

**TRB Committee on bicycle Transportation, ANF20
Full Committee Meeting, January 25, 2006
Washington Hilton, 2:30 p.m.
Approved by Committee on September 6, 2006**

Jennifer Dill called the meeting to order. She noted that Hugh Morris, chair, was absent due to the birth of his child.

The agenda, which had been prepared by Mr. Morris was divided into three sections: the past, the present and the future. The agenda is attached in pdf format.

JD presented the minutes of the mid-year conference call meeting. Members who were in attendance reviewed.

LAH reported that we published 5 papers from last year's TRB meeting.

Andy Clarke presented a summary of how bicycles fared in SafeTEA-LU. The bill was good news. He provided a summary sheet (attached). The American Bike Coalition represented the interests together. Two of the three major "asks" were awarded. First, existing programs including TE were maintained including an increase in some programs both infrastructure and education. The National Safe Routes to School was accomplished. The third objective, a "Complete Streets" policy was not quite achieved. In addition non-motorized transportation pilot programs went to four communities. He suggests this committee should watch and stay involved in reviewing and evaluating. Safety program has been revamped. Each state has to have a highway safety plan to guide spending of this money. High priority projects are included as well. He recommends we find out more about research title of the bill. (JD summarized the worries about the lack of research funding at FHWA and TRB (orphaned programs) and also noted universities were the big winners.

Andy provided information (attached) on the National Bike Summit – March 1-3, 2006 in DC.

Tim Arnade from FHWA summarized where the SR program would be going. The legislation is very clear - every state is to have a full time coordinator, there will be a clearinghouse and a task force will be established to evaluate moving forward. Priority is to implement the program. All of the states have '05 and '06 money. Every state needs a full-time SR coordinator but states are challenged by hiring issues and other legislative constraints. So the biggest challenge right now is hiring these coordinators – the logistics. As of today 31 of 51 agencies (includes DC) have named their coordinators. Half of those 31 are permanent staff. On Jan 3rd, FHWA issued their program guidance on this program (www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov). Select SR and you can get the guidance. There will be a non-profit clearinghouse selected hopefully in April. The procurement was issued recently. The Task Force will be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Paula Bawer summarized the SR program from NHTSA's point of view. They continue to offer their toolkit. She noted that it was FHWA not NHTSA that was in charge of this program but that NHTSA would stay very active. PBIC has already started a clearinghouse with NHTSA funding. This information will move to the new contractor when appropriate. Soon an on-line guide on SR will be available. They are re-thinking, ensuring all appropriate levels and ages of students are included in the program options. Legislatively SR is up to and including grade 8. Language also suggests approximately 2 miles and closer is the main target group. Paula provided a handout (attached). Teaming with school bus folks might be tricky as it is not clear SR includes them.

Added item. Setty Pendakur from the TRB Committee on Non-motorized Transportation in Developing Countries gave a report. They had 32 papers and 84 reviewers from around the world. Their 5 sessions have resulted in 10 papers recommended for publication. They tried to co-sponsor a session with us this year and it did not work out. They are still open to collaboration for the future, especially on bicycle safety and safety law. Setty suggested that they provide 2 papers from around the world and we find 2 from the U.S. Setty will be finished as chair in April and he wished to pass along the history that his committee grew from the bike and ped committees. Now they have a very large number of papers and sessions. It is valuable to learn from developing countries and non-motorized modes. The new chair is Ralph Gackenheimer from MIT. Tomorrow there will be a session sponsored by this committee on the bicycle in modern China.

AASHTO Joint Task Force on Non-motorized Transportation has the following liaison people from this committee: Dick Albin, Dwight Kingsbury, and John Fegan. Dwight summarized an update. Dick is the chair of the Joint Task Force. John is the secretary. This year's activities included two projects. One was the identification of the needs for a future update to the AASHTO Bike Design Guide. The second was the Guide Rail Height Guidelines. They recommended that the 54-inch height for bridges could be lowered. Their current focus is getting projects within the new NCHRP program. The revision of the bicycle guide is being balloted right now. Also a project related to bicycle lanes came out of this committee and is being seriously considered. A sidepath evaluation tool is the subject of a project. There are two on bicycle and pedestrian planning. They are hoping to get a total of two funded. Dwight Kingsbury and Martin Guttenplan summarized the research problem statement, rfp process at NCHRP. Members can bring our research projects to the attention of our state DOT representatives who can then vote and support them. It is unclear how this committee will be involved with new cooperative research programs.

