

Minutes of AT045 Committee Meeting
TRB Intermodal Freight Transport Committee
January 12, 2004

1. Attendance – See Attachment A
2. Agenda – See Attachment B
3. General Items for the Record
 - a. Comments from Committee Staff – Joedy Cambridge reported on the Division A reorganization. The reorganization was designed to give more visibility to non-highway modes (rail, marine, aviation, freight systems, public transportation) by expanding from 5 groups to 11 groups. Several publications and studies focusing on freight transportation, marine and security will be produced by TRB this year, including a TR News theme issue supported by the military transportation committee. Building on this theme, the TRB Executive Committee wants to develop a strategy for transportation security research.
 - b. Upcoming 2004 events potentially of interest to committee members include:
 - i. Security Workshop - Spring/Summer
 - ii. International Trade Data Workshop – May
 - iii. Freight Data Workshop – June
 - iv. MTS Research and Technology Coordination Conference – November
 - c. The freight committees held more than 50 sessions at the 2004 Annual Meeting, including poster sessions, which are a vital and viable alternative to panel sessions.
 - d. The Freight Systems Group, along with the rail and water groups, want to nominate a speaker candidate for the Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lectureship next year. There has never been a speaker on freight issues. Contact Steve Kale with your ideas.
 - e. Next year’s Annual meeting themes will be: Safety, seamless systems, and customer perspectives.
 - f. The Freight Systems Group continues to refine freight research proposals in the hopes of developing a Freight Cooperative Research Program.
 - g. NCHRP FY2004 Synthesis Program – There is a call for problem statements for the 2004 Synthesis study programs – more synthesis reports are expected to be completed this year than ever before. Ideas are encouraged from all committees, members and friends.
4. Old Business
 - a. 2003 Joint Summer Conference (Portland)
 - i. Ports, Waterways, et al. met early in the week. These committees will meet in 2004 at the Ports ’04 Conference in Houston.

- ii. Planning, Economics, Freight, et. al. met later in the week. These committees will meet in 2004 in Park City, UT.
- iii. About 30 people (7 members) attended the AT045 committee meeting.
- iv. About the same number were at the joint freight committees meeting.
- v. Thanks to Ted Dahlburg for taking meeting notes at both meetings.
- b. Presentation on *Intermodal Freight Transportation* (5th edition)
 - i. Gerhardt Muller and Bill DeWitt briefed the committee on their progress on the latest edition of this book. A completed draft is expected this summer, but will then need review. The target date for publication is early next year. The book will be organized to follow a container from origin to destination, covering the journey chapter by chapter. This unique perspective will focus only on the box, not other intermodal movements (but will include a look at terminals). Additional chapters will cover administration, information technology, government regulations, third parties and intermodal connections.
- c. Certificate of Appreciation – Gerhardt Muller was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for 10 years of service to the committee.

5. New Business/Subcommittee Reports

- a. 2004 Annual Meeting
 - i. AT045 reviewed seven papers and is co-sponsoring
 - 1. One workshop
 - 2. Six conference/paper sessions
 - 3. One poster session
 - 4. Marine and Intermodal Forum
 - ii. 2004 Summer Meetings
 - 1. The committee will attend the July 25-27 meeting in Park City, UT of the Committees on Planning, Finance, Administration, Freight, et al.
- b. Committee Performance Measures
 - i. Report was prepared by Ted Dahlburg.
 - ii. It identifies numerical goals that assess the health of the committee.
 - iii. 13 of 17 goals were achieved.
 - iv. For those not achieved, goals may be too ambitious and could be scaled back next year.
- c. Subcommittee Reports
 - i. Liaison (Jocelyn Jones) – Steve Kale distributed talking points on committee activities to be used when reporting to other committees. These were very helpful. However, more needs to be done to share what other committees are doing. Jocelyn is also trying to connect more to groups outside TRB, such as the Council of Logistics Management.

- ii. Communications (Jack Klodzinski) - As a result of the survey of committee members, the newsletter has been discontinued. There may be a Freight Systems Group newsletter. The committee may try a WebEx (web-based) meeting to supplement the 2 current meetings. Continuing thanks to Wilbur Smith Associates for hosting the committee website:
<http://www.wilbursmith.com/a1b05>
 - iii. Membership (Steve Kale reporting for Jennifer Clinger) – It is time to start the rotation process. We need to rotate off at least 1/3 of members. Generally the less or not active are the first to go, then longer term members. But, very active longer term members can stay for up to three terms, possibly longer. Steve Kale will poll current members to gauge their interest and for recommendations for new members. Ted Dahlburg has volunteered to help with the rotation process.
6. FHWA Freight Professional Development (FPD) Program – Mike Onder presented a summary of this program.
- a. Scott Johnson is the lead staff for the FPD.
 - b. Program is designed to:
 - i. Build state-of-the-art knowledge and skills
 - ii. Support a broad range of professional disciplines and tasks
 - iii. Deliver training and technical assistance on specific technical topics
 - iv. Establish better communications within and between organizations
 - v. Provide a broad range of information and resources
 - c. Components of program are:
 - i. Training
 - ii. Technical Assistance
 - iii. Education
 - iv. Outreach
 - v. Peer-to-Peer Exchange
 - vi. Data Analysis Protocols and Tools
 - vii. Information Dissemination
 - d. Staff for the FPD program work closely with staff for the Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program on planning issues.
7. FHWA Transportation Planning Capacity Building (TPCB) Program – Rob Ritter presented a summary of this program.
- a. The purpose of the program is to assist transportation officials and staff to resolve increasingly complex issues related to transportation needs in their communities.
 - b. Components of program are:
 - i. Information
 - ii. Training
 - iii. Technical assistance

