

Meeting Minutes

Regional Transportation Systems Management and Operations Committee Meeting

January 16, 2008

**Agenda is attached. Detailed reports and presentations available at
<http://rtsmo.cts.virginia.edu>**

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1 Walter Kraft welcomed all attendees to the meeting.**
- 2 Self introductions were made by the approximately 50 attendees**
- 3 Minutes from the summer meeting were accepted as previously distributed to the members.**
- 4 Walter Kraft went thru the follow up items from the TRB 2007 Meeting. There were no outstanding items from the list. The second item concerned possible topics for TRB webinars. If any Committee Members have new ideas concerning this please let Walter or Mac know and we will communicate the idea with TRB. Les Jacobson went thru the action items from the Summer Meeting at Woods Hole documented in the distributed minutes. All of the items were either completed or being worked on within the various Sub-Committees.**
- 5 The TRB Report was given by Dan Turner later in the meeting. Dan reviewed the “Cheat Sheet” previously distributed and talked about this year’s successful conference. He also spoke about the continuing challenges of TRB financially. He also spoke about the challenges of the transportation issues that TRB will need to address in the future. A flyer for the NATMEC conference August 6-8 2008 in Washington DC was distributed. In a discussion on membership Dan commented that we could still add international or young members to the committee. He asked our committee to respond with comments on globalization issues and Walter asked committee members or friends to respond to Mac Lister with ideas so that he can put together our committee’s response. Finally he thanked Rich Cunard for his continued support of our Committee.**
- 6 Wayne Berman gave a report on FHWA activities. Several initiatives related to Operations were highlighted. Jeff Paniati commented and clarified on some of the initiatives as well. The detailed report of FHWA current program activities distributed at TRB (dated 1-28-08) is available at www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov.**
- 7 Doug Noble gave the report for ITE. He mentioned several items including a Management and Operations track planned for their spring conference. Jeff Paniati commented that the National Transportation Operations Coalition (NTOC) of which ITE is a member is seeking input for direction for the next 2-3 year period. Zia Burleigh is the contact at FHWA. If committee members have ideas for NTOC projects please make Walter or our sub-committee chairs aware of the interest. Doug’s report is available at the RTSMO website.**

- 8 Rich Denbow gave the report for AMPO. He highlighted several items including a new Operations Guide developed by AMPO and also relevant discussion of M&O issues at the recent AMPO conference in Little Rock. Rich's report is available at the RTSMO website. Walter commented that our committee would like to increase MPO membership. If anyone knows of someone at an MPO who might have interest please contact him.
- 9 Reports for the various permanent sub-committees were presented. Lisa Burgess gave the report for communications and outreach. A RTSMO website has been developed and was demonstrated by Lisa. The site will be maintained by Lisa and her committee and supported by Brian Smith at the University of Virginia. The URL is <http://rtsmo.cts.virginia.edu> It is planned to include on the web site all pertinent committee activities, meeting minutes, presentations at meetings and information from the sub-committees. Some information has already been populated on the site and Lisa requested additional material from sub-committee chairs. Walter thanked Lisa and her sub-committee for this significant achievement. Walter gave the report for the paper review sub-committee chaired by Haitham Al-Deek. Haitham joined the meeting later in the morning for a brief period and commented on the review process. Walter reported on the fine review process of this sub-committee which reviewed six papers and accepted four for the meeting. A written report is available on the RTSMO web site. Cathy McGhee gave the report for the Meetings sub-committee. The summer meeting for 2008 will be June 15-19 in Fort Lauderdale in conjunction with the Freeway Ops Meeting. Cathy is soliciting ideas for our meeting agenda.

10

Reports from the task sub-committees were presented. Bob Winick reported on the data and operations sub-committee meeting on Monday. His active group is involved in several activities. The detailed report can be found at the RTSMO website. Wayne Berman reported for the planning for operations sub-committee. This group also had a meeting on Monday to primarily to discuss plans for a national conference later this year. This topic is discussed in agenda item #12 below. A report from Wayne's sub-committee is available on the RTSMO web site. Dave Zavattono turned the report from his sub-committee over to Richard Easley who has been doing a project with relevance to the multi-state focus of this sub-committee. The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Project 3-84 supports the development of multistate transportation operations programs (MSTOPs). The primary objective of the project is to develop a guide to forming and sustaining MSTOPs that is suitable for adoption by the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO). Currently, the Guide is under review by AASHTO; as a result, copies of the Guide are not available to the public at this time. For more information about the project, please contact Ray Derr at rderr@nas.edu. Tim Lomax gave the report for the performance measures sub-committee. Tom Werner gave a report on the update for our committee for the triennial strategic plan. He requested from Mac past meeting minutes and

past strategic plans. He will prepare a draft in February for distribution to committee members.

- 11 Sub-committee membership was reviewed in the previous agenda item by sub-committee chairs. Interested additional members were requested by all chairs.
- 12 Wayne Berman discussed plans for a national conference for advancing operations. Wayne distributed a description and framework document the outlined conference ideas. The conference is planned for early December in Washington DC. He asked for volunteers to help organize the conference. Further information on this conference will be available on the RTSMO website.
- 13 Charlie Howard from the Puget Sound Regional Council gave a PowerPoint presentation on various regional activities going on in his region. He mentioned the Regional Traffic Operations Committee (RTOC) as well as several multi-jurisdictional projects. A copy of the presentation is available on our Committee's website.
- 14 Bill Hyman presented information on the TRB SHRP II Research Program. His report is available on the RTSMO website
- 15 Lou Neudorff gave a report on the TRB Task Force for Energy and Climate Change. The scope of the task force is to coordinate the activities of, and facilitate communication among, the TRB standing committees regarding the cross-cutting issues of global climate change and energy. No current action is needed by our Committee. If anyone has additional thoughts on this topic please communicate them with Lou. Walter asked Lou to chair a subcommittee to update and foster publication of a Glossary of Management and Operations Terms. Lou agreed.
- 16 The last agenda item was a brief discussion on the on-going direction of the Committee. Two ideas were highlighted; (1) the need for close coordination with the NTOC (National Transportation Operations Coalition) and its agency members. (2) The possible formation of a freight sub-committee. Jienki Synn from FHWA made a brief mention about the Surface Transportation Environment and Planning (STEP) Cooperative Research Program. This program is intended to spur innovation and focus on high risk and high pay-off research and development projects. Additional information on STEP can be found at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step/index.htm>

Action Items

1. Suggest topics of interest to NTOC - Committee.
2. Suggest webinars of interest to TRB - Committee.
3. Develop plan for national conference in 2008 - Wayne Berman.
4. Develop draft of triennial strategic plan – Tom Werner with committee input
5. Develop information and agenda for the Summer Meeting at June 15-19 in Fort Lauderdale – Cathy McGhee
6. Continue to develop committee membership list – Walter Kraft
7. Recruit sub-committee members and develop follow-up activities – Sub-Committee Chairs

8. Distribute meeting minutes and handouts from TRB meeting – Mac Lister