

NCUTCD Technical Committee – Parts 8 and 10
Railroad/Light Rail (RR/LR)
Meeting Minutes:

Date: January 18, 2006
Location: Crystal Palace Hotel, Washington, D.C.
Time: 1:00 PM
Quorum: Yes

Introductions:

Chairman: Rick Campbell, Railroad Controls Limited
Vice-Chairman: Darrin Kosmak, TX DOT
Secretary: Danniell MacDonald, BNSF Ry Co
FHWA Rep: Pete Rusche

Safety Briefing

Procedural items addressed by the Chairman. Self introductions of committee members followed.

Chairman's Updates:

Chairman presented update from NCUTCD Chairman's meeting:
FHWA and Liaison discussed – funding is an issue
Y/S Guidance memo is delayed from FHWA in DC to the field offices
FHWA is dealing with mandates from congress on several issues:
NCUTCD web site is expanding.

Taskforce groups:

Two NCUTCD taskforces are working on issues with potential impacts to Parts 8 and 10: Urbanization and Roundabouts:

The Urbanization taskforce is dealing with application of the MUTCD to low speed, private roadways, i.e. shopping malls/airports. This taskforce is chaired by Tom Hicks of Maryland SHA. Dave Peterson is the RR/LR technical committee representative on this taskforce. Short report followed from Mr. Peterson:

Key RR/LR issue: Where does the manual apply – private crossings/facilities?

Taskforce is to further define the issues and possible implications.

Warrant 9 Presentation:

The Chairman's report was suspended to allow Bill McShane, X University, to present the current status of the development of Warrant No. 9. Mr. McShane was accompanied by Kevin Weinish, KLD Associates. Ed Fischer, State Traffic Engineer from the State of Oregon also joined the committee as a guest for this discussion. Presentation by Mr. McShane. Warrant 9 is for installation of traffic

signals at highway-highway intersections near highway-rail grade crossings. A brief discussion followed. Key items for RR/LR: Warrant 9 is for where other warrants are not met; higher volumes would trigger other warrants.

Adjourned for break at 15.00. 15.30 re-convened.

Chairman's Report – Continued

The Chairman's report continued following the Break:

The second taskforce is on roundabouts.

Key RR/LR concern: Preemption near a round about – How to reassign right-of-way during preemption?

A brief discussion on an example of a round-about near a highway-rail grade crossing followed. Mel McNickles and/or Paul O'Brian will attend the taskforce meetings as RR/LR representatives.

Report Received from the RR/LR representative to the NCUTCD Edit Committee: Kathy Davis gave the report: The issue about what a traffic control device is continues to be discussed. Private property issues also being discussed related to the definition of a traffic control device.

At the Chairman's request, the reading of the minutes from the June NCUTCD Meeting in Buffalo, NY was tabled until June 2006.

Chairman gave an overview of items to accomplish:

1. Review sponsor comments from items sent to sponsor's following June 2005 meeting. Chairman provided explanation of what the process was for sponsor comments.
2. Review list of questions/comments raised by FHWA to RR/LR committee.
3. Receive reports from RR/LR sub-committees.
 - Susan Kirkland – Quite zone
 - Tom Lancaster – Light Rail
 - Bill Shrewsbury – YEILD/STOP
 - Bernie Morris – Interconnection.
4. Other issues: June 2006 is cut off for sending items to sponsor's for inclusion in rulemaking for MUTCD for 2008.

Discussion of Technical Committee Recommendations to Sponsors' Comments.

RRLRT No. 1 - Figure 8D-1 and 8D-3, Section 8D.04 and 6F.58 (Gate Arm Striping)

Discussion of the comments received. Comments were considered editorial. Edit committee will correct the word "Alternately" in the last sentence of 8D.04.

Section 6F.58 Channelizing Devices – RR/LR Committee voted to remove the proposed change to this section.

RRLRT No. 2 - Section 5F.01 – 5F.06 and Figure 5F-1 (Crossbuck Assembly)

Discussion on comments received. All comments presented to the committee were non-persuasive. No changes from proposed language were approved.

RRLRT No. 3 - Section 8D.07 (Standby power for preempted traffic controls signals)

Discussion on comments received. All comments presented to the committee were not persuasive. It was the vote of the committee to leave as sent out for sponsor comments (with a “**shall**” condition).

