

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee on Public Transportation Planning and Development (A1E02)
2:30 P. M. January 15, 2003
State Room, Hilton Washington

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:40 p.m. by David Miller with introductions of those present. Regrets from Tara Bartee, Steve Githens, Shirley Hsiao, Patti Post, and Scott Rutherford were noted.
2. Minutes of last year's meeting were approved.
3. Summer meeting: Several people from the committee met as part of the TRB joint committee meeting of the Planning, Economics, Finance, Management, freight, and Transit Committees, held July 10-13 in Providence, R. I. Members included, in addition to the chairman, Joana Conklin, Shirley Hsiao, and Steve Polzin. Member Jim Gillespie stopped in briefly; as Secretary of another committee that was meeting at the same time, his duties required him to give A1E02 his regrets. Friends present were Section Chair Pat McLaughlin and Linda Wilshusen.
4.
 - a) TRB Report: Peter Shaw. The TRB Annual Meeting this year has nearly 1,000 events and has accepted about 1,400 papers for presentation. About 600-700 papers are planned for publication. Space and time constraints are affecting TRB; the Annual Meeting is about at capacity in terms of available time slots for meeting and session rooms.
 - b) Committee structures may be reorganized to improve coordination with other committees and organizations outside TRB. Transit committees will be under their own section which should provide better representation of transit concerns. So far as we have been able to determine, there will be no change in our day-to-day operations.
 - c) Big Issues: Committees are being asked to identify big issue policy areas for special attention by TRB. Some of the topics mentioned were future energy supply, prices and sources, security of transit systems, intercity rail services and local transit access, costs and finance of major transportation projects, air quality and greenhouse effects, transportation sustainability, revenue shortfalls, planning and decision making, improvement in transit ridership, mobility for those without access to transportation, effects of changing age of the population, land use, and payoffs to transit investments.

Anyone who wants to advance some of these topics should send a short description of them to Dave Miller as soon as possible.

- d) Critical issues: TRB has identified eleven issues for attention during the next year in

its annual report.

- e) Synthesis topics: Anyone with ideas for synthesis projects should submit them to Dave Miller before March 1. There may be a need to update the glossary of terms in transportation. George Gray will contact Ed Weiner of FHWA to see what other work in this area is underway. The existence of a glossary in the first edition of the transit Capacity and Quality of Service Manual was noted.
- f) Members were urged to make suggestions on increasing the diversity of the membership of the committee.

5. FTA Planning Projects: Charlie Goodman.

FTA is interested in improving the planning process and increasing the capacity for transit planning. Some recurring problems are:

- a) Quality of data for performance measures, making the planning process performance based.
- b) Financial analysis: working within a constrained budget, realistic cost and revenue forecasts.
- c) Land use: Effective approaches at the metropolitan level as well as at the project level.
- d) Public Involvement: Evaluation of the effectiveness of different approaches.

FTA is implementing projects in these areas. They would like to get committee feedback on some ongoing projects, i.e. transit agency involvement in the MPO process (the metropolitan capacity-building program is aimed at improving the capabilities for local agencies to make better decisions and to improve their planning capabilities). Transit operators feel that voting roles at the MPO are important, flexible funding is an issue, needs for MPO officials to better understand transit, staff availability. It will include interviews of transit agency people.

Another project deals with institutional aspects of flexible funding: How open is the process? This will be done by a series of interviews.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Committee Strategic Plan: Rich Bickel presented a draft strategic plan for the committee. A survey was sent out to the committee last year. Committee members are interested in peer interaction, some are looking for more specific topics. The committee should continue to disseminate research findings. The strategic plan has a revised mission statement and goals, an environmental scan of issues affecting the committee, committee strengths and weaknesses, challenges and threats, opportunities, gaps and an action plan. The report should be reviewed by committee members. Feedback should go to Dave Miller or Rich Bickel. Approval of the plan for forwarding to the TRB hierarchy will be on the committee agenda for next year's Annual Meeting. (See <http://www.edu/Dept/cuts/trb>).

Membership: The committee will be back up to full strength with new members.

Paper reviews: The committee received 19 papers for review. Eight were recommended for presentation at formal sessions and three were presented in a poster format. Decisions for publication will be made following the meeting.

7. The joint committee summer meeting will be in Portland, Oregon. People should think about attending if possible. Joana Conklin will provide liaison with the committee planning the next Bus Rapid Transit Conference.

Calls for Papers: Steve Polzin, Larry Sauve, and Dan Benson will work on calls for papers for next year's meeting.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE – MEMBERS

Ed Beimborn, Univ. of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Dan Benson, Daniel Benson & Associates
Rich Bickel, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Joana Conklin, Multisystems
Sally Cooper (ret'd)
Don Emerson, PBConsult
Jim Gillespie, Va. Transportation Research Council
Charlie Goodman, Federal Transit Administration
George Gray, Emeritus
Brendon Hemily, Consultant
Mark Hickman, University of Arizona
Glenn Lunden, New York City Transit Authority
Dave Miller, Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc.
Roy Nakadegawa, Bay Area Rapid Transit District
Steve Polzin, University of South Florida
Larry Sauve, The Transpo Group
George Smerk, Indiana University
Fang Zhao, Florida International University

ATTENDANCE – NON-MEMBERS

Seth Budge, Ohio Department of Transportation
Jay Evans, Jay Evans Consulting LLC
William H. K. Lam, Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Hong Lo, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Mark Patzloff, Chicago Transit Authority
Jeffrey Sriver, Chicago Transit Authority
Cheryl Thole, University of South Florida
S. C. Wong, University of Hong Kong