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**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING (FINAL AS OF FEBRUARY 11, 2005)**

**ANF10 – Committee on Pedestrians  
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., January 12, 2005  
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel (Balcony A), Washington, DC**

- 1. Attendance** - There were approximately 75 persons in attendance at the committee meeting. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.
- 2. General Items for the Record**

*Committee Chair* – It was announced that Peggy Drake will be unable to continue as Committee Chair. Ron Van Houten will replace Peggy as the Chair of the Committee on Pedestrians, effective February 1, 2005.

*Feet First Caucus 2005* - Peggy announced the Feet First Caucus that will be held that evening (January 12) at the Hilton and passed a hat for donations to this event. After the hat was passed for donations, Ann Hershfang announced The Pedestrian Committee did out-donate the Committee for Bicycling, with contributions of over \$180.00.

*Meeting Agenda* - Peggy also asked for any additions to the published agenda; slight modifications were made to the agenda item sequence.

- 3. Subcommittee Updates**

*Human Factors Workshop (Gihon Jordan)* – Gihon briefly discussed the Human Factors Workshop and indicated that he is looking for ideas for next year’s workshop.

*Video Room (No representative. present)* – It was announced that the Video Room is being held at the Hilton through today (Wednesday) and it opened at 9 am. Committee on Bicycle Transportation Chair Martin Guttenplan reminded us that the League of American Bicyclists was staffing the room this year.

*Research Problem Statements (Robert Schneider)* – Bob Schneider briefly discussed the research problem statements that have been finalized and submitted to TRB. He indicated that two years ago the committee developed a list of 80 ideas and wrote up 16 statements. The 16 statements were narrowed to 2 high-priority statements, but they have not found any champions or funding sponsors. John LaPlante indicated that the AASHTO Technical Committee is interested in getting problem statements, so we need to send a list to them.

Bob asked for volunteers to assist him in keeping the research problem statement list updated. John Milton of WsDOT indicated that there is a collision prediction study that might be funded related to HSM. Lois Thibault suggested that we look at the research funding process to improve for “minority” issues, or ones that may not attract major funding otherwise but are important to pedestrian access. Ken Kobetsky indicated we need to work on awareness, and there was a need to put these high-priority statements in front of the Traffic Engineering Committee at AASHTO.

*Paper Review Subcommittee (Ron Van Houten)* – The Committee reviewed 36 papers this year. There were many papers this year that continued themes from previous years, and interest in pedestrian-themed papers continues to grow. Ron indicated that the paper reviews have been great, and that the TRB paper review process may be changing.

The committee will be compiling a searchable database with expertise to assist in paper reviews. In particular, Ron is looking for reviewers with expertise in planning and modeling aspects.

Ron announced the two Outstanding Pedestrian Committee papers:

1. 05-0834 – “Level-of-Service Model for Pedestrians at Signalized Intersections,” by Theodore A. Petritsch, Bruce W. Landis, Peyton S. McLeod, Herman F. Huang, Srikalyan Challa, and Martin Guttenplan
2. 05-0586 - Determination of Pedestrian Pushbutton Activation Duration at Typical Signalized Intersections, by David A. Noyce, and Billie L. Bentzen.

*Committee Newsletter (Peggy Drake)* – The Committee is still looking for a newsletter editor. Committee membership may be offered as an incentive for someone to take on this task. Interested persons should contact Ron Van Houten.

#### **4. Other Updates**

*NHTSA Research (Maria Vegega and Marv Levy)* – Maria provided a handout that provided an update on NHTSA activities. She also introduced other NHTSA staff: Marv Levy and Susan Kirinich. NHTSA is recruiting 2 regional administrators in Denver and Seattle; Maria has job announcements if anyone is interested. The NHTSA research office also will be advertising for 2 entry-level positions, which will be announced soon. NHTSA is getting involved in global road safety and has been working with the World Health Organization (WHO) in a number of countries on vulnerable road users. Susan will put out a call for proposals later this year, especially as it deals with older pedestrians. Another project concerns “unintended pedestrians” and a handout was provided for this. A list of NHTSA website materials was also provided on another handout. Marv talked about updating the ped/bike resource guide on an interactive CD. Marv also briefly described a project on novel speed reduction techniques.

*U.S. Access Board (Lois Thibault)* – Lois attended the Intersection Committee meeting and heard several presentations on access issues; in fact, there were several that Access Board did not know about.

