

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES**  
**GUIDE AND MOTORIST INFORMATION SIGN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES: January 17, 2007, Washington, DC**

Committee Chairman: Barry Warhoftig, West Virginia DOT  
Committee Vice-Chairman: Rick Werts, South Carolina DOT  
Committee Secretary: Robert Hull, Utah DOT

Technical Committee Members present:

|                 |                  |                 |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Barry Warhoftig | Rick Werts       | Robert Hull     |
| Tom Aber        | Bill Anderson    | Jim Keaton      |
| Sue Perkins     | Ernie Huckaby    | Linda Brown     |
| Geno D'Ippolito | Kerry Ferrier    | Tim Crouch      |
| George Townsend | Wes Dean         | Kathy Falk      |
| Jose Rivera     | Bryan Katz       | Maurice Palumbo |
| Maggie Cusack   | Michael Tantillo | Mark Wilson     |
| Steve Buckley   | Dave Anderson    |                 |

Visitors:

|                |                |                   |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Kenneth Frantz | Floyd Williams | Jonathan Upchurch |
| Ed McCarthy    | Jim Renner     |                   |

Barry began the meeting by introducing him and other committee leaders. A sign-up sheet was distributed for members and visitors.

The first portion of the meeting was dedicated to each task force providing a brief update to the work completed over the past six months.

The following task force leads reported:

**Specific Services - Rick Werts**

**CMS – No report**

**Option Lane - Bryan Katz**

**Managed Lanes/Toll Facilities - Kerry Ferrier**

**Freight Connector - Mark Wilson**

**Interstate Oasis Program Signing - Ed McCarthy**

**Wayfinding - Mark Wilson**

**Recreational & Cultural Interest Symbols – No report**

All of the reports focused on work associated with the NPA and/or policy statements developed by FHWA.

The following special task force reports were made:

**Pedestrian - Bill Anderson**

The main discussion of the committee centered on roundabout concerns and how to address signing and pavement markings for pedestrians.

**Edit Committee – Ernie Huckaby**

Discussion focused on interim approvals. The language of these approvals was reviewed and should be based on studies. Discussed what is and isn't a traffic control device. Also, the topic of private property open to public travel was reviewed.

**Roundabouts - Fred Hanscom – No report**

**Human Factors - Bryan Katz**

It was reported that the new committee was working through its organizational structure and discussed how the committee would operate. More information will be presented at future meetings.

The following items were covered during the task force discussions:

1. Specific Services – Rick Werts. Rick led the discussion on the work completed by the task force. First item discussed was the need to provide FHWA questions for a Request for Information (RFI) on how to improve the Specific Service Signing chapter in the MUTCD. The task force prepared a list of questions we would like to propose to be included in this RFI. Rick presented the items contained in the forwarded document and each was discussed. The RFI document is included at the end of this document. Further discussion has held on the RV Friendly symbol. New guidance was provided to FHWA based on concerns about the interim approval. A critical item reviewed was the need for trailblazing signs for the SS signs. All of items discussed need to be submitted to Linda Brown for the NPA.

Action: Rick to forward recommendations to Linda by February 1 and report back to GMI.

Follow up: February 1 recommendations provided by Rick for NPA are attached in pdf. Additional background information is included in the appendix.

Meeting adjourned.

2. Barry reviewed the second request from Lee. A GMI member was asked to participate in a Joint Task Force with RW and TTC to develop a recommendation for the full Council on the current FHWA minimum sign reflectivity proposal. Tim Crouch and Ed McCarthy were appointed to represent GMI.

Action: Tim to report back to GMI on recommendations.

Follow up: Tim reported that the Joint Task Force recommendation was to accept the FHWA proposal with the addition of another point stating "In addition, agencies are not limited to these five proposed methods, as they can also develop their own methods using documented engineering judgment or studies that demonstrate that deviations are appropriate." This language was modified during the General Session meeting.

