

**Draft**

Minutes of Committee Meeting

A1B05: Intermodal Freight Transport

Monday, January 8, 2001, 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.  
Capitol Room, Omni Shoreham Hotel,  
Washington, DC

1. Attendance (attachment A)
2. Agenda (attachment B)
3. General Items for the Record

A. Minutes from Summer 2000 Committee Meeting

Committee Chairman Steve Kale distributed the minutes from the Summer 2000 Committee meeting. He proposed that the committee members review the minutes and let him know by email if they have comments. He will then solicit a vote by email to approve the minutes.

B. New Committee Vice-Chair

Bill DeWitt is stepping down from his position as the Committee Vice-Chairman. He will continue to serve on the committee and on the membership sub-committee. Steve Kale recognized Bill's significant contributions to the committee, particularly his work on the committee's Strategic Planning Concept. Jennifer Clinger, the current committee Secretary, will assume the position of Vice-Chairman. Steve Kale asked the committee if anyone was interested in volunteering for the position of Secretary. There were no volunteers, so in the meantime Jennifer Clinger will continue to fulfill the Secretarial duties.

C. Appointment of Young TRB Members

TRB is actively promoting the participation of young transportation professionals in TRB activities. TRB is encouraging each committee to appoint up to two new members under the age of 30 (this will not count against the membership limit). Steve Kale encouraged the committee members to identify potential members that are under the age of 30 and encourage them to contact him or Jennifer Clinger regarding committee membership.

#### D. Committee Membership

Steve Kale reported that the committee is currently in “rotation” phase with its membership, and each member’s term officially ends in January 31, 2001. Along with the Membership Subcommittee, he will be reviewing the membership list and will seek to rotate off members that have been inactive over the past 1-2 years. In doing so, he will seek to create more diversity within the committee membership per TRB guidelines.

#### E. Summer 2001 Meeting

The committee will meet again during the 2001 TRB Joint Annual Meeting of Committees on Economics, Data, Finance, Freight, Management, and Planning, which will take place July 19-21 in Vail, Colorado.

#### F. TRB Staff Report (Joedy Cambridge)

Calls for Papers: Joedy reported that this committee should have calls for papers for the 2002 TRB Annual Meeting drafted by March, 2001. She suggested that this committee should also consider co-sponsoring joint calls with other committees with similar interests.

The TRB Ports, Waterways, Intermodal and International Trade conference will take place in Galveston, TX June 22-24.

Joedy reported that there is a new Task Force on Critical Issues in Transportation Security (A5256). Because the Task Force has overlapping interests with those of this committee, she suggested that we might consider forming a joint subcommittee to address issues related to intermodal freight security. Ed Botello is the contact person for the Task Force.

Over 7500 participants pre-registered for the 2001 Annual Meeting (which is a new record for TRB). This likely means that there were over 9000 participants, including on-site registration. Because the conference is getting so large, TRB is looking at other ways to convey information to its audience as alternatives to paper or speaker sessions, such as poster sessions. This will allow the speaker and paper sessions to feature more discourse on important, timely transportation topics.

Joedy announced that there are several new sponsors of TRB, including the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, NASA, and the US Department of Energy. The US Coast Guard is a new sponsor of the Marine Transportation Board.

TRB will move to its new headquarters in mid-2002. The building will be located near the MCI Center in downtown Washington, DC.

Joedy reported that the Marine Transportation Board is examining new ways to measure the capacity of the marine transportation system, and how these measurements are used. The National Academy of Sciences will host a workshop on this topic in April 2001.

Committee A1B11 (Military Transportation) will be organizing a conference in February of 2002 on Meeting Military Transportation Needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Joedy encouraged interested members to contact the chair of that committee if they are interested in assisting. Gerhardt Muller volunteered to be involved in this effort.

TRB Staff Changes: Mark Norman has taken over as the new Division A Director in TRB (replacing Bob Spicher, who retired last year). Kim Fisher, formerly with the Texas DOT, replaced Jim Scott who retired last year.

4. Committee Program

There were no invited speakers or papers scheduled for presentation at the committee meeting.

5. Committee Business

A. Subcommittee Reports: Steve Kale described the sub-committee structure and distributed a sign-up sheet for members or friends that are interested in joining a subcommittee if they have not already done so.