John LaPlante summarized the yearly activities of the ITE Ped and Bike Council. Walking speed in MUTCD will be changing. MUTCD was not funded in SAFETEA-LU and so there may be delays in producing the next version.

Richard Moeur made a presentation (attached) on the NCUTCD – National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The National Committee voted on changes in the 2006 meeting that would be made in the next MUTCD. Their recommendations now go

to the FHWA for consideration. It is likely, based on history, that these changes will be implemented. The following items were endorsed by the committee this month:

- new system of bicycle guide signing (big improvement over the current bike route system in that it provides more info but the old system will still be acceptable and within standard);
- new route marker auxiliaries to be more consistent with highway numbering systems;
- bike lane signs have been reviewed and although the 2003 MUTCD currently requires a bike lane sign – they now are a recommendation but will not be mandatory;
- reference markers (mileposts) for paths – essentially provides a standard reference marker in bike size so it can be used on paths;
- The phrase “bicycle trails” should be removed. MUTCD should not be used on unpaved, unimproved trails. “Bikeways” should be used instead;
- BIKEWAY NARROWS sign changes to PATH NARROWS.

Richard summarized the Committees’ intentions for the next year.

Susan Liss from FHWA summarized the status of the NPTS National Personal Transportation Survey. It is on the orphaned project list at FHWA. It is multimodal. She suggests providing support for the continuation of the survey. Two handouts were provided (attached).

Cara Seiderman provided a status report from the TRB Task Force on Context Sensitive Design. There were many sessions this TRB. One of the areas she has been trying to promote is ensuring multimodalism in CSD projects. Other projects that are getting attention are those related to how CSD approaches impact safety. She provided a handout on the new Massachusetts Highway Design Manual which was CSD-based. She suggests that they made an effort to integrate bikes and peds throughout the process.

David Loutzenheiser provided a summary of the NCHRP Project 7-14 Guidelines for Analysis of Investments in Bicycle Facilities. The project is complete. The results will be published in a month or two.

Lisa Aultman-Hall reported 21 papers were received by this Committee in August, 2005 and 19 were submitted for publication. A total of 15 are being presented at 2 sessions and posters. The decision between paper session and poster was theme-based. Seven papers remain in consideration for publication. Six papers should be published. Of the 114 reviews assigned, 91 reviews were completed. Jennifer Dill and Hugh Morris made up the Review Committee. New Review Committee members are needed.

Martin Guttenplan summarized the Bicycle Education and Awareness Subcommittee. Linda Crider, the subcommittee chair, was not available at this TRB this year. The subcommittee talked about data needs and major issues including the two existing problem statements: university courses for bike and ped for engineers, planners and others; review and evaluation of law enforcement training at the local and state levels.

Discussions focused on the Share the Road Campaign. There is concern about institutional memory for bicycle transportation education efforts. A workshop on human factors and aggressive driving is being planned.

Martin Guttenplan summarized the Planning for Bicycles Subcommittee. The following issues and data needs were emphasized: demographics of bicycle users; equity issues related to ethnic minorities and others; lack of crash info especially for shared-use paths; travel exposure information; reasons why people are not using the bicycle; perception versus actual safety.

Rick Pain from TRB arrived to provide an update and to answer questions. He announced that Hugh Morris resigned as committee chair and that Jennifer Dill agreed to take over as chair.

Michelle DeRobertis, Chair of the Bicycle Traffic Engineering Subcommittee, was unable to attend. Martin and Richard provided a short update. The subcommittee renewed their support for two RPS: the effect of turning vehicles on bicyclists and the full range of implications of bicycle lanes. Michael Jackson noted the subcommittee also discussed the liability issues related to bicycle design facilities. It was suggested that there exists a fear of liability on the part of engineers. Updating the documentation on this issue might be the topic of a strong RPS.

John Madera summarized the Bicycle Safety subcommittee on behalf of John Ivan the chair. We need to partner up and make this a joint sub-committee with the TRB Committee on Safety Data, Analysis, and Evaluation. This Committee is very actively involved with the upcoming Highway Safety Manual. There is increased focus on safety in SAFETEA-LU and there may be more funds for data, including safety data. There is a need for a synthesis of what we do know about bicycle safety.

