

Minutes of Committee Meeting
AHB10 - RTSM&O
2:30-6 PM Wednesday, January 25, 2006
Marriott – Wilson Room, Washington DC

Agenda Attached

Attendance List Attached

Items for the Record - Action Items

1. Walter Kraft will convene a small group of interested individuals to discuss the strategic growth of the committee. This will be a topic at the summer meeting at the NATMEC conference. The group will develop an agenda for the summer meeting. Those expressing interest in working with Walter on this effort were; Mac Lister, Mark Howard, Steve Lockwood, Valerie Briggs, Bob Winick, and Paul Cammack.
2. Mac Lister will distribute the several papers presented at the meeting with the meeting minutes to all attendees and others on the committee mailing list.
3. Summer meeting date will be Sunday June 4th from 1:30-3:30 PM at the NATMEC conference. Other committee's meeting at the conference will be the Urban Transportation Data and Information Systems Committee, the Highway Traffic Monitoring Committee, the Travel Survey Methods Committee, the National Transportation Data Requirements Committee, and the Statewide Transportation Data and Information Systems Committee.
4. Committee members should submit comments on the glossary of Regional Transportation Operations Terms distributed at the meeting to John Mason.
5. Wayne Berman will develop an NCHRP synthesis topic for submittal.
6. Walter Kraft thanked the Co-Chairs of the Committee, Christine Johnson and Dave Ekern, for their wonderful work in getting this committee started. The Co-Chairs term of office will expire in April and Walter will be the new Chair.

Committee Program - Presentations

1. Workshop Report. Bob Winick submitted a report on the Workshop on Sharing Data on Transportation System Operations presented on Sunday. The session had more than 50 attendees and discussed both benefits of data sharing and technical and institutional barriers. Several speakers had been solicited for panel discussions and presentations. A report from the workshop is attached.
2. 511 Update. Pete Costello gave apologies for Jim Wright at being unable to attend and provided a slide presentation on the current 511 deployments of 28 systems in 24 states. The 511 number nationally is now receiving more than 2 million calls a month. A workshop sponsored by the National 511 Deployment Coalition is being planned for July 18-20 in San Diego. Current and future deployers are being encouraged to attend. The slide presentation is attached.

3. TRB report. Rich Cunard reported that the Annual meeting had more than 10,300 participants and 3400 session this year. Dan Turner Section Chair for TRB briefly addressed the Committee. He thanked the Committee for all of our work. He stated the meeting would be held at this later date again next year. He also spoke of a funding cut to TRB but stated that the staff and volunteers would work to continue to do “more with less” and not impact the fine work of TRB.

4. Cell Phone Probe Update. Dick Mudge talked about how cell phone probes were part of a larger scheme for collecting data from vehicles. He addressed using information the wireless carriers have already and layering this with traffic models. He stated this data should be anonymous and could cover an area not linear. The goal would be to get origin and destinations to give travel times and speed. Cell probes are only part of the answer to address these data gaps. He also talked about regional deployments as well as some international deployments in Israel and Antwerp, Belgium. He highlighted the Missouri statewide project which begins implementation later this year and will integrate probe data into a TMC. He also mentioned that this data can be fused with other data sources; transit, 911, and others. His conclusion was we are still early in the deployment and application development process in this area but the possibilities are very good.

5. Affiliate Organizations Reports

Valerie Briggs gave a report for ASSHTO. She spoke of AASHTO’s support of NTOC and the goal of mainstreaming operations addressed in their business plan. Other work is going on concerning performance measures and workforce development. A concept of an Operations Academy is being developed. She commented on last summers joint meeting with the Standing Committee on Planning and future outreach to the Committee for VII. Also an Emergency Operations Guide has been developed by AASHTO. Valerie distributed a list of projects that are being developed for funding thru the Future Strategic Highway Research Program. The list and amounts distributed were still in a draft format. Finally she mentioned a National Incident Management Conference being planned for November.

NTOC Peggy Tadej talked about the 26 associations involved with NTOC. She spoke of the 5 actions teams developing various work products. 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 USDOT Linking Planning and Operations Program is ongoing. Peggy also leads the business case action team and gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached) of their efforts. Delania Hardy from AMPO leads the planning group action team and spoke about their efforts. She stated the SAFETEA-LU requirements should help push efforts for management and operations to be considered in the planning process. A guidebook for MPO’s is being developed that will include a checklist. It will look similar to a

guidebook for transit previously developed and will assist MPO's to promote management and operations initiatives.

Wayne Berman gave a report on USDOT activity. He highlighted several initiatives support linking planning and operations including information on three operational tests going on to develop a regional concept of transportation operations. The three sites are Detroit, MI, Portland, OR and Tucson, AZ. Another activity has been to develop a glossary of regional transportation operations terms. John Mason supplied copies of this glossary and asked for feedback from committee members. There is a new website (plan4operations.dot.gov). A copy of the USDOT activities report is attached.

6. Sub-Committee Reports

Bob Winick gave a report for the Data Sub-Committee. He highlighted several possible actions for his committee; (1) A circular highlighting data issues (2) Possible NCHRP project/s (3) Development of material that could be used for self assessment of data issues and (4) Development of material for the NATMEC Conference.

Wayne Berman gave a report for the regional operations Sub-Committee. He mentioned coordination with the FHWA Planning for Operations program and materials. Other linkages and involvements for his sub-committee included the AASHTO guidebook on multi-state operations, AMPO webcasts, other technical tools and workshops on planning tools under development. He also mentioned the disconnect between Planning and the Emergency Management Operations and Planning as an area to explore.

Committee Strategic Issues Discussion

Walter Kraft led a discussion on the direction of the Committee. He stated that the Committee had accomplished much in its first 3 years. As part of our evolution it is time to re-evaluate the emphasis areas and contributions we can make to TRB and the industry. We have functioned well in supporting research and developing meetings. We need to formulate what are the current issues for us and re-examine how we devote our energies.

Feedback from the group was that we should continue our focus on research. We should try to work with others (AASHTO, NTOC) to support their efforts and fill in any gaps we can address within our structure. The area of emergency operations and the role of the MPO in operations such as evacuations was also seen as important to the group. Finally we should keep our eyes on some of the opportunities that SAFTEA-LU affords us. We can make contributions to the regulatory aspects, and research opportunities addressed in the legislation.

Other Business

Tim Lomax addressed the need for feedback to other TRB groups involved in question of data gaps and data needs. He asked the group for feedback concerning what are the key unmet needs and what are the likely sources of this data, public and private. Written input was supplied to Tim by meeting participants and web input could be accepted until February 17th.

Finally, Christine Johnson thanked all the Committee members for their important contributions over the past three years. She cited all of our accomplishments; workshops, paper solicitations, and both presentation and paper sessions presented. She also cited the important liaison work we have done with other TRB Committees and other organizations, such as AASHTO, ITS, AMPO, and NTOC to help promote the concepts of regional operations. She stated she had been privileged to help launch these efforts and her knowledge that the Committee's good work would continue under Walter Kraft's leadership.