in the ITE Journal.

Broen stated that there could be a “related information” link to presentations on the web site.

Jurasin stated that it would be helpful if we could publicize the 2010 conference through the articles. Demosthenes may have an opportunity through a sidebar article.

2009 Mid-year Meeting

The Committee previously voted (via e-mail) to hold it in Irvine, August 17-19. There is a room block at the Marriott Hotel. Typically, the meetings run from noon on Monday through noon on Wednesday. There is a registration fee, probably under \$200. We will send information.

We could do some posters to present information to the Highway Safety Committee and ask them to present to us what they are doing – perhaps during an evening reception. Frawley and Schultz will work on a safety poster, possibly get input from D. Lewis on a project in Mercer County. Ferranti may be able to provide some input.

Schultz will organize speakers from the Highway Safety group to our group.

Team members of on-going research efforts should be given an opportunity to update the Committee on progress and efforts at the mid-year meeting.

International Conference – Greece 2011

Psarianos – Greek organizations are supporting our efforts, including Ministry for Regional Planning and Public Works, in addition to agencies related to land management. An initial budget has been established. We will find out if the City of Athens will participate. My suggestion is to make it late Spring 2011. The expensive period begins in late June, we could get very good prices in first two weeks of June. I will check for dates so we don't conflict with other conferences. I need to determine if this is the first of a series – do we put a number with it; a theme; safety and operational workshops should be highlighted, maybe also a design workshop. I need input from this Committee and some volunteers to help with details and editing language. I will look for sponsors – have had some good input, especially from freeway concessionaires – all freeways are private in Greece and there are problems with access near interchanges. There will be much interest among their staffs and they should be sending people to attend.

Demosthenes, V. Lewis, Broen, and Schultz volunteered to help Psarianos with the conference.

Huntington pointed out that it will be important to not assume that issues are the same or handled the same in Greece as they are here. We should be aware of issues in order to prepare appropriate papers and presentations.

Cunard mentioned that sometimes “Country Reports” are prepared to identify what countries are doing.

Psarianos – the technical parts are the same. Experience of how to handle legal or difficult situations would be helpful. Experiences of what has been done in other countries would be very helpful.

Demosthenes – it would be appropriate to tell how things have been done in the U.S. in general. There are some issue transferability matters – police powers, etc. We are invited guests and should make a good appearance by putting together a couple of good sessions. Driveways, raised medians, etc are all issues they face.

Psarianos – Arterial management (including operations) is important throughout Europe. Some have dropped speed limits to 30 kmh. Land development (urban sprawl) is an issue.

2012 Conference

There was an offer to explore holding a conference in Texas. There was some interest expressed in holding a conference in the northern part of the country, such as Minnesota or Michigan. Also, there will be new Committee members coming on soon – there may be opportunities through them. After discussion, V. Lewis made a motion to direct

Shafie to approach TxDOT and find out if they are willing to host in 2012; second - Ferranti second; approved.

TRB Staff Report

Annual Meeting

Cunard – welcomed the Committee to the Marriott (meetings were previously held at the Hilton) and asked for comments and complaints.

Next year's meeting will be January 10-14, prior to MLK weekend.

Posters exceeded 50% of presentations for the first time ever. We ask authors to stay for at least 1½ hours. Sessions have a Committee member preside, primarily to assist presenters.

The latest attendance figure for this year is 10,006 – last year was ~10,500. We are down about 20-30% on state DOT staff attending; private sector and university are up, along with students and international.

There is not a way to get access to workshop materials disseminated. There were 89 workshops this year; we don't get a good feel for who is even presenting until December. Some committees will post them on their web site, but that is not universal.

Mid-year Meeting

The Beckman Center, in Irvine, was donated to National Academies in the 1980's – you get full breakfast and lunch each day; very nice setting. The Marriott - Fashion Island is located in a shopping center and is ~4 miles from the Beckman Center. There may be shuttles between the hotel and the Beckman Center. The Beckman Center has total wireless availability; could bring in members who are not able to attend in person. There is a daily per person charge at the Beckman Center that covers the breakfasts, lunches, breaks and a reception, as well as AV support. I suggest you end at 11:00 am on Wednesday to allow for flights out. Use John Wayne Airport (SNA), Ontario is an alternative; do not use LAX – can be a 2 ½ - 3 hours drive. You can begin Monday morning or afternoon. You can have an evening reception. We should have cost information by mid-February. Rental cars are very helpful – the area is not transit-friendly.

Highway Safety Manual Update

Bared – third draft should be approved soon; published by the end of the year. It includes two- and multi-lane roads, along with urban and rural roads.

Visualization Committee Relationship

Broen introduced Michael Manore of the Visualization Committee. Psarianos mentioned that visualization would be helpful in Europe, especially for night driving – three times the crash rates as in daytime.

Subcommittee Reports

Research

Schultz – seven papers were submitted in the general call for the annual meeting. We had over 30 peer reviews. Three papers were presented Monday morning in the poster session; two are being presented Wednesday afternoon; we have two “Best of National Conference Paper Sessions.”

Research Statement Needs Database – it is updated and we can send information out.

NCHRP Problem Statements – we submitted 4 statements last September– they are in the process currently and have had initial review.

Synthesis topics are due in February. Please let Schultz know if you have synthesis topics you would like to submit. Performance measures and sustainability are the two big topics currently.

Outreach Subcommittee

Frawley – I chaired the meeting in Huffman’s absence. The main points from the Outreach meeting – please continue to send outreach activities to Chris Huffman (hcc@sunflower.com). We discussed ways to use the web site and Internet to increase outreach – such as doing webinars to niche groups, such as AICP planners who need to get continuing education credit hours. We also discussed the ITE Journal articles that Gattis previously explained.

Demosthenes mentioned that there are two new books – Traffic Engineering Handbook (coming in March) and Urban Geometric Handbook (has chapter on access management) is available. The 8th Edition of Trip Generation is available.

Broen provided updates about the web site usage and how to add conference information (including local information) and links. There is also the possibility to have a “premium” web site that would have items of valuable to make people willing to pay an annual fee to have access to those materials. This is an interesting ideas that we will continue to explore.

Manual Subcommittee

Butorac – reviewed history of the Manual – we are currently working toward an update; distributed a research problem statement to support the Manual update – **please provide comments to Butorac by February 1**. There are seven projects that have been completed since the original publication, as well as eight current or upcoming projects.

We lost FHWA funding for the update, but have received some NCHRP projects and are going to submit an NCHRP problem statement for the Manual update. We identified multiple people to work with state DOTs to submit the problem statement and express support for the problem statement when it is considered. The problem statement must be submitted by state DOTs by September 15; another critical time will be in December 2009 when DOTs will see it and have an opportunity to give it a “5” rating.

FHWA Liaison Report

Spiller – there is no more direct program area for access management in the operations side of FHWA. There have been management changes among FHWA groups. The access management effort has been reduced to one of maintaining support and endorsement, but not to actively pursue projects.

Williams asked if there is a possibility of pursuing a small grant to support the web site and outreach. Spiller replied that there is nothing right now.

Williams will write a letter to Spiller's new management expressing thanks for previous support from the operations group and the desire to work together in the future.

The NHI Course – the Manual is used as a de facto text (there are references to it) and is included in the fee and given to participants. Current instructors include Demosthenes, Huffman, and Ismart.

The general meeting adjourned and the Committee members met in an executive session.