Tony Stein summarized the joint subcommittee on Emerging Vehicles and Technology in Personal Transportation. There are numerous sponsoring committees. They are moving from the hardware focus for vehicles below the federal motor vehicle standards. They are now considering the need to stop being associated with only vehicles to also include things like skateboards. There are so many devices and this Committee wants research to look ahead and think about how these things will fit within the infrastructure. They are seeking task force status within TRB. They will have a mid-year meeting in July or August and funding has been secured to bring in speakers. They hope to team with CDC. Tony is seeking volunteers to plan for the conference and also to work at it.

Ann Hershfang, our section chair, announced the Feet First Caucus which is tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. TRB has provided funding for the event this year.

Ann also reported for Elise Bremer-Nei on the pedestrian and bicycle video theater. It was very successful but she needs more volunteers for next year. A list of the videos is available.

A 5-minute break was taken.

Andy Clarke reported on the Complete Streets training/workshop held on Sunday prior to TRB, which we co-sponsored. The second half of the session was hands on. The Task Force on Geometric Design took the lead on organizing. There were many groups supporting this: bicycle groups but also urban growth groups and professional associations. There were 70+ attendees. A brochure was provided to outline the program (attached). These programs are starting to be offered in state and local agencies.

A paper presentation was made by Mia Birk on starting a national bicycle and pedestrian documentation project. All people can send RAW DATA files from any studies and it can be incorporated. mgjones@altaplanning.com or ltierney@ite.org (report attached).

An FHWA report (including a handout) was provided by Ann Do and John Fegan. New reports are available. The update of the university course is available. The PBCAT software product is almost out. They are doing an in-house study on segways. An expert system for treatment selection is soon to be released (www.grants.gov).

Paula Bawer reported that MassBike did an evaluation of a law enforcement education program. NHTSA will try to distribute this program on CD. There is a plan for a 5-7 minute roll call video as well. Members of the audience suggested also providing this information to the firefighters who are often the first responders for crashes. Four Share the Road strategy grants are being released. The difficulties with the well intention movement was noted and discussed again.

Marvin Levy reported other activities for NHTSA based on a handout.

PBIC update and a handout was provided by Craig Raborn. Of particular note was a Question and Answer database system which will be on-line in February.

Libby Thomas provided a summary of a new on-line tool on the Bicycle Countermeasure Selection System. A text version of the system can be downloaded for reference. The system includes interactive tools.

Rick Pain outlined the plans for a new SHRP program – a large amount of the money will go to safety research. TRB needs volunteers for a Technical Oversight Research Committee for the safety programs. Committees under this oversight committee will deal with individual projects in an NCHRP style. Nominations can be sent to Rick Pain. TRB is also seeking four program staff positions for the safety program.

Gihon Jordan made a motion and Tony Stein seconded to approve the minutes. All voted in favor.

JD indicated that she would like to establish more formal liaisons with other committees. Marc Wigan indicated that this very year the International Activities Committee was specifically seeking interaction with this committee. David Loutzenheiser indicated that

the Education Committee and the Professional Education Committees were ideal locations for interaction. JD asks that we provide a list over the next year.

JD indicated that one-third of our Committee needs to rotate this year. She provided forms for people who wish to join the Committee. These can also be found at our website. She asked that those who had been on the Committee for nine years volunteer to rotate off. Others who want to join should contact JD.

JD indicated that TRB has been asked to review info and data needs within transportation. Each committee will identify what they believe are key unmet transportation needs.

- LAH read the portions of these minutes from subcommittee reports where data needs had been raised.
- Tony added to continue the NPTS and other national databases such as the Alta / ITE partnership.
- Michael indicated security concerns related to bicyclists such as the perception that cyclists or peds might be more likely to commit crimes or to be involved with terrorism.
- Cara Seiderman indicated that trip generation and bicycle miles traveled as critical data needs.
- Gihon indicated cell phones and other mobile devices need to be investigated for both the bikes and peds and also drivers whose inattention may be causing crashes for bikes and peds.

A mid-year meeting location is needed. John Fegan indicated that Prowalk Probike was a possibility. Ann indicated that the TRB Pedestrian Committee was meeting there this year, Sept 5-8, 2006. Tony suggested that his subcommittee meeting was another option. Consensus was reached for meeting at Prowalk Probike.

The research problem statements need to be in by approximately March to be able to be reviewed by the AASHTO subcommittee. Each subcommittee needs to communicate with JD regarding which RPS will be developed and submitted. TRB will, in the future, put these in an electronic database.

JD indicated that this past year we issued a call for papers. She is interested in ideas on topics for a potential focused call for research papers for this upcoming year. She will be accepting emails on the calls for papers (jdill@pdx.edu).

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.