Minutes

Transportation Research Board

Public Transportation Planning and Development Committee Meeting

Committee AP025, TRB meeting Washington, D.C.

January 24, 2012

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by the committee's Chairman Brendon Hemily. Members and friends introduced themselves.

2. The minutes of last year's meetings were approved.

3. Committee Activities:

   Paper Reviews
   Brendon Hemily reported that the committee received 60 papers, 43% more than the previous year, 10 were transferred to other committees. Of the remaining 50, 10 were accepted for presentation sessions, and 18 at poster sessions. The committee received 156 of 200 reviews. The reviewer pool has been expanded to include authors of submitted papers. Brendon thanked everyone who contributed to the Paper Review process and asked for volunteers to help with reviews for next year.

   Younger members
   Jessica Vargas-Astazia reported that TRB has established a younger member's council and that she is representing the transit group. They will help in finding younger members for all TRB committees and will help to coordinate networking activities between younger members.

   Research Sub-Committee.
   Joana Conklin reported that TRB has a new initiative to establish research coordinators for each committee and to urge committees to submit topics for the TRB research database. The data base will enhanced. Committee AP025 has 18 topics in the data base and we are far ahead of most committees in that regard. Joana reported that committee submitted 2 synthesis topics and 3 full topics to TCRP, one of the full projects was funded. This was:
   - Project H-47 Transit at the Land Use Table at a budget of $400,000

4. TRB Activities: Jennifer Rosales and Stephen Sikunus.

   - The 2013 theme for the Annual Meeting is *Doing Things Better, Faster, Cheaper*
   - There is a new emphasis on generating research needs statements by committees.
   - TRB had over 4300 papers submitted this year, up from 3900 last year
   - This year's Dean lecture was sponsored by the transit group and was given by Bill Millar, formerly director at APTA.

- There is a new web site for the Technical Activities Committee.
- TRB continues to organize webinars, which provide a cost-effective method for outreach in times of fiscal constraint which limit the possibility of travel for many.
- TCRP: Synthesis problem statements are due April 1st, and main research problem statements are due June 15th.

5. Report from FTA (see attached)

Charlie Goodman provided a comprehensive report on various Federal Transit Administration activities of interest to the Committee. They have just completed a report Transit at the Table III – which focuses on rural areas. Copies were distributed to those present. He noted that all FTA planning reports are at www.planning.dot.gov He also mentioned the TOD data base at www.reconnectingamerica.org Other projects at FTA include a new TOD training course, the public participation pilot program, peer exchange programs, work on procedures for transit asset management and a workshop in climate change adaptation for transit in March, 2012.

6. Workshop to develop a committee strategic plan

Brendon led a discussion about the committee strategic plan. The discussion focused on:
- committee scope
- topic areas
- committee challenges
- resources for research and dissemination
- networking
- committee activities
- research topics.

Some comments

- The committee scope should be reformatted as a series of bullet points and simplified.
- The committee covers a wide range of topics and is naturally intermodal in its approach.
- Planning as this committee looks at it can be policy planning, capital planning or service planning
- The committee plays a major role in Transit and Land Use interactions
- We should think about transit planning at the national government level in many countries, not just the U.S.

The powerpoint document was updated during the discussion.

7. Discussion of Research Topics

Research topics identified and discussed included:
- Tools for enhancing the integration of services / family of services
  - Best practices
  - Analysis and planning tools

- Cost effective service changes
- Planning for growth in demand with limited resources to expand service
- Access strategies to high capacity transit stations in suburbs
- Service to suburban employment locations
  - Incentives for businesses to locate in intensified areas
  - How to serve less concentrated areas
  - Transit agency coordination with private sector employers to enhance transit service acces
- Traveler response to impact of traveler information systems
- Transit at the developer's table
- Retention of UPass students
- Primary transit network (core routes, amenities, land use impacts)
- Service standards

- Systems Planning -

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Products and Activities
Over the past year, the Center for Transit-Oriented Development (CTOD) has prepared numerous reports and is conducting a webinar series focused on various aspects of TOD planning and implementation. Upcoming webinars include: Feb. 14 (TOD and Joint Development), March 13 (TOD and Regional Planning), April 10 (Goods Movement and TOD), May 8 (TOD and Families), and June 12 (TOD 101). Over the past year, informational reports were prepared that focused on TOD planning at the corridor and regional levels, value-capture, and TOD with employment www.reconnectingamerica.org. The National TOD Database has been updated with new census data and additional stations. See http://toddata.cnt.org.