RRLRT No. 4 - Section 10B.01, 10C.02-10C.04, 10C.15 and Figure 10C-3 (Crossbuck Assembly).

Discussion on comments received. It was accepted that the proposal needs to be revised to incorporate the same language as in Part 5F. “or is omitted in accordance with Part 8B” All other comments presented to the committee were not persuasive.

Sub-Committee Items:

Quiet Zones

Susan Kirkland presented DRAFT language of proposed Quiet Zone language for informal review and comment; the Quiet Zone sub-committee will meet in the morning to prepare a formal presentation to the full RR/LR committee.

Signal/Interconnection

Two items added to signal sub-committee:

Pedestrian Issues: There is a proposal to make the walking speed 3.5 ft/sec rather than 4 ft/sec. Key items of concern for RR/LR:

Preemption time may be lengthened significantly

Pedestrian crossings near highway-rail grade crossings may be closed

Impacts coordinated signals near highway-rail grade crossings

STOP/YIELD lines: This issue resurfaced from Pavement Markings committee.

RR/LR cites certain vehicles with mandatory stops; point of reference 49 CFR 392.10. Federal motor carrier requires the stop. No committee action.

The Chairman appointed Tim Huya to chair a new sub-committee on pedestrian issues for RR/LR as Dave Peterson is involved with the Urbanization task force.

Adjourned

NCUTCD Technical Committee – Parts 8 and 10
Railroad/Light Rail (RR/LR)
Meeting Minutes:

Date: January 19, 2006
Location: Crystal Palace Hotel, Washington, D.C.
Time: 1:00 PM
Quorum: Yes

Chairman gave overview of morning's General Session:

NCUTCD National Committee approved new by-laws

Key Items for RR/LR:

Adopted 2 year terms for committee chairs. Current chairs will be authorized for 2 years.

Members missing 3 consecutive meetings are automatically off committee.

Will need 2/3rds vote to pass an item out of the technical committee (of members present).

Sub-committee Reports:

Quiet Zone Sub-committee Report – Susan Kirkland

Sub-committee proposes new Chapter to Part 8 on quiet zones: *Chapter 8E – Quite Zone Treatments at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings*. It was reported that the sub-committee made substantial revisions during its morning session versus the DRAFT presented yesterday. Discussion on the new 8E followed:

8E.01:

Change “erected” to “utilized”.

Moved, seconded and passed to adopt 8E.01 as revised.

8E.02

Temp closure: Title and language pulled directly from rule.

Discussion of removing “approach” from Standard. Moved, seconded and passed to “approach” from proposed STANDARD. Editorial comment to modify Support statement to conform to proposed STANDARD.

Tamper and vandal resistance sentence discussed as to also “locking in place”.

Moved, seconded, and passed to adopt 8E.02 as revised.

8E.03

Discussion on “Support” statement: issue of “approach” raised again.

Added “entering and exiting the crossing.” Dropped last part of sentence.

Moved, seconded, and passed to adopt 8E.03 as revised.

8E.04

Support: Changed “this” to “these.”

Changed “option” to “ability to”.

Changed “circumventing” to “circumvent.”

Changed “switching” to “driving”.

Changed “driving” to “maneuvering.”

Other minor edits discussed and accepted in first paragraph.

Intent of Barrier gate sentence discussed as part of this section. Removed sentence and deferred item to summer meeting for re-consideration. Pointed out that the technical committee could not approve a new traffic control device. Only FHWA has the ability to issue an interim approval.

Discussed if panels are accepted traffic control devices.

Break at 2:45 to discuss and re-group.

Re-convened at 3:20 p.m.

8E.04

Re-visited channelization issue – Revised title to “Gates with Raised Medians or Raised Islands in a Quiet Zone”

Added sentences and re-worked language to Standard. “Vertical panels or tubular delineators, if used, shall be installed on a raised median or island.”

Also added “if used” to existing proposed section relative to applicable sections of Part 3 of MUTCD.

Federal Register page 21902 describes difference between raised non-mountable curb from 4” channelization with delineators.

Discussion on rule language. Proposed adding language from rule to standard to differentiate non-traversable curbs from raised islands with delineators. Added “Opposing traffic lanes on both highway approaches to the crossing shall be separated by either: (1) medians bounded by non-traversable curbs or (2) raised islands (min. 4 in high) with vertical panels or tubular delineators.”