The Board is working on integrating pedestrian issues into the HSM (integrating, not just including as a supplement). Lois also described the FHWA project on detectability of contrasting surfaces. John LaPlante has been under contract to the Access Board and has presented information on walking speed. The Board is also looking at disincentives brought about by “standards” decision-making.

*AASHTO (Ken Kobetsky)* – AASHTO’s main focus has been reauthorization of the Federal transportation legislation. The group has also been focusing on safety and the inclusion of safety in the FSHRP program. FSHRP was looking at gathering basic safety and behavioral data. Ken encouraged those interested in pedestrian issues to approach state DOTs, as they have significantly more funding than NCHRP. Ken also suggested folks to check in TRB’s Research in Progress database (<http://rip.trb.org/>) to see what other states are doing.

The AASHTO Pedestrian Guide has been published. There were differences of opinion and certain things were not included because of lack of research. AASHTO will be looking at filling these gaps in knowledge for future updates of the Pedestrian Guide. There was recognition of definite need for pedestrian crash/safety data. Ida van Schallwyk mentioned the CODES project.

A gentleman from the railroad industry mentioned crashes and deaths at rail crossings. There was discussion of the term “trespassing” at or near railroad property- that term may not be the best term, somewhat confrontational. Scott Windley of the Access Board mentioned the flangeway gap issue at railroad crossings. David Daubert mentioned there is a need for warrants for pedestrian crossings at rail properties, the only work that has been done dates to the 1940s.

*TRB Program Activities (Rick Pain)* – Rick mentioned that Ann Brach is the contact at TRB for FSHRP, and that we should contact her to keep pedestrian safety on their agenda.

Rick noted TRB’s “Critical Issues” and the fact that vulnerable road users do not show up in this. He indicated that we need to let TRB know where to include pedestrian/bike issues.

All research circulars are published online now, but TRB is going to put research problem statements into a searchable database. This is in progress now, and the pedestrian statements that Bob Schneider mentioned earlier are in the process. Rick indicated that submitting 16 statements from this committee is fine.

Rick also noted that we can schedule subcommittee meetings during TRB, but that we should coordinate this through our Committee Chair. Subcommittee membership does not include the discount on TRB Annual Meeting fees, nor is subcommittee membership monitored by TRB Staff.

*FHWA Research (Ann Do and John Fegan)* – Ann Do provided a handout (see <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/pedbiketr2005.htm>) that described FHWA activities. Ann mentioned Version 2 (beta) of PBCAT will be available for testing in January 2005. She also mentioned a shared use path report by Joe Hummer to be completed in May 2005. John Fegan mentioned the PEDSAFE expert system (see <http://www.walkinginfo.org/pedsafe>). Craig Raborn's e-mail has changed, it is now [craig@pedbikeinfo.org](mailto:craig@pedbikeinfo.org). The NHI Course is Pedestrians is being updated as well.

*Pedestrian Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) (Charlie Zegeer)* – Charlie described and provided a handout for the Safe Routes to School National Course. The call for instructors has ended, and they are now asking for course hosts. Test courses were offered in a variety of locations in 2004, including Maryland where Peggy Drake participated at Cross Country Elementary School in Baltimore. Charlie also mentioned the pedestrian safety video produced by Honda. More information on PBIC is available at <http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/>.

*National Center for Bicycling and Walking (NCBW) (Bill Wilkinson)* – Bill indicated that ProWalk ProBike 2004 in Victoria was a large success. They just posted the conference proceedings on their website (<http://www.bikewalk.org>). They will be updating the "Are We There Yet?" report this year. Bill discussed their "Complete Streets" work. He also mentioned the organization's "traffic justice policy project," although it will probably surface under another name. They have not gotten a written response on their 2004 pedestrian data letter to U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

*America Walks (Ann Hershfang)* – Ann provided an overview of America Walks (<http://www.americawalks.org>) activities. The group had a conference in May 2004 and the next conference will be in Zurich. They are having a January 29th conference in Sacramento, then later in Albuquerque.

*APHP, Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (Aida Berkovitz)* – Michael Moule is the new president of APBP. Aida encouraged folks to join the APBP, which has a very active and great listserv. They have upgraded and updated the ADA training course and the bicycle friendly communities' course. Their professional development workshop is in Chicago in early October 2005. More information on apbp is at <http://apbp.org>.

