

Minutes of Committee Meeting
AHB10 - RTSM&O
8 -12 AM Wednesday, January 12, 2005
Marriott – Wilson Room, Washington DC

1. Attendance Roster Attached
2. Agenda Attached
3. Items for the Record - Action Items
 1. Christine Johnson to see if we can get the data information presented by Bob Winnick and Dick Mudge on the NATMEC meeting agenda in Salt Lake City later this year.
 2. Mac Lister will distribute the several papers presented at the meeting with the meeting minutes to all attendees.
 3. David Zavaterro will be the RTSM&O Committee contact for planning the Tuesday Session at the Joint Summer Meeting in June.
 4. Christine Johnson will summarize the comments made in the meeting on TRB Critical Issues.
 5. Mac Lister will send the NCHRP synthesis project rankings to TRB.
 6. Summer meeting date will be Wednesday June 8th consisting of joint meeting with SSOM in the morning and solo meeting in the afternoon.
 7. Possible topics for the summer meeting are; presentation/s from NTOC, listening session with planners, presentation from Kansas MPO and/or KC Scout, report on VII research needs, issues from Sub-Committee's activities. Christine Johnson and Dave Ekern will develop the agenda.
 8. Christine Johnson will explore getting RTSM&O linked into web activities.
 9. Committee members should submit comments on "elevator" definitions by mid-February to Wayne Berman.
 10. Wayne Berman will revise his Sub-Committee's planning paper to articulate what constitutes barriers between "ideal ops planning" and existing planning processes.
 11. Valerie Kalhammer will assemble a list of Regional Operating Organization constituents and will contact them to determine their interest and the feasibility of a newsletter.
 12. Jonathon Gifford with assistance from Tim Lomax, Les Jacobson and Bob Winnick will draft an interest statement by March 1 to solicit papers on the broad scope of RTSM&O issues that can be distributed thru the NTOC.
4. Committee Program - Presentations
 - A. Dick Mudge presented excerpts from the NCHRP Project 20-24 (38)B – Traffic Probes and a Possible Revolution in Management and Planning of DOT's. The assumption behind this project is that ITS will be widespread and future expansions like the VII program will come into use. What then will that mean to the transportation community and DOT's. If ubiquitous data is available how will the system be managed

differently? What new partnerships will occur and what will need to happen to move things forward?

Discussion: Several viewpoints were brought out in a brief discussion including economic, data, legal and system issues. ITE is hosting relevant workshops to explore the issues this change will create. The importance of public/private partnerships and a focus on customers was brought out. The need to look at the system as a whole was also stressed. The paper from Dick's presentation will be distributed to those in attendance.

B. Bob Winnick presented material developed with Dave Ekern concerning data issues. This material will also be presented to the data committee's at TRB. The presentation contained observations about using data for operations, current work that had been done in the RTSM&O Committee, concerns for using traditional data for operations and possible future actions.

Discussion: There was discussion about what various other committee's were doing and the need for coordination with them. Data as a federal requirement (HPMS) vs. operational data needs was also discussed. Christine Johnson will work to get this issue addressed at the NATMEC meeting in Salt Lake City. Possible RTSM&O presenters at this meeting might be Dick Mudge, Bob Winnick, JR Robinson and Shelley Row. This is also a possible topic for our summer meeting in June.

C. Bill Bannister spoke briefly of a household survey done by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics addressing post 9-11 travel patterns. The decline of international travel and air flights for shorter distances was noted.

The BTS presentation will be distributed attendee's and the full committee.

D. Deborah Wong presented a paper she had developed on the tangible benefits of regional collaboration. The paper looked at four collaborations; the SEMSIM project in SE Michigan, the Kansas City Scout Project, ASTEC in Arizona and CAPWIN in the Capital region.

The paper will be distributed to the committee.

Association Reports

A. John Conrad gave a report on the ASSHTO SSOM Committee.

2005 Summer Meeting

- Joint with AASHTO Standing Committee on Planning, TRB Freeway Operations Committee and RTSM&O
- June 5-9 in Overland Park, Kansas
- Tuesday, June 6 – Joint general session among 4 committees

Mainstreaming Initiative

- Purpose to enhance mainstreaming of operations into state DOTs

- Goal for operations to be recognized as critical function and integrated into state DOTs management structures on par with other functions (such as construction, maint., traffic engineering, etc)
- NCHRP project to develop a business plan to support goal through program based on peer-to-peer exchanges

Outreach to state DOT CEOs and broader state DOT community

- Optimizing the System book and video featured at AASHTO annual meeting in 2004
- Major push to get the document out to all state legislators and U.S. Congress members
- Copies available at AASHTO booth in exhibit hall

ITS World Congress

- Made a commitment to get at least 10 state DOT CEOs to the ITS World Congress
- Working with conference organizers to plan a series of special activities for any state DOT personnel – including special demos, meetings with auto manufacturers, etc.

National Traffic Incident Management Coalition

- Inaugural meeting in June 2004. Second meeting in October 2004.
- Formed to execute needs identified during the 2002 National IM Conference
- Coalition of organizations – membership represents 20 organizations in transportation, public safety and emergency management
- AAASHTO hosts and supports coalition, but the NTIMC is not considered an “AASHTO Coalition”
- NTIMC brochure explains Coalition goals and charter members
- NTIMC already have products available – brochure, nine keys to success
- Focus for 2005 will be on developing outreach and communications plan
 - Expect to be focused on series of regional and a national conference
 - Coordinating research needs

Continue to support the national roll out of 511 – now have well over 1 million calls per month to 511 systems nationwide.

