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UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

ANF10 – Committee on Pedestrians

8:00 a.m. to 12:10 p.m., January 23, 2006

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel (Washington B1), Washington, DC

1. **Attendance** – The meeting was lead by Committee Chair Ron Van Houten. There were approximately 75 to 100 persons in attendance at various times during the committee meeting. Meeting attendees introduced themselves at the beginning of the meeting.

2. General Items for the Record

September 2006 Mid-Year Meeting Minutes – A motion to approve the 2006 Mid-Year Committee meeting minutes passed unanimously. This meeting was held in Madison, Wisconsin in September 2006.

Attendance and Sign-In Sheet – The committee members and friends sign-in sheet was distributed to all attendees.

Emeritus and Younger Members – The Committee recognized a newly designated Emeritus Member: Michael Cynecki. Laura Sandt was also recognized as a new Younger Member of the Committee. We are still looking for four International Members (Non-US/Canada) as well as one additional Younger Member (under 30).

Michael Cynecki (left) is presented Emeritus membership by Section Chair Ann Hershfang (left center), Committee Chair Ron Van Houten (right center), and TRB Committee Liaison Rick Pain (right)



Paper Reviewers – Mike Cynecki solicited volunteers to review papers submitted for presentation and publication at the Annual Meetings. A sign-up sheet was passed around the room.

TRB Staff Report – Rick Pain indicated that commercial exhibits will be accepted at the TRB Annual Meeting in January 2008, and interested persons should check the TRB website (<http://www.trb.org>) for details. The paper review websites got overloaded on the last day and the computer servers malfunctioned. TRB is currently considering several approaches for next year's paper submission: 1) congestion pricing: charge a fee for papers submitted close to the deadline; 2) staggered deadline for different committees; and, 3) change in process (convert to pdf at later point). Rick asked for feedback on these three approaches and the last option was the most favorably received. To complement the Research In Progress (RIP) database, TRB is developing a Research Needs database. Additional information will be provided to the committees later in 2007.

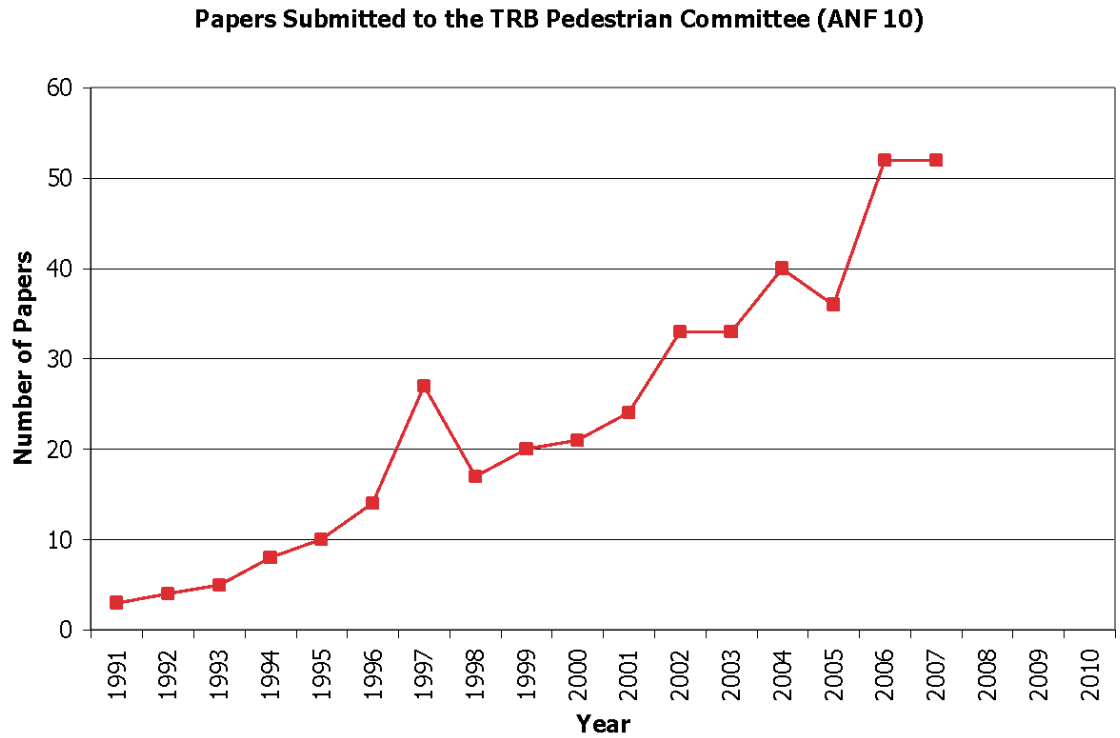
Meeting Schedule Conflicts – Ron indicated that there were several scheduling conflicts between meetings and sessions of the Pedestrian Committee, Bicycle Committee and the School Transportation Subcommittee. It was agreed that we need to minimize these conflicts, and Ann Hershfang or Ron will talk with Rick Pain about avoiding scheduling conflicts in the future.