“Raised medians or raised islands shall comply with applicable Sections in Part 3 of the MUTCD.”

“Vertical panels or tubular delineators, if used, shall be installed only on a raised median or raised island.”

Standard: changed references to “curb or channelization devices” to “raised medians or raised islands.” Re-worked next sentence.

Guidance: maintenance paragraph revised to match changes to temporary closure system.

Moved, seconded, and passed to adopt 8E.04 as revised.

Proposal from the floor to include language for use of barrier gate in 8E. Review of Part 4 relative to barrier gate on moveable bridges states that barrier gate is a “design feature” not a traffic control device because it is placed behind typical gate to close road to highway user. Proposal denied by Committee.

8E.05

Discussed, moved, seconded, and passed to put back in sentence about use of dual gates on one-way streets.

Made revision to change “must” to “shall.”

Moved, seconded, and passed to adopt 8E.05 as revised.

Visitor to RR/LR Technical Committee: Scott Windley

Mr. Windley visited from the Signals Technical Committee. Discussion on use and placement of truncated domes on crossing approach to pedestrian crossings to avoid placement of domes in an area where gate may drop on top of a blind pedestrian. Need to know where to place t-domes. Bill Browder commented on AAR task force to determine an accepted distance. Tim Huya is chairing a sub-committee on pedestrian issues. Chairman suggested that sub-committee meet and bring recommendations to summer meeting regarding this issue. RR/LR Technical Committee encouraged Mr. Windley to continue providing guidance regarding accessibility issues.

Definitions for new QZ manual part: (added to Part 8)

Discussion on the following issues:

- Supplemental plaque – deleted, already defined.

- Diagnostic Team - discussion of extent of definition as defined in Part 646.204, or extended version as provided by private crossing section in horn rule.

- Dropped definition of Channelization device.

- Defined FRA Approved QZ to add reference to CFR

- Revised Constant Warning Time definition.

- Struck power off indicator

The issue of a definition of a Barrier gate definition was discussed at length. Discussed need to re-define in Part 4a-2 to change name of “resistance gate” to “barrier gate.” Part 41.01 also states it is NOT a traffic control device as previously noted. Can not re-define a design feature as a traffic control device by action of technical committee. Chairman proposed Andy Davis put together a point paper to recommend proposal for addition to manual for consideration at the summer meeting.

- Moved, seconded, and passed to adopt definitions as revised.

8D-05 Wayside Horn Systems

- Standard, 2nd sentence strike “in so far as practical.”

- Revised paragraph on when a wayside horn will be sounded with a power-off indicator, or the train horn sounded as defined by rule.

- Replaced “installed” with “equipped.”

- Reference to rule precludes need to describe sound level operation as described in following paragraph.

- Clarified several discussion items,

- Added sentence “Where multiple tracks are present, the wayside horn system shall immediately reactivate when another train is detected before the previous train clears the crossing.” at end of penultimate paragraph.

Guidance: Changed last sentence proposed in Guidance to an option statement since it is a “may” condition.

- Added sentence as option for back-up power system.

Discussed adding language to consider use at multiple track crossings where train-meets at crossing are possible.

Moved, seconded, and passed to adopt 8D-05 as revised.

John Sharkey & Mel McNichols went over to support Warrant 9 in Signals Committee: Warrant 9 passed Signal Committee

Review of the FHWA Questions/Comments on Parts 8 and 10:

Attached hereto are the RR/LR committee's comments back to FHWA regarding the questions posed regarding items in Parts 8 and 10 for consideration in the 2008 MUTCD.

Revision of Section 8D.07

Discussion of adding language to 8D.07 preemption section to address highway-rail grade crossing which crosses through roundabouts and other circular intersections. Need to provide clearance of vehicles in roundabout prior to activation of preemption sequence. Complex issue which needs to be addressed in roundabout design. Drafted proposed manual part as additional Standard to 8D.07 for consideration by full national committee. Motioned and seconded for vote. Further discussion. Developed Guidance statement based on further discussion. Guidance statement discussed and withdrawn. Moved, seconded, and passed to adopt 8D.07 revisions as presented.

Chairman: Signal committee needs to be advised we are changing to vertical stripes on gate arm to address needed changes to Part 4I .

Adjourn