3. A discussion took place on the proposed minimum reflectivity standards. Linda Brown briefly explained the requirements, specifically the levels required and the need for an evaluation methodology. Ernie Huckaby believes the minimum levels are easily obtainable. Brian Stanford, Texas DOT, was part of the evaluation team and explained that Texas would replace the signs long before they would reach the minimum standards. A straw poll was taken on whether or not the minimum standards should be included in the new manual. The vote was 26 YES, 3 NO, 1 Abstention.
4. Option Lane Exit Signing – Barry presented info that the Council did not pass the proposed signing option. Based on that action, another proposal was developed by a task force lead by PD addressing the concerns expressed by the Council. A review took place of the new proposal. Jon Upchurch comparing the new proposal and the previous proposal provided additional info. Sue Chrysler indicated that TTI will be finishing research on this subject and could provide more guidance in the near future. It was determined that a new proposal must be developed. A task force was developed with Bryan Katz as lead and Meg Moore, Texas, Brian Stanford, Texas, Mark Wilson, Florida, Steve Buckley, Kansas, Wes Dean, Mississippi, as members and Sue Chrysler and Jon Upchurch, as resource participants.

Action: Bryan to work with task group to develop new proposal for GMI to present to Council in January.

5. Interstate Oasis Program – Linda Brown, FHWA, indicated that rule making would be done this year. A task force was developed to review information and begin to make recommendations on signing. Ed McCarthy is the lead and Ernie Huckaby is a member.

Action: Ed to report back to GMI at January meeting.

6. Meeting was adjourned.

Appendix:

**Questions for RFI on Specific Service Signing**  
**October 24, 2006**

1. Section 2F.01 of the MUTCD indicates the criteria that should be considered for gas, food and lodging logos includes a public telephone. Since most public telephones (pay phones) are being phased out due to cell phone use, should this wording be removed or replaced with “access to a telephone for emergencies”?
2. Should the qualifications for attractions be better defined? There are indications some states are allowing McDonald’s Restaurants with playgrounds as an attraction. Should the manual better define attractions so as to specifically eliminate these type facilities from the attractions sign?
3. Should the manual define what constitutes a meal to qualify for a food logo? Is a packaged bagel or donut and coffee considered to be breakfast?
4. Are there enough camping facilities to designate a separate sign panel or should it be combined with lodging where applicable to form a Lodging/Camping panel?
5. Should Trailblazer signing be included in the manual?
6. Presently the MUTCD allows up to 4 logo signs at an interchange. Is 4 the right number or should it be more or less. Some concern has been raised that most exit ramps do not have adequate room for 4 ramp signs. Should the number of mainline signs be limited to the number of ramp signs that can be located on a ramp with adequate sign spacing?
7. Should the manual specify what a supplemental message is and which ones are acceptable on a logo panel? Examples of some messages presently in use are Closed Sunday, Open 24 Hours, Diesel, Alternative Fuel, etc.
8. Section 2F.02 specifies the required order of signs. Should this standard be changed to guidance? When service types are combined on the same sign, the order of signs can be violated.
9. Is the use of a dual logo on a single panel acceptable? If so, how many can there be on a sign? Is the smaller size logo on this panel adequate for visibility?
10. Is 6 the maximum number of logos that can be reasonably displayed on a sign or can it be increased to 9?

June 2006 Minutes on Specific Services issues.

Specific Services Signs – Rick Werts reported on the task force efforts. The task group supported the idea of allowing the use of additional empty space on other specific services signs. Info was presented about AASHTO Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering objection to the Interim Approval guidance. The concerns were that more than six logos could be used, potentially more than four logo signs could be requested, and then sign clutter on the ramps could lead to driver confusion. A straw poll was conducted on the Interim Approval with the votes 15 YES, 0 (zero) NO. GMI supports the Interim Approval guidance. However, it was discussed that additional research is required to address the concerns expressed by AASHTO SCOTE. Ernie Huckaby was added to the existing Task Force.

Action: Rick and Task Force to use research representatives to address AASHTO SCOTE concerns. Rick will produce time line for research to be completed and recommendations developed. Once information is developed, Rick will submit to Linda Brown for use to develop final policy.

RV Friendly Logo – A review was completed on the Interim Approval and past GMI action and concerns. Discussed the FHWA Interim Approval for the use of the signs. The Interim Approval allows the RV Friendly Sign to be partially outside the border of the logo panel. The GMI Technical Committee at the June 2005 meeting did not recommend this issue.