3. Subcommittee Updates

Paper Review Subcommittee (Mike Cynecki) – See Attachment 1 for a full report of this subcommittee. Mike indicated that 52 papers were again submitted this year, equaling the number of papers submitted last year. Mike recognized the review coordinators: Leverson Boodlal, Mike Cynecki, Ron Van Houten, Tarek Sayed, Darren Torbic, and Shawn Turner. In most committees, only 50% of the submitted papers are accepted for presentation, but our Committee accepted 63% of the

submitted papers this year. The Committee sponsored 2.5 paper sessions and 2 poster sessions. The Paper Review Subcommittee is in the process of determining which papers will be published (only about 25% to 30% of papers can be published), Outstanding paper awards were given to two papers: 1) *Examining Deficiencies in Florida Pedestrian Crash Report Data*, by Isaac Wootton and Lisa Spainhour; and 2) *Assessment of GIS-Enabled Walkability Audits*, by Marc Schlossberg, Asha Weinstein, Katja Irvin, and Vanessa Bekkouche..

Figure 1. Papers Submitted to TRB's Pedestrian Committee in the Past 16 Years



Isaac Wootton (center) is presented an outstanding paper award by Mike Cynecki (left) and Ron Van Houten (right)



Marc Schlossberg (left center) and Asha Weintstein (right center) is presented an outstanding paper award by Mike Cynecki (left) and Ron Van Houten (right)



Human Factors Workshop (Gihon Jordan) – Gihon briefly discussed the Human Factors Workshop that was held on Sunday. The workshop lasted 5.5 hours and there were 18 participants. Gihon asked for suggestion about future topic areas, such as research, promotion, education, etc. Mike Cynecki asked whether a call for papers (perhaps with the TRB Bicycling Committee) could be issued next year. Another

participant indicated that other human factors experts should also be included in the workshop.

Research Problem Statements (Robert Schneider) – Bob Schneider provided handouts on the subcommittee's status (see Attachment 2 and 3) and discussed the contents of these handouts. Cara suggested the research needs to pursue enforceable level of service standards. There were also suggestions to coordinate with the Highway Capacity Manual Committee about pedestrian level of service. The results of this research needs to be able to be plugged into design guidelines and accessibility standards. There is also a need for policy guidelines for elected officials and state DOTs. Zoning and land use development are also key issues that are not in design guidelines. Another participant also mentioned that site design issues outside of the public right-of-way are important. Laura Sandt talked about the research projects database on the Committee website. A question was asked about how we are coordinating with TRB's Research-In-Progress and Research Needs database. Ron Van Houten indicated that we need to "build bridges" with pooled-fund studies.

