

Meeting Minutes

TRB Intermodal Freight Transport Committee A1B05

Sunday, July 16, 2000

7:00 p.m.

Brandon A Room, 4th Floor
Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel
Norfolk, VA

I. Opening Comments and Introductions

Steve Kale welcomed the meeting attendees and invited the meeting participants to introduce themselves. He then introduced the following new members of committee A1B05:

- Arno Hart, Wilbur Smith Associates
- Paul Belella, Booz-Allen + Hamilton
- Michael Onder, FHWA
- Bryan Stone, International Transportation Consultant (an international member)

II. Minutes from January 2000 Committee Meeting

The minutes from the January 2000 meeting were approved.

Agenda Additions/Changes: Mr. J. Medevielle of INRETS (France) proposed that a brief discussion of the French policy position on Intermodal transport policy issues be added to the agenda.

IV. Old Business

January 2000 Meeting: Steve Kale reviewed the sessions that Committee A1B05 sponsored at the January 2000 Meeting, which included the “Impacts of E-Commerce on Intermodal Transportation” and “Trends in Supply Chain Management and their Impacts on Intermodal Freight Transportation.”

Strategic Planning: Steve Kale provided an overview of the committee’s strategic planning process, which was being undertaken by a sub-group of committee members. Mike Onder, Paul Belella and Bill DeWitt prepared a number of PowerPoint slides and supporting text to describe the function of the committee goals and objectives, as well as those of the sub-committees.

Art Goodwin explained that there are some overlaps between A1B05 and his committee on Intermodal Freight Terminals, and he asked if A1B05 had looked into this when preparing the strategic plan. He suggested that there might be some opportunities to consolidate committees or re-focus them. Steve Kale said that the group had examined

overlaps between A1B05 and other committees and intended to act as a liaison with other committees, but they had not developed a definite position on how they should address areas of redundancy. He said that he would raise this issue with Joedy Cambridge of TRB staff. Steve also said that he intended to develop more detailed descriptions of the sub-committees to supplement the strategic plan concept, as this would be helpful in the tri-annual review process (which must take place in 2001).

Committee Web Page: Arno Hart demonstrated the A1B05 committee web page, which is located under www.wilbursmith.com. The web page includes lists of the members, recent activities, a note from the chairman, and links to TRB and other relevant organizations. Arno also asked the meeting participants to provide him with input about other useful links and resources to include. These could be emailed to him at Ahart@wilbursmith.com, or to the webmaster at gcampbell@wilbursmith.com.

V. New Business/Subcommittee Reports

July 2000 Meeting: Steve Kale announced that he would like to recognize the committee members that had a large role in shaping the sessions for the July 2000 meeting, including: Mike Onder, who was chairing a session on freight applications of ITS technologies; and Chip Wood, who was providing an update on ITS intermodal freight tests. The committee was also involved in helping to coordinate presentations by Bruce Lambert, who spoke of the recent initiatives of the FHWA Office of Freight Management and Operations to map freight flows and analyze the impacts on the transportation system; Scott Drumm, who spoke on “Propelling Freight Through Portland”; and Sorin Garber, who spoke on transportation impacts from breaching dams on the Snake River.

January 2001 Meeting: Steve Kale announced that A1B05 is tentatively co-sponsoring sessions on the Freight Implications of NAFTA (which is being organized by Paul Belella and Mike Onder) and Intermodal Freight Developments in Europe (being organized by Jennifer Clinger and Bryan Stone). He also mentioned that the committee would consider co-sponsoring sessions on other topics; e.g., e-commerce, and/or agricultural transportation, although there is a sponsorship limit of 2.5 sessions per committee (which TRB initiated in an effort to keep the Annual Meeting more manageable).

John McCray proposed that the group co-sponsor these sessions with the International Trade and Transportation Committee. He also suggested a session on the use of GIS-T for trade and transportation analysis. Paul Belella suggested adding a speaker in the NAFTA session on the safety implications of NAFTA transportation. Mike Onder also noted that there are a number of customs-related issues, particularly related to NAFTA and the International Trade Data System (ITDS).

