

NCUTCD

Railroad/Light Rail Transit Technical Committee (RR/LRT) Meeting Buffalo, New York – 6/22/2005

Chairman Richard Bowden called the afternoon meeting to order. Introductions were made and the sheets passed around for members and guests to sign in and check recorded addresses/phone numbers/emails.

The January 2005 RR/LRT Meeting minutes were moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved.

Hari Kalla, of FHWA, gave a summary of the Draft FHWA Guidance for use of YIELD or STOP Signs with the Crossbuck Sign at Passive Highway-Rail Grade Crossings. The following were discussed among RR/LRT:

- 1) RR/LRT spent time drafting the term “Crossbuck Assemblies” for the YIELD or STOP Signs with the Crossbuck, this was not referred to in this draft.
- 2) Although RR/LRT had requested interim approval of this from FHWA, based on an earlier meeting on this issue, it is felt this is the proper procedure is to give guidance and allow this to be included in the next MUTCD.
- 3) The issue of maximum train speed equal to or greater than 30 mph for the STOP Signs with the Crossbuck was not part of the NCUTCD proposal.
- 4) The NCUTCD proposed 4’ retrofit for the YIELD or STOP Signs with the Crossbuck was not referred to in this draft.
- 5) The NCUTCD proposal did not call for the YIELD or STOP Signs to be included with the Crossbuck on every passive public highway/rail grade crossing.

Kathy Dennis, the RR/LRT Edit Committee Representative, reported on issues the Edit Committee was reviewing. Kathy said the Edit Committee were changing the by laws of each Technical Committee. Kathy presented the proposed new language for the RR/LRT by laws, which is as follows:

“The jurisdiction of the Railroad/Light Rail Transit Technical Committee shall include the content of Parts 8 AND 10 of the MUTCD, and other items as may be assigned by the Executive Board. The Committee shall coordinate with other technical committees as needed.”

The proposed new RR/LRT by laws were moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved with two negative votes. Kathy also stated the Edit Committee was looking at rewriting research issues, minimizing use of “weasel words”, and continuing to define the term “Traffic Control Devices.”

Richard reported that the FHWA meeting with the NCUTCD and Technical Committee chairs mentioned that the new MUTCD was set for 2008, and the RR/LRT was asked to have their changes to the new manual to the full NCUTCD at the June 2006 meeting. The RR Committee Issue List dated 10/24/04 and titled Issues to Be Considered For the 2006 NPA Railroad/LRT was discussed and the following 37 issues were acted on or referred to a standing task force committee.

1. Referred to Wayside Horn/Quiet Zone – Susan Kirkland, Chairman.
2. Referred to Wayside Horn/Quiet Zone – Susan Kirkland, Chairman.

3. Referred to Wayside Horn/Quiet Zone – Susan Kirkland, Chairman.
4. New standing committee on Pedestrian crossings created – Dave Peterson, Chairman.
5. RR/LRT discussed and made a motion to stating that the use of in roadway lights at highway-rail grade crossings needs more research before it is included in the MUTCD. This was moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved.
6. Referred to Committee D; Stop/Yield Signs – Bill Shrewsberry, Chairman.
7. Referred to Committee D; Stop/Yield Signs – Bill Shrewsberry, Chairman.
8. Referred to Committee D; Stop/Yield Signs – Bill Shrewsberry, Chairman.
9. Referred to Committee D; Stop/Yield Signs – Bill Shrewsberry, Chairman.
10. Referred to Committee C; Preemption – Bernie Morris, Chairman.
11. Referred to Committee C; Preemption – Bernie Morris, Chairman.
12. Referred to Committee C; Preemption – Bernie Morris, Chairman.
13. Referred to Committee C; Preemption – Bernie Morris, Chairman.
14. Referred to Committee C; Preemption – Bernie Morris, Chairman.
15. Referred to Committee D; Stop/Yield Signs – Bill Shrewsberry, Chairman.
16. Referred to Committee D; Stop/Yield Signs – Bill Shrewsberry, Chairman.
17. NCUTCD has already voted this item down.
18. RR/LRT discussed and motion to leave Sections 8D.02 and 8D.03 as two sections was made, seconded, and approved.
19. Referred to Committee C; Preemption – Bernie Morris, Chairman.
20. Referred to Committee C; Preemption – Bernie Morris, Chairman.
21. The remaining issues, with the exception of 22, were referred the standing task force on LRT – Tom Lancaster, Chairman.
22. The issues on exclusive busway and BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) would continue to need more discussion.

The above referenced standing task force committees for the RR/LRT were asked to summarize their respective issues and bring their responses to RR/LRT in January 2006, so that these issues can be brought before the full NCUTCD by June 2006.

Richard mentioned that Tim Huya and Andy Amparan of BNSF were going to seek membership on RR/LRT.

Tom Lancaster, Chairman of the standing task force on LRT, then reviewed some LRT issues. RR/LRT reviewed the proposed changes to Section 10C.17 and a motion was made to change the Support text from traffic control signals to traffic control devices. This was seconded and passed by RR/LRT.

