

Minutes
Transportation Research Board
Public Transportation Planning and Development Committee Meeting
Committee AP025 (formerly A1E02)
January 23, 2006

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by the committee's new Chairman Ed Beimborn. Members and friends introduced themselves. Brendon Hemily now serves as Secretary of the Committee.
2. The minutes of last year's meeting and the summer meeting were approved (moved by Cooper, Bickel seconded).

3. TRB Activities:

Peter Shaw: TRB is at capacity and it has been another successful meeting with 10,000 participants and 500 sessions. About 40% of the papers are now being presented at "Meet the Author" poster sessions. The Conference will continue to stay in current location for foreseeable future. It will also be in late January next year.

Critical Issues paper recently released. This should serve as basis of strategic planning for committees. There is a database for Committee Chairs to submit ideas

4. Paper Reviews: The committee had 27 papers. Ten were presented in two sessions, four as poster sessions. Committee members were thanked for their help in reviews.

Peter Shaw mentioned that TRB is examining the entire process for paper review, and the trade-offs between paper and electronic formats. The committee discussed the issues and made the following suggestions:

- There should be a spell checker in the electronic forms for reviewers
- The Proceedings CD Rom should contain an introduction that provides an overview of the review process of papers that appear on the CD, highlighting the refereed nature of papers that are on the CD so that academics can use it in their tenure process.
- Committees sponsoring the paper should be referenced on the cover page.

5. Committee membership: There are currently 2 younger member slots available.
6. TCRP. Dianne Schwager reported that under SAFETEA-LU, TCRP funding has been increased, initially increasing from \$8.2 to \$9 Million. Problem statements for this year's solicitation are due in June.
7. GIS in Transit Conference: Steve Polzin reported on a conference that was held in the fall at CUTR on "GIS in Transit". The conference was sponsored by FTA and FDOT. It covered a broad range of topics with representatives from both transit systems and suppliers. It is hoped that the conference will be held every 2 years. The Proceedings are available on the CUTR web site < <http://www.cutr.usf.edu/research/fmtp/AmberFrame.htm> >
8. FTA Report: The report was provided by Charlie Goodman. There is a new deputy Administrator and new nominee for Administrator. Re-authorization has created many new initiatives of interest too the committee.

- Development of New Regulations with FHWA, including provisions to help strengthen the link between transit and the metropolitan planning process. The NPRM should be released in April-May, 2006 followed by a national web cast during the comment period. Final regulations are currently targeted to be finalized by January 2007 but will depend on comment process. Some of the key issues being reviewed are: the possibility of relaxing timetable for plans, reaching out to a broader array of stakeholders, changing the planning processes to encourage more consistency between transportation and land use plans, introduction of environmental mitigation considerations on planning process, etc.
- Coordination with Human Service Planning. There will be requirements for a coordinated human service plan to better link funding and delivery for three related programs: Services for Elderly, JARC, and the new Freedom Program (for persons with special needs). The required plan will need to identify redundancies and gaps and require coordination with local MPO. Circulars will be developed for each of the three programs.
- New Starts Small starts. The Small Starts program will focus on projects involving less than \$75 Million of FTA funding (and less than \$250 million total funding). The intent is to develop more rapid evaluation and review (e.g. through fewer required steps, no demand modeling, etc.). The advanced NPRM on the streamlined Small Starts has just been published. FTA is organizing listening sessions around the country.
- Transit in the Parks. To jointly develop between FTA and the National Park Services of the Dept. of the Interior a 3C-like decision making process. Discussions between the two departments are just getting underway.

9. Specialty Conference for 2007

The committee discussed the concept of hosting a specialty conference in 2007. Peter Shaw said that the starting point would be to develop a background paper that would outline: purpose, proposed time of year and location, potential audience, co-sponsorships (other TRB committees and external organizations), etc. The proposal goes to the TRB Executive Committee for approval. TRB handles negotiations with hotel, hotel logistics, and registration process. The committee focuses on program content. In the public transportation sector, such conferences are typically organized on a "pay as you go" basis with registration to cover on-site costs.

The committee discussed various aspects of sponsoring a specialty conference; comments included:

- There is a lot of competition (e.g. Rail-Volution)
- Need either a passionate group of folks to plan the conference or need to build the resources for keynote speakers or resource papers
- There is some possibility to get a university (e.g. CUTR or other UTC) to assist

Steve Polzin had prepared some topics for consideration by the committee which led to an open discussion of potential topics for the conference. Suggestions included:

- Transit productivity improvements in light of resource constraints
- Long range major capital planning
- New regulations
- Coordination of research

- Transit's role in dealing with energy cost
- Transit's applications of advanced technology
- Planning for a Long term horizon (25-50 years)
- Transit and the metropolitan/land use planning process

After some discussion, the committee agreed to focus on the latter topic. Various links or related aspects were discussed by committee members, including:

- The recent "Transit at the Table" study by FTA
- Need to capture wisdom of people retiring
- "Envision Utah"
- How do you congeal consensus, build momentum, and get stakeholder groups to be actively engaged
- Best practices from other countries
- Working with developers / re-developers
- Transit-Supportive Land-use / Design Guidelines prepared by transit systems
- The gap between the short range and the long rang, and melding of operations into planning process
- Dealing with county government and developers to get a mini transit station in front of a development
- Visioning initiatives and how to get public involved
- Best practices and how-to guide
- Potential co-sponsors might include: FTA, APTA, AMPO, NARC, TRB's Land Use committee.

The following persons have agreed to participate on the conference committee:

- Brendon Hemily
- Charlie Goodman
- Steve Polzin
- Sally Cooper
- Francis Cheung
- Glenn Lunden
- Shirley Hsiao
- Diana Chang
- Todd Hemmingson

Brendon Hemily volunteered to develop with Ed Beimborn and Peter Shaw the request to TRB's Executive Committee to sponsor the conference in 2007.

10. Future Activities:

The Summer Meeting will be July 9-11, 2006 in La Jolla.

Call for Topics: The committee discussed a potential call for topics and the following suggestions were made:

- Planning for Small Starts (Bunch)
- Operational Considerations in Planning (Lunden)
- Service Coordination Planning (Goodman)

The Triennial Review of the Committee has to be redone in 2007. The previous one can be found on the committee's web site: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CUTS//trb/>

Rich Bickel has volunteered to coordinate this effort with the assistance of Jim Bunch.

Transportation Information Needs Assessment Study. An online survey of key unmet transportation information needs is being conducted by TRB this spring.

11. Other Items

Committee members held a roundtable discussion of activities of interest to the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.