Bryan Stone described the proposed EU session, and how the focus would be on examining the key effects of the emerging policy environment in the EU. One issue surrounds the open access of infrastructure, while another is the state-of-the-art in coastal and short-sea shipping. J. Medevielle also added that air transport is a very major issue in the EU right now. Bahar Barami mentioned that there are also a number of issues related to the cross-border benefits and costs of EU infrastructure (who benefits and who pays). It was also suggested that this committee contact Merritt Linzie, the Chair of the

International Activities committee, to ascertain whether they would like to co-sponsor this session with them.

Arno Hart proposed a two-part session based on the work the FHWA Office of Freight Operations is doing, which would focus on: Emerging Trends and Issues in Intermodal Freight Transportation; and Forecasts for Domestic and International Freight Flows, and the Implications of these trends. Steve Kale mentioned that the committee was already near its maximum of 2.5 sessions, and suggested that these be co-sponsored with the Urban Freight committee, or the Committee on Multimodal Freight Transportation and Logistics.

Paul Belella proposed to hold a session on the results of the Freight Data Task Force, which would be meeting in Rosslyn (VA) to identify critical needs in freight data. This group, which has heavy participation by industry, has identified four priority issues that are in need of basic data. After further discussion it was concluded that this task force might not be far enough along to have a session based on it. Steve Kale suggested they consider making a presentation on this topic during the January Committee meeting.

Research Topics: Steve Kale proposed that the committee begin to develop some research statements for significant research needs in the area of intermodal freight transportation. These research statements could be submitted to other organizations for funding e.g., NCHRP (as in the recent project on Financing and Improving Access to US Intermodal cargo hubs) or the FHWA Office of Freight Management and Operations. He suggested that the committee members consider this and discuss it at the January meeting.

Committee Rotation: Currently, the terms of all A1B05 members expire January 31, 2001. Steve noted that a number of members have not been active during the past several years, and that it may be appropriate to rotate some of these members off the committee and appoint new members. Steve emailed all of the committee members about this and asked for their feedback, to which he received a moderate response. Bill DeWitt agreed to call some of these inactive members to gauge their interest in continuing to serve on the committee. The Membership Subcommittee will take up this issue in 2001.

VI. Comments from Committee Staff

New TRB Division A Director: Joedy Cambridge announced that Bob Spicher would be stepping down as the Division A Chair, and that he would be replaced by Mark Norman (who was formerly with ITE).

New TRB Task Force on Agricultural Transportation: Joedy noted that the first meeting of the TRB Task Force on Agricultural Transportation would be meeting on Tuesday evening, July 18th in Norfolk. Bill Hall will be the Task Force chairman.

Summer 2001 Meeting: The Summer Ports, Waterways and International Trade Conference would be taking place in June 2001 in Galveston, TX.

E-Commerce Workshop Planning: A planning Committee is being formed to examine the impacts of developments in E-Commerce on the freight and passenger transportation. A planning session would be held in September to start organizing this conference, which would take place sometime in 2001.

VII. Other

Freight Technology Workshop: Mike Onder announced that the USDOT's Intermodal Freight Technology group would be meeting on August 7-9, 2000 in Chicago. This group has been examining opportunities related to the harmonization of technology and information systems infrastructure. The group has been comprised of representatives from government and industry. The top issue to be discussed at this meeting would be "Global Asset Tracking and Monitoring".

J. Medevielle of INRETS discussed the major priorities of the French government in EU transportation issues. Intermodality is a key research theme in France. Six high-priority policy issues include maritime safety; creation of an EU-wide air traffic system; trans-European rail networks; other trans-European infrastructure networks; road safety; and competition issues with the US related to GPS standards.

Steve Kale announced that there is a meeting in September sponsored by FHWA and the University of Minnesota Transportation Center for a national dialogue on freight issues. This workshop would examine what state DOTs are doing in regard to freight planning, and the development of performance measures.

VIII. Adjournment

Steve Kale adjourned the meeting at 9pm.