

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

Date: January 17, 2007
Location: Crystal City, Washington D.C.
Time: 1:00 PM
Quorum: Yes

Safety Briefing by Dan MacDonald

Introductions:

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

Welcome to proposed new members in attendance: Ahmer Nizam (WSDOT), Marc Morrison (WSDOT), Connie Hubbard (Qwick Kurb), Terry Lee (CN).

Notice of reinstatement of committee member: Jim Murphy, Murphy Consulting.
Notice of applications: Sean Skehan (City of LA DOT – not at meeting),

Notice of change in employment: Kathy Dennis, NE Florida Regional Transportation Council; Jack Webb, J Webb & Associates.

Friends of the Committee: Richard Bowden, BNSF; Scott Windley, US Access Board – not at meeting.

Self introductions of committee members followed.

Meeting Minutes:

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and passed, it was resolved that: the minutes from the July 2006 meeting in Overland Park, KS, were approved as amended.

Procedural items:

The Chairman led a discussion on the ratio requirements for the committee and the desire to continue to recruit additional members from public agencies. There is currently no representation for 16 states on the National Committee.

Chairman's Updates:

This is the last meeting to submit material that will be approved by national committee prior to the FHWA going to rule making for the 2009 MUTCD. FHWA

plans to move forward with formal rule making in March of 2007. NPA (notice of proposed amendment) is scheduled to be published by FHWA in August, 2007. The Committee would like to advance ENS signs to FHWA with a full National Committee recommendation; if it is revised and presented at this meeting it may be possible. The pedestrian issue is not likely to advance. However, it may be possible to send the recommendation from the Railroad Light Rail Technical committee directly to the FHWA for consideration. FHWA will open the docket to receive comments following publishing the NPA in August. The January 2008 NCUTCD meeting will allow NCUTCD to comment on issues in NPA.

Items for the June NCUTCD Meeting: FHWA wants to restart strategic planning function. This will be discussed in greater detail at the June meeting. FHWA is looking for guidelines from research committee for funding. Each Tech Comm should have a rep on the research committee. Please let Chair or Secretary know if anyone is interested.

The Edit Committee is working on a statement of jurisdiction.

Urbanization of traffic control devices – This subject is being discussed by the Edit Committee.

Upcoming NCUTCD Meetings: Summer 2007 meeting is in Tahoe 2007 (June 20 -22), and in Mobile, AL in 2008. Winter meetings will be in Washington, D.C.

Discussion on AASHTO's selection of locations. It was expressed that many public agencies would not be able to attend a meeting in Tahoe.

Number of chairmen commented need more cookies. Chairman to address this issue with National Committee Secretary.

RR/LRT Taskforce Reports:

Light Rail Transit:

LRT requested to go through part 10; some may be covered

Crossbucks – this may have been removed

Change wording regarding LRT blankout signs – Done by national committee

Active Devices – vary with device location - active devices chapter

This is one problem with chapter 10, there is a shall condition (10D.02)

There is research underway to address when crossing gates would be required.

Diagram in Part 10 (Light rail transit signals) – Virtually no one in the United States uses 3 signals, LRT taskforce wants to delete 3 signal heads. None of these are in service.

Upon chairman's suspension of the rules, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and passed, it was resolved that: the three lens Figure 10D-1 column be deleted.

Section 10D.08 – Needs to be changed, waiting on part 8 changes.

Barrier Gate:

The report opened with a discussion on the direction for the Barrier Gate Task Force.

Upon chairman's suspension of the rules, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and passed, it was resolved that: the taskforce would propose a NEW SECTION to Part 8 of the MUTCD barrier gate application.

Tom Hicks – Chair of NC Edit Committee - joined the RR/LR Committee for a discussion about what is a traffic control device. The old/existing definition was/is very broad. The