Committee Website (Laura Sandt and Kevin Chang) – Kevin talked about the Committee website that has been recently created at <http://www.walkinginfo.org/trbped> and acknowledged the assistance of UNC's Highway Safety Research Center in terms of hosting the website. He indicated that he wanted to keep the website simple yet informative, as well as keeping it updated at critical times of the year. Laura Sandt then provided a brief tour of the website. She asked that people please go check it out and send feedback and information to be posted. A participant indicated that we should add the committee friends list to the website, but we would have to have them opt into the mailing list in order to include their names on the Committee website. There also is a desire to post Transportation Research Records on the Pedestrian Committee website. Ron asked whether we could post the preprints from the TRB Annual Meeting CD-ROM? Ron will check with Rick Pain on this matter. Ron also indicated that he has named Laura as chair of the technology subcommittee.

Pedestrian Video Theater (Ron Van Houten) – The Committee did not host a video theater this year, as it has been difficult to get volunteers to monitor the room. It was suggested that we provide a listing of the available videos on the website. It was also suggested that we need to make the videos accessible (e.g., subtitles) if we post them. We need a central repository, but one does not exist. Rutgers maintains a video library, accessible on the Internet. Should we work with Rutgers? PBIC will include a multimedia database on their site soon. We should post this on YouTube or Google videos where storage is free.

Subcommittee to examine research opportunities to increase walking as a mode (Ron Van Houten) – Ron indicated that there has been no activity in subcommittee. Ron suggested that we have a call for papers. Ron and Cara Seiderman will work together on the call for papers.

Context Sensitive Solutions Subcommittee (Cara Seiderman) – Cara talked about the recent activity of this subcommittee. Michael Ronkin was the previous representative, but we need to identify a new representative. Patricia Greason volunteered to be the new representative.

4. Other Updates

FHWA Research (Ann Do and John Fegan) – Ann Do provided a handout (see Attachment 4 or <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/pedbiketr2007.htm>) that described FHWA activities. Ann and John discussed several items that were listed on this handout. Ann indicated that her office is looking for research problem statements and is in the process of updating their 5-year program plan.

NHTSA Research (Jenny Percer and Leah Preiss) – Jenny and Leah provided a handout on pedestrian safety initiatives at NHTSA (Attachment 5) and discussed several items from the handout. A participant asked if NHTSA was looking at intelligent speed adaptation or pedestrian crash standards for vehicles. Another question was asked about how the research program plan for FHWA and NHTSA are developed. There was some discussion about using the 85th percentile for setting speed limits.

U.S. Access Board (Scott Windley) – Scott provided a handout (Attachment 6) and discussed several of the items.

Pedestrian Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) (Charlie Zegeer and Laura Sandt) – Laura Sandt and Charlie Zegeer provided an information sheet on the PBIC and highlighted several items from these handouts. They indicated that the PBCAT 2.0 software (for pedestrian and bicyclist crash typing analysis) has been released. The PBIC is also collecting examples of state and city pedestrian and bicycle plans. The PBIC has also begun providing training for private developers, and they are also initiating a young mentors program. Charlie indicated that there have been several new research reports posted on the PBIC website at <http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/>.

National Safe Routes to School Center (Tim Arnade) – Lauren provided a brochure with a status report and indicated that the most up-to-date information can be found at <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org>.

Perils for Pedestrians (John Wetmore) – John highlighted his show and pointed everyone to his website, <http://www.pedestrians.org>. Many of the episodes have been archived and are available through <http://video.google.com>.

TCRP Report 95 (Dick Pratt) – Dick Pratt indicated that he was looking for pedestrian and bicyclist data for TCRP Report 95 *Traveler Response to Transportation System Changes, Chapter 16: Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities*. Dick will be sending further information to the Committee and Friends via an email later this spring.

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 2009 edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). John discussed highlights from the meeting (the notes of which are included here as Attachment 7).