The following past motions and votes were made:

- Norm Deitch moved the RV Friendly Sign shall be kept within the logo panel and not overlap the border, seconded by P.D. Kiser – For – 18, Against – 0, Abstention - 2
- Kerry Ferrier moved the RV Friendly Sign shall be 12” in diameter with 8” black letters on yellow background on mainline panels and proportional on the ramp signs, seconded by Rick Werts – For 20, Against – 0
- Kerry Ferrier moved the RV Friendly Sign shall be located in the lower right hand corner of the logo panel, seconded by George Townsend – For – 19, Against – 1
- Kerry Ferrier moved for the adoption of minimum facility requirements as a requirement for allowing the RV Friendly Sign on the logo panel, seconded by Tom Aber – For – 21, Against – 0
- John Hansen moved the minimum facility requirements include that a U-turn can be made safely by an RV to get to the business, seconded by Sue Perkins – For – 21, Against – 0

It was recommended that this item be sent to Sponsors for comments with the intent to present for a Council vote in January.

Action: This item will be included to the Specific Services Signs Task Force responsibilities. Rick will develop comments to Interim Approval for GMI and submit to Chair. Rick will report to GMI on this issue in January.

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES**  
**GUIDE AND MOTORIST INFORMATION SIGN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES: January 18, 2007, Washington, DC**

Committee Chairman: Barry Warhoftig, West Virginia DOT  
Committee Vice-Chairman: Rick Werts, South Carolina DOT  
Committee Secretary: Robert Hull, Utah DOT

Technical Committee Members present:

|                 |                  |                 |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Barry Warhoftig | Rick Werts       | Robert Hull     |
| Tom Aber        | Bill Anderson    | Jim Keaton      |
| Sue Perkins     | Ernie Huckaby    | Linda Brown     |
| Geno D'Ippolito | Kerry Ferrier    | Tim Crouch      |
| George Townsend | Wes Dean         | Kathy Falk      |
| Jose Rivera     | Bryan Katz       | Maurice Palumbo |
| Doug Mace       | Michael Tantillo | Mark Wilson     |
| Steve Buckley   | Dave Anderson    | Maggie Cusack   |
| John Hansen     |                  |                 |

Visitors:

|                |                |                   |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Kenneth Frantz | Floyd Williams | Jonathan Upchurch |
| Ed McCarthy    | Jim Renner     | Everett Stewart   |
| David Burns    |                |                   |

Task Force topics were continued:

1. Oasis Program – Ed McCarthy. Ed discussed that the requirements for the Oasis program would be included in the NPA. A quick review of the Federal Register noted items that need to be addressed for the NPA submission. Ernie Huckaby suggested a specific review of the distance requirements listed in the Register. Robert Hull joined the task force to provide information on Utah's program that served as an example of this Oasis program.

Action: Task force to develop comments for NPA by February 1.

Follow up: Ernie submitted comments and recommendations to Linda on February 1. This information is included with this information.

2. Option Lane – Bryan Katz. Bryan and Jon Upchurch led a review of past information and recommendations to GMI. Again, it was noted that the Council did not pass the previously proposed signing option. It was decided work on this item must be continued with a possible idea of it being an option with multiple alternatives listed.

Action: Bryan to report back to GMI on recommendation development.

3. Wayfinding – Mark Wilson. Mark reported much work had been completed on this item and that Linda had received the requested information. The GMI members were comfortable with the recommendations provided for the NPA and no additional work was required.

4. CMS – Maggie Cusack. Maggie assumed the leadership role of this task group to provide comments and guidance for the NPA. The task force will develop this information and send it directly to Linda.

Action: Maggie will coordinate development of CMS guidance and submit to Linda in February.

Follow up: Maggie submitted CMS recommendations to Linda February 11. CMS recommendations are included with this information.

5. Managed Lanes/Toll Facilities – Kerry Ferrier. Kerry's presentation focused on the issue that toll facilities in general are being phased out and replaced by the open road tolling concept. Kerry reported the guidance provided by the FHWA policy and proposal for the NPA was unnecessary because of the changes occurring in toll systems. It was suggested that recommendations be developed based on the current direction in this area. Kerry will review the FHWA policy statement and provide comments to Linda.

Action: Kerry to submit task force recommendations to Linda in February.

Follow up: Kerry submitted recommendations to Linda on February 20. This information is included with the minutes.

6. Several new items were introduced for discussion and future GMI recommendations. These items will be considered for discussion at the June meeting.

Guide signs for roundabouts  
Managed lanes

Distance info on specific services signs  
Recreational and cultural symbols  
Clearview font usage

7. Meeting adjourned.