Transit at the Table III: A Guide to Participation in Planning and Decision-making
The informational report entitled, Transit at the Table III: *"A Guide to Effective Participation in Statewide Decision-making for Transit Agencies in Non-Urbanized Areas"* is now available. This study, conducted by Volpe under FTA sponsorship, examines successful approaches to effectively consider and address rural transit needs within the statewide transportation planning process. The report is being distributed during the TRB Annual Meeting at the Transportation Planning Capacity Building and FTA exhibit booths. www.planning.dot.gov

Public Transportation Participation Pilot (PTP) Program
The PTP Program supports the development and testing of innovative research focused on improving public participation in public transportation planning. The twenty-nine (29) research projects focus on topics such as visualization, digital video, and community education, with publication and release proceeding. The PTP program in FY2012 will focus on posting/publicizing completed research.

Transportation Planning Capacity-Building Program (TPCB) www.planning.dot.gov
An upgraded website and 2-Year Report are recent TPCB accomplishments, with recent peer exchanges focusing effective development and use of eSTIPs, Title VI-based Service and Fare Equity Analysis, and Fiscal Constraint. In addition, FTA and FHWA are initiating a quarterly webinar series for stakeholders, entitled Transportation Planning Information Exchange. Nominations for the 2012 Transportation Planning Excellence Awards program are being evaluated - winners will present at the TRB Summer Meeting, www.planning.dot.gov/tpea2012.

FHWA/FTA Performance-based Planning and Programming Workshops
FTA and FHWA collaborated in conducting two national workshops on performance-based planning and programming focused on effective cooperative practice by States, MPOs, and transit agencies in implementing a performance-based planning and programming process.

- Agencywide -

FTA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Major Transit Capital Investments
FTA has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to simplify and streamline the way major transit projects are evaluated for funding under FTA Section 5309 (New Starts and Small Starts) programs. http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-01-25/pdf/2012-1198.pdf

FTA Apportionments and Allocations Notice
On January 11, FTA published the partial-year FY 2012 program apportionments & allocations, covering October 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012 - http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/12853_14254.html.

FTA Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation – March 21-22, in Arlington, VA
FTA is sponsoring this 2-day workshop on Climate Change Adaptation to focus attention and share experiences on agencies' efforts to anticipate and address state-of-good-repair and safety implications of extreme weather and a changing climate. www.fta.dot.gov/adaptation

Proposed FTA Circulars on Title VI and Environmental Justice (EJ)
Comments provided in response to the solicitation published in the *Federal Register* are under review, with publication of a Final Guidance expected this Spring. The draft Circulars focused on consideration of Title VI and EJ throughout the planning and project development process.

State of Good Repair Discretionary Grant Awards 2011 - $752M
FTA has announced the selection of projects funded with Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities program funds in support of the State of Good Repair (SGR) Initiative. The SGR Initiative makes funds available to public transit providers to finance capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities. Additionally, the SGR Initiative makes funds available for Transit Asset Management systems.

Transit Asset Management Pilot Program - $4 Million, Six Transit Agencies
FTA has selected six transit agencies to participate in its Transit Asset Management pilot program and share $4 million to help them take a more strategic and systematic approach to determining equipment maintenance, repair, and replacement needs. Funding was provided to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (San Francisco Bay area), Regional Transportation Authority (Chicago and Northeast Illinois), Utah Transit Authority, Valley Regional Transit (Meridian, Idaho) and Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. The efforts will include attention to effectively incorporating asset management results into the planning process.