- iv. Peer programs
 - c. More information is available at: www.planning.dot.gov.
 - d. Program staff focus on needs in the planning process and work closely with FPD staff on freight planning issues.
 - e. Two new freight planning training courses will be available through the National Highway Institute shortly:
 - i. Integrating Freight in the Transportation Planning Process
 - ii. Freight Demand Forecasting
8. Presentation on the “Freight ITS Operational Test: What Have We Learned”
- a. Mark Jensen, Jordan Srouer, and Dan Stock presented the results of this project. Final reports will be available on www.its.dot.gov.
 - b. E-seal Test Lessons Learned:
 - i. An end-end system incorporating the use of electronic container seals can be very successful in a real-world operational environment.
 - ii. Tests validated the ability of an information system to successfully integrate data from an E-seal System and a CVISN-based transponder system.
 - iii. Significant infrastructure would be required to field these systems nationally to promote security benefits.
 - iv. An e-seal system cannot fulfill security requirements on its own.
 - c. Cargo Security Test Lessons Learned
 - i. A secure intermodal electronic manifest system has potential for substantial industry efficiency improvements.
 - ii. National standards, subsidization or regulation is needed to fully deploy.
 - iii. Drivers are interested in a system that provides a single Smart Card that replaces their CDL and paperwork.
 - d. IMTC CVO Border Crossing Deployment Lessons Learned
 - i. Test validated concept of Dedicated ITS Truck Lanes at US-Canadian border crossings as well as the concept of a Bi-National Virtual Weigh Station
 - ii. Greatest benefits accrue through:
 - 1. Travel time savings at border crossings
 - 2. Enhanced CVO safety
 - 3. Overwhelming private sector benefits
 - e. Asset Tracking and Freight Information Highway Lessons Learned
 - i. Improved Cargo*Mate units deployed in Memphis validated the Asset Tracking Operational concept.
 - ii. Major industry efficiency benefits can be expected through full deployment.
 - iii. Test demonstrated the ability to capture and standardize data from multiple sources in multiple formats.
 - f. FIRST Port Container Information System Lessons Learned

- i. Potential for industry savings could get as high as \$50,000 a day through operations savings, reductions in trouble tickets, increases in double moves, etc.
- ii. Public sector benefits could total \$1million per year through air quality improvements from significant reductions in truck idling at terminal approaches.

9. Strategic Planning

- a. The committee developed a strategic planning concept as a PowerPoint presentation in January, 2000.
- b. A team led by Paul Belella has reviewed the PowerPoint concept, updated and revised language to reflect current realities, and developed a draft strategic plan. Comments are due on the draft plan by February 15, 2004. The following represent steps the team took to develop the draft plan.
 - i. Re-examined existing plan
 - ii. Performed a strategic analysis
 - 1. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) analysis
 - 2. Organizational Assessment
 - 3. Goal Setting
 - 4. Action Planning
 - iii. Formulated and coordinated updated plan
 - iv. Revised the committee structure into four “activity areas”:
 - 1. Meetings
 - 2. Research
 - 3. Communications
 - 4. Liaison
- c. Anyone interested in being a coordinator for an “activity area” should contact Steve Kale.

10. Research Working Paper

- a. Peter Beaulieu, working with Steve Kale, has developed a draft paper which identifies:
 - i. Intermodal freight research ideas
 - ii. General freight mobility research ideas
- b. Next steps are to
 - i. Refine and polish the draft over the next few months
 - ii. Share with other TRB freight committees
 - iii. Identify working paper’s potential contribution to the work of the Freight Systems Group

11. Research Action Items

- a. Steve Kale distributed a list of possible AT045 Research Action Items (see Attachment C). He will follow up later to identify who is willing to help with the various items.

Attachment A

List of Meeting Attendees

**AT045: Intermodal Freight Transport
Annual Meeting**

Monday, January 12, 2004, 6:30 pm
Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D.C.