1. Communications: Arno Hart demonstrated the committee web page, which is currently located at [www.wilbursmith.com/A1B05/](http://www.wilbursmith.com/A1B05/). The web page includes the committee strategic planning concept and millenium paper, links to other relevant organizations, lists of committee members and friends, and notices of interest to the members. He and Ed Rosen are working on an electronic newsletter that would disseminate other information to the members on a periodic basis.
2. Internal Liaison: Jennifer Clinger reported that the subcommittee did not have much success in soliciting volunteers to serve as on-going liaisons to other committees prior to the Annual Meeting. She reported that the Committee on Freight Transportation Planning and Logistics (A1B02), as well as the Committee on Freight Transportation Regulation (A1B06), had expressed an interest in working with A1B05 on an ongoing basis, and meeting with them during the 2001 summer meeting. She asked again for volunteer assistance, particularly from people that are already involved in a number of other organizations. The purpose of the subcommittee is to disseminate information on A1B05 to other TRB committees that are addressing similar subjects, and to distribute information on these

committees to A1B05 members and friends. Anne Alyward volunteered to take over as the subcommittee chairman since Jennifer will be chairing the membership subcommittee.

3. External Liaison: Gerhardt Muller described the subcommittee's plan to liaise with different types of trade groups. He suggested that the subcommittee should establish some boundaries / guidelines for the various groups they should be working with on a continual basis. He asked for volunteers to help set up electronic links on the committee web page to relevant groups so that there can be an ongoing exchange of information. Several students from the University of Texas that were in attendance volunteered to help Gerhardt with this activity.
4. Membership: As previously reported, the committee is actively reviewing its membership and will be recruiting 6-8 new "regular" members and up to two "under 30" members. In doing so the membership subcommittee will be seeking to obtain greater diversity in its membership, particularly among industry sectors, and will be developing criteria for soliciting / reviewing potential new members. This should also support the research interests of the committee. In the meantime, prospective members were urged to send a statement of interest and/or a brief description of their professional background to Steve Kale at [Steven.R.Kale@odot.state.or.us](mailto:Steven.R.Kale@odot.state.or.us), or to Jennifer Clinger at [clingerj@dmjm.com](mailto:clingerj@dmjm.com).
5. Research: Mike Onder reported that one of the goals of this subcommittee is to propose research suitable for NCHRP conference sessions, etc. Three subcommittee members have provided input on research needs, but they could use more. They need to identify areas where there are significant gaps in current research. One idea is to promote better multi-jurisdictional planning, particularly since freight moves in corridors rather than according to political boundaries. This might include regional planning efforts or international cooperation. There is a need to provide state and local governments with information on how to accomplish this. He asked people to email potential research ideas to him ([michael.under@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:michael.under@fhwa.dot.gov)) or Paul Belella ([belella\\_paul@bah.com](mailto:belella_paul@bah.com)). He proposed that one other niche for this committee is to focus on intermodal freight technologies, since no TRB committee is currently addressing that topic in depth.

#### B. Triennial Self-Evaluation:

Steve Kale reported that the A1B05 review is due in March 2001. The TSE is an important tool for the committee to evaluate its activities and identify areas that need to be strengthened. This review goes to TRB staff who will evaluate and review whether the committee is meeting its objectives. Steve will prepare a draft TSE and send it to the members for their review. He will especially need input on committee activities, including other TRB-related activities of

the committee members. Steve will report on TRB's findings when they become available, possibly at the 2001 summer conference.

### C. Future Meetings

Steve Kale presented several ideas for sessions during the Summer 2001 conference and the 2002 Annual Meeting, including the status of FHWA's Intermodal Connectors study and the relationship between freight and economic development issues. At the Summer 2001 conference, there will be several freight sessions, co-sponsored by committees A1B05, A1B07, A1B09, and A1B02, on best practices in multi-jurisdictional planning. Anne Strauss-Wieder is taking the lead on organizing these sessions and is soliciting input from the other committees. Steve asked members to provide him with input over the next month regarding this and other potential session topics.

## 6. Other Business

### A. Upcoming Conferences: There are several conferences taking place in the next 12 months that may be of interest to the committee members:

1. FHWA / Eno Workshop on Financing Intermodal Freight Facilities. This conference will be held in St. Louis, MO, from April 29-May 1, 2001.
2. FHWA Conference on Multi-state/jurisdictional Transportation Issues, which will take place June 18-20, 2001, in Arlington, VA.

### B. Other Activities

1. Arno Hart reported that the Committee on Transportation and Economic Development (A1A06, chaired by Norm Foster) has a freight transportation sub-committee that is addressing issues that may be of interest to the A1B05 members. He proposed that we might consider forming a joint subcommittee with this group.
2. NCHRP Study 8-39 on Financing and Improving Land Access to U.S. Cargo Hubs is now underway. The study team, led by Isaac Shafran of Louis Berger and Anne Strauss-Wieder, is soliciting input from the TRB freight-related committees on examples of intermodal freight projects that might serve as illustrative case studies. The two principal investigators can be contacted at [ishafran@louisberger.com](mailto:ishafran@louisberger.com), or [asw330@home.com](mailto:asw330@home.com).