*Perils for Pedestrians (John Wetmore)* – John reported on his cable access show and website (<http://www.pedestrians.org>). John is looking for people to volunteer ideas for the show, as well as people to put his show on their local cable access channels. The show is on public access channels in 70 cities. John is putting back episodes on DVD and will make these available. The Video Room has sample shows for viewing.

*NCUTCD Task Force on Pedestrians (John LaPlante)* – The National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) met last week in Arlington. The NCUTCD is currently working on the 2008 edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Pedestrian issues are mainstreamed throughout the MUTCD. They had a discussion of walking speeds: 3.5 ft/sec for clearance interval and 3.0 ft/sec for total crossing time. The Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) has a 4.5 ft/sec for default walking speeds. John also mentioned the NCHRP/TCRP study on crossing treatments and walking speeds.

The Task Force is also looking at pedestrian warning devices where pedestrians are prohibited. Ron described a pushbutton extension for slower walking speeds, but this may not help at fixed time signals. Truncated domes are now required, but the National Committee does not think this is a warning device. The National Committee will put truncated domes in as a support statement (option), describing how and where they are to be used and referring to their mandatory usage as an FHWA requirement.

*NCHRP/TCRP Program Activities (Ray Derr)* – Ray provided a handout on NCHRP/TCRP activities (see <http://www4.trb.org/trb/crp.nsf>). Channelized turn lanes were dropped from NCHRP Project 3-72, but they may get additional money. There is an upcoming TCRP study on pedestrian safety near buses: Ray announced a call for panel members now.

*TRB Intersection Committee (David Daubert)* – The committee is taking a horizontal slice of the topic, so this committee deals with all aspects of intersections. They are having a mid-year meeting in July in Chicago. Send David Daubert ([tonketails@aol.com](mailto:tonketails@aol.com)) any information you have on pedestrians at intersections.

*TRB Context Sensitive Design Committee* – Michael Ronkin is representing the Pedestrian Committee on this relatively new committee. (Michael had a conflict with our meeting and could not report in person.)

#### 4. Discussion Items

There was a general “freeform” discussion at the end of the meeting. The items that were discussed included:

- The Highway Safety Manual Committee would be meeting later the afternoon of our meeting. Mentioned NHCRP 3-65; asked for additional funding for pedestrians.
- Some talk about reauthorization and whether SRS is still an earmark in administration bills.
- Robin Blair – more best practices and examples reports
- Charlie – talked about PEDSAFE expert system, available at [walkinginfo.org/PEDSAFE](http://walkinginfo.org/PEDSAFE)
- Possibly a poster session on success stories
- Need to participate in Urban Street Symposium in 2007
- Someone from school transportation committee expressed a desire to coordinate/cosponsor panel sessions
- Can we hold a workshop on Sunday, possibly SRS or bike/ped design course?
- Set up something related to pedestrian performance measures/indicators – liaison with performance measurement committee
- Need to do more with sustainability committee
- NCHRP 3-70 is addressing multimodal LOS
- Need to collect facility inventory data (presence of sidewalks). Explore how GIS can be used to facilitate this inventory.
- Need for convex mirrors on trucks so that they can see up front, they have this requirement in the UK (Jon Kerridge)
- Need a size/weight restriction for trucks in urban areas. Note that part of the issue is also with large fire trucks.
- Need session on connection between built environment and physical activity; there was a session at this Annual Meeting on the relationship between Transportation Planning and Engineering and Growing Obesity in the US. Peggy Drake served as an advisor to the planning of this session.
- Possibility to hold a mid-year meeting of our Committee in coordination with signal system committee at mid-year meeting.
- How do we get these ideas into sessions?
- We need to do something soon on the TRB Critical Issues – Janet Barlow and Rob Schneider agreed to lead a response.
- Pedestrian countdown signals – there needs to be consistency in this. Some countdown signals are not using the countdown signal standards in MUTCD. ITE is taking a look at this.
- We should invite international research experts to TRB so they can showcase their research and seek means to reduce their costs in doing so (traveling fellowships, etc.). Traveling fellowships are also desirable for planners and engineers in the US and Canada who find it unaffordable to attend meetings

but are interested in our Committee and active in it, or who would be valued speakers.

- Get a grant to take AARP or other influential lobbyists to Europe?
- Is there an MUTCD in UK? Jon Kerridge says no, and he talks about type approval (a governmental group that tests and approves signs, etc. for purchase and use by Departments of Transportation, etc.).

## **5. Other Reports and Presentations**

There were no formal presentations from meeting attendees.

**The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.**