RR/LRT also reviewed the proposed changes to Section 10C.02, but RR/LRT decided this should remain as passed by RR/LRT in January 2005. Both Sections 10C.17 and 10C.02 were to be presented to the full NCUTCD.

Tom Lancaster also handed a summary of four items to be discussed with RR/LRT. The first was a proposed LRT Crossing Sign (W10-xx). After discussion a motion was made, seconded, and passed to add the following:

Section 10C.xx LRT Crossing Sign (W10.xx)

Option:

The LRT Crossing Sign (W10-xx) may be used at pedestrian and bicycle crossings of LRT tracks within station areas to warn that a train may be approaching.

RR/LRT was adjourned until the next day.

NCUTCD

Railroad/Light Rail Transit Technical Committee (RR/LRT) Meeting Buffalo, New York – 6/23/2005

Chairman Richard Bowden called the afternoon meeting to order. Sheets were again passed around for members and guests to sign in and check recorded addresses/phone numbers/emails.

Richard mentioned the four items the FHWA has given interim approval on were retroreflective background borders for signs, wayside horns, clear view fonts, and the automated flagger. It was explained that FHWA would not be able to give an interim approval for the Crossbuck Assembly as this safety measure would need to be addressed as a Standard in the next MUTCD.

Richard briefed RR/LRT on the Experimental Process. There are currently about 160 experimental requests with only 20 reports in preparation. Some key reports forthcoming were to be on retroreflectivity and border crossings. Richard then mentioned states were encouraged to adapt the Uniform Vehicle Code for private property. There were some considerations to amend MUTCD Section 1A.07 further, which could bring in more discussion on private crossings for RR/LRT.

Richard stated that he would be stepping down after this NCUTCD meeting and Richard Campbell of RCL would become chairman of RR/LRT. Also, Rod Dillenberg of Union Pacific Railroad and Tim Huya of BNSF Railway were accepted as members on the RR/LRT.

Tom Lancaster, Chairman of the standing task force on LRT, then resumed discussion of the four items to be discussed with RR/LRT. The second was a discussion of LRT driveway crossings, and after discussion, no changes were proposed for part 10 by RR/LRT. The third was a discussion of LRT signals, and after discussion, no changes were proposed for part 10 by RR/LRT.

The fourth item was on back up power for traffic signals preempted with railroad signals. RR/LRT had previously proposed changes to 8D.07. These proposed changes were discussed and reviewed by RR/LRT. After discussion, the previous guidance was changed to a standard statement and guidance added for back up power a minimum of 8 hours of normal operation. A motion was made to accept these proposed changes, seconded, and passed with three nays by RR/LRT.

Bernie Morris, Chairman of the standing task force on Preemption, then lead a discussion of the Issues to Be Considered For the 2006 NPA Railroad/LRT by his task force. For issues numbers 10 and 11 the task force did not recommend any changes. For issue number 12, the task force would look at changing some language to clarify. For issue number 13, this appears to be a sign FHWA put in, and the task force recommended this be referred back to FHWA. For issue number 14, the task force would look at changing some language to clarify. For issues numbers 19 and 20, the task force would review previous discussions. The task force will bring proposed language for issues numbers 12, 14, 19, and 20 to the January 2006

RR/LRT meeting for review. Mel McNichols asked this task force to review the pavement markings to block out an intersection as relates to RR/LRT preemption intersections.

Susan Kirkland, Chairman of the standing task force on Wayside Horn/Quiet Zone, then informed RR/LRT that her task force was looking at several items relative to the Quiet Zone rule. Among them were night barricades, ADA issues, definitions, and guidance statements. The task force will bring these items to the January 2006 RR/LRT meeting for review.

Dave Peterson, Chairman of the new standing task force on Pedestrian crossings, mentioned there were some discussions about changes to Section 8B.20 to include standard truncated domes for pedestrians and placement relative to the crossing. Bill Browder and Brent Ogden talked about some discussions with the Access Board. Brent also mentioned this task force might look at the new Grade Crossing Handbook being prepared for additional pedestrian input.

Bill Shrewsberry, Chairman of the standing task force on Passive Crossings; Stop/Yield Signs, reviewed required changes to Part 5 and 10 due to recommended changes to Part 8. RR/LRT discussed the required changes to Part 5 to address the Crossbuck Assembly. A motion was made to accept these changes. This was seconded and passed by RR/LRT. RR/LRT discussed the required changes to Part 10 to address the Crossbuck Assembly or where only a Stop or Yield alone might be required for LRT. A motion was made to accept these changes. This was seconded and passed by RR/LRT.

Mel McNichols mentioned the issue on the Emergency Notification Sign and reminded RR/LRT this would need more discussion at the January 2006 RR/LRT meeting.

Jim Murphy gave a presentation on the Crossing Gate Arm Stripping and proposed some changes. A motion was made to accept these changes. This was seconded and passed by RR/LRT.

RR/LRT was adjourned.