Members:

Steve Kale, Oregon Department of Transportation (chair)
Rob Ritter, Federal Highway Administration (secretary)
Anne Aylward, EG&G, URS Engineering
Paul Belella, Delcan Inc.
Mark Berndt, Wilbur Smith Associates
Leigh Boske, University of Texas at Austin
Ted Dahlburg, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
William DeWitt, University of Maryland
Erin Flanigan, TransCore
Arno Hart, Wilbur Smith Associates
Jocelyn Jones, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Jack Klodzinski, University of Central Florida
Gerhardt Muller, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Mike Onder, Federal Highway Administration, USDOT
Charles Poltenson, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
Carl Seiberlich, Transystems Corporation
Chip Wood, US Department of Transportation
Shmuel Yahalom, SUNY Maritime College

Friends:

George Achakji, Transport Canada
James Badgley, New Jersey Department of Transportation
Kathleen Belmonte, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
William Browder, Association of American Railroads
Jess Browning, University of Washington
Randy Butler, Federal Highway Administration
Paula Dowell, Wilbur Smith Associates
Shawn Easley, E-Squared Engineering
Mark Jensen, SAIC
Max Kalhammer, Booz Allen & Hamilton
Alex Landsburg, U.S. Maritime Administration
Howard Mann, New York Metropolitan Transportation Council
Libby Ogard, Tioga Group
John Powers, New Jersey Department of Transportation
Kate Quinn, Federal Highway Administration

Steve Roop, Texas A&M University
Isaac Shafran, Louis Berger Group
Jordan Srour, SAIC
Richard Stewart, University of Wisconsin-Superior
Dan Stock, SAIC
Fawn Thompson, Federal Highway Administration
Rod Troutbeck, Queensland University of Technology
Marianne Venieris, California State University, Long Beach
Mike Winchester, Winchester Consulting

TRB:

Joedy Cambridge, TRB Staff Representative
Tina Casgar, TRB Freight Systems Group Chair

Attachment B

TRB Intermodal Freight Transport Committee (AT045)

Monday, January 12, 2004
6:30 p.m., Calvert Room
Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC

Opening Comments and Introductions	All
Comments from Committee Staff	Joedy Cambridge
Announcements	
NCHRP FY2004 Synthesis Program	
Spring/Summer 2004 Security Workshop	
Old Business	Steve Kale
2003 Summer Conference (Portland)	
Presentation on <i>Intermodal Freight Transportation</i> (5 th edition)	Gerhardt Muller and Bill DeWitt
New Business/Subcommittee Reports	Various
2004 Annual Meeting	
2004 Summer Meetings	
http://www4.nationalacademies.org/trb/calendar.nsf	
Committees on Ports, Waterways, Freight and International Trade, late May, Houston, Texas	
Committees on Data, Economics, Finance, and Planning, July 25-27, Park City, Utah	
Performance Measures	
Reports	
Liaison	
Communications	
Newsletter	
Web site	
Research	
Membership	
FHWA Freight Professional Development Program	Mike Onder
FHWA Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program	Rob Ritter
Break	
Presentation on the “Freight ITS Operational Test: What Have We Learned”	Mark Jensen
Strategic Planning	Paul Belella and Steve Kale
Freight Research Working Paper	
Other	All
Adjourn	

Attachment C

AT045 Research Action Items

- By May 1, 2004 develop annual meeting Call for Papers incorporating key intermodal freight research themes
- By June 1, 2004, propose 2005 TRB annual meeting conference sessions per selected intermodal freight transport research themes
- By Summer 2004, revise and polish committee research working paper
- By Fall 2004, freshen the committee scope statement to more explicitly include a research component
- By Fall 2004, identify intermodal freight transportation research topics within the framework of critical and cross-cutting issues as identified by the Executive Board of TRB (see http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/trnews/2002_critical_issues_article.pdf)
- By Fall 2004, work with authors to update existing intermodal freight transport research problem statements (see existing problem statements at <http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/circulars/ec048.pdf>)
- Develop at least three new problem statements annually, including at least one research problem statement for a National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) synthesis project (see "NCHRP Problem Statement Submittal Process for FY 2005" at <http://www4.trb.org/trb/crp.nsf/Reference/Appendices/NCHRP+Problems> and "Synthesis Statement Form" at <http://www4.nas.edu/trb/synthrep.nsf/SynthesisStatement/?OpenForm>)
- By Summer 2005, revise and update committee millennium paper (see <http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/millennium/00061.pdf>)
- Work with other freight-related committees on activities associated with the proposed Freight Research Roundtable or other similar initiative established through the Freight Systems Groups and other modal groups
- Work with other freight-related committees to develop a TR News "Freight Focus" issue according to a timeline established by the Freight Systems Group and TRB (see TR News submission guidelines at <http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/trnews/info4contributors.pdf>)
- Work with others as needed to develop at least one proposed "Research Pays Off" article for TR News in the 2004-2006 time period (see guidelines at <http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/trnews/rpo/rpoflyer.pdf>)
- Serve on advisory panels for the NCHRP projects and NCHRP synthesis projects where appropriate