Massachusetts Design Guide (Ann Hershfang) – Ann made a brief announcement about the Massachusetts Highway Design Guidelines. The Design Guidebook is available online at http://www.vhb.com/mhdGuide/mhd_GuideBook.asp.

4. Other Reports and Presentations

Emergency Evacuation, Pam Murray-Tuite – The Emergency Evacuation Subcommittee would like to work with the Pedestrian Committee on a call for papers in the near future (2008?).

Quiet Cars: Jim McCarthy, National Federation for the Blind – Jim discussed the issue of quiet cars for the visually impaired and provided a handout (see Attachment 8). Janet Barlow proposed that the Pedestrian Committee sponsor a session on technical solutions to the quiet car problem at the 2008 TRB Annual Meeting.

Problems at crosswalks at highway entrance/exit ramps, Carolyn Konheim – Carolyn gave a presentation on problems at crosswalks at highway entrance and exit ramps. She highlighted the challenges of pedestrian judgment of adequate gaps in traffic and driver expectations for free-flow traffic and no pedestrians in these areas. Potential solutions could include signalized crossings or other treatments, such as traffic calming, to make unsignalized crossings safer. This could be a potential research problem statement topic. John LaPlante pointed out that there are already guidelines on the issue of pedestrian crossings of highway ramps in the *AASHTO Guide for the Development of Pedestrian Facilities*—there should be no free right turn lanes in urban areas.

Paradigm shift in crash prevention strategies and pedestrian safety, David Levinger – David gave a presentation on the need for a paradigm shift in pedestrian safety and pedestrian crash prevention strategies.

- The concept of pedestrian dart-out should be thrown out. Drivers should drive with the expectation that there are pedestrians that could step into the road at any moment or that there could be pedestrians dressed in all black crossing the street at night—this means being much more attentive and driving much slower
- We need to foster the concept of responsibility for developing a safe environment for pedestrians in our culture. How do we get drivers to take more responsibility for pedestrian safety?
- Should we accept pedestrian fatalities as a consequence of motor vehicle convenience?

- How do we create a cultural change? Pedestrian stings, pedestrian research collaborations, etc.
- The pedestrian safety topic represents the convergence of health, environmental, and economic issues
- Pedestrian research is under funded.

David provided the following websites: <http://www.PedInroads.org> and <http://www.headstrongforlife.org>. David's e-mail address is david@feetfirst.info. The committee wondered what its role might be in relation to these issues. One potential suggestion is to push for more research. David will provide suggestions to the Research Subcommittee.

Pedestrian Capacity Issues, Jake Pauls – Jake gave a report on some of the work on pedestrian capacity issues by John Fruin. Pedestrian characteristics have changed as a result of an aging population, obesity, and the declining fitness levels of US citizens. This effects how pedestrian evacuation dynamics work. He will provide ideas for pedestrian research problem statements to the Research Subcommittee. Additional information is provided in Attachment 9.

Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program, Franz Gilmer – Franz reported on the four communities non-motorized transportation pilot program from SAFTEA-LU (Minneapolis, MN; Sheboygan, WI; Columbia, MO; and Marin County, CA). These communities are trying to get a double-digit shift in pedestrian and bicycle mode share as a result of the \$25 million investment in each community. The program includes evaluation and communications components, so the TRB Pedestrian Committee should take an interest in these communities for potential research. The Research Subcommittee will consider this possible research opportunity.

5. New Business

Ron Van Houten concluded the meeting by asking for opinions about potential mid-year meeting locations. His goal is to choose a location and date where the greatest number of committee members can attend. The three possibilities are:

- ITE Conference in Pittsburgh, PA—August 5-11 (received 6 votes)
- APBP Meeting in Davis, CA—September 11-14 (received 3 votes)
- Walk21 Conference in Toronto, ON—October 1-4 (received 3 votes)

The meeting location was not determined, and Ron will follow-up with committee members by e-mail.

The meeting adjourned by the Committee Chair at approximately 12:10 p.m.