Working with FHWA and the auto industry on the Vehicle Infrastructure Integration initiative – First public meeting on VII is scheduled for Feb 9-10 in San Francisco, CA, more info available on ITS America website.

Worked with FHWA in development of the Rulemaking on Work Zone Safety and Mobility. Will continue to work with them on implementing the rule-making and providing needed technical support.

Continue to support development of ITS Standards – NTCIP (National Transportation Communications for ITS Protocol) Standards available from NEMA (National Electrical Manufacturers Association) free of charge for a year beginning this month.

B. Steve Gayle gave a brief report on AMPO activities. He discussed working with FHWA on the program under development to Link Planning and Operations. AMPO is reaching out to the Planning community via newsletter to emphasize M&O. They are also working with NTOC. They have conducted a recent survey which showed some ad hoc activity in “bits and pieces” for M&O at various MPO’s.

C. Shelley Row gave a report on NTOC and ITE activities and distributed several brochures for both NTOC and ITE.

NTOC has organized six action teams led by different Associations. The project for a “National Signal Report Card” has been completed and the results are being published in the spring. A Business Case report will be done next followed by performance measures and funding reports.

NTOC maintains a web site (NTOCtalks.com), does periodic webinars which are free to first one hundred participants, and has a new talking operations forum.

NTOC’s involvement with the Linking Planning and Operations Program is ongoing.

The ITE Technical Conference next month is sponsored jointly by NTOC and focused on M&O. It will include a track on M&O and will have white papers in four topic areas of interest.

ITE is developing one page action sheets on operations topics of interest. The NAWG is the distribution mechanism used by NTOC for outreach.

The ITE Annual Meeting is in Melbourne Australia this year.

ITE has developed professional development training modules on weather, systems engineering and managing high tech projects. Other materials are a security checklist and a DVD on congestion.

The Transportation Planning Council of ITE has voted to take on Operations as a topic of interest.

D. Wayne Berman gave a report on USDOT activity.

A report on Traffic Congestion and Reliability is now available.

The Joint pathway program between FHWA Operations and Planning Offices is continuing to develop material.

A focus group was conducted at TRB to do a gap analysis on travel forecasting.

There is a new website (plan4operations.dot.gov).

It is planned to award two or three contracts for demonstration projects involving regional collaboration activities.

Jeff Paniati mentioned the nine new initiatives announced by FHWA and highlighted FHWA partnering opportunities with various Associations.

5. Committee Business

Subcommittee Reports Attached

Minutes from the Summer 2004 Meeting were distributed

John Mason distributed the latest version of a glossary of terms that could be used as kind of “elevator” definitions. Input was solicited and asked to be submitted by early February. It was suggested this be shared with the AASHTO SSOM Committee.

It was brought out in discussion that the Linking Planning and Operations Subcommittee will revise their planning paper to discuss the gaps between current planning practice and what is needed to address management and operations. The barriers to addressing these gaps should also be addressed.

Discussion on Summer Meeting 2005: Valerie Kalhammer lead a discussion about the Summer meeting. It will be held as a joint meeting with the AASHTO SSOM and Planning Committee’s and the TRB Freeway Operations Committee June 5-9 in Overland Park Kansas. The RTSM&O stand alone meeting will be Wednesday afternoon. Several possible topics for the meeting were discussed and are listed under action item #7. Dave Zavettero will coordinate for RTSM&O with the AASHTO Committee’s involved. A flyer for the meeting was distributed.

National Conference: There was a discussion about the need for a National Conference that our Committee might sponsor. The broader issue of how our Committee relates with other interested groups and committee’s and how we might add value to the national programs was also discussed. Since we are a relatively new Committee our role is still evolving. The consensus was that several organizations are planning forums and conferences focused on management and operations in the next year. It was decided not to pursue a separate activity at the current time but rather to try and find niches in the national programs where we could add support or develop specific activities. Suggested activities might be to solicit papers nationally (see action item #12), sponsor podium sessions and/or identify research work.

6. Other Business

Dan Turner Section Chair for TRB briefly addressed the Committee. He thanked the Committee for all of our work. He stated this year's TRB Meeting had 9500 plus participants with over 2600 papers and 1500 sessions. In future meetings a fourth hotel may be necessary. The meeting will be held later in January the next two years. He asked if there was anything he could do to help our Committee. Jonathon Gifford asked if it might be possible to make papers available to chairs earlier than the deadline for submittal. Dan stated he would look into that issue. He mentioned that Committee strategic plans had been reviewed including our and that he was soliciting Committee input on the Critical Issues TRB had developed in 2002 and now wanted to update.

Discussion: There was significant discussion on the TRB Critical Issues document. It was felt that there were many shortcomings in the current document that needed to be addressed. The significance of the changes in transportation and the issues facing the transportation community just doesn't come across in the document. There were too many (fourteen) critical issues identified. It was suggested that perhaps four or five crosscutting issues could better represent the vision. Other ideas put forward were inter-modal issues, designing for all users, and the cultural shifts needed in the future. These shifts might include issues of managing and pricing and other issues of change in a broader context. Research such as the VII program was also brought up. Christine Johnson will draft a response for our Committee and it will be distributed to Committee members.

Votes were taken regarding Synthesis topics for the NCHRP Program. The voting was:

Regional Planning Organizations – 15

Performance Measurement in Budgeting and Resource Allocation – 14

Business Impacts of Safety & Operational Project Treatments Along Urban Arterial Corridors –12

Information Technology Support and Staffing Requirements for Traffic Management Systems – 10

Traffic Signal Systems Timing Practices – 3

Integrating RWIS into TMC Operations – 0

Mac Lister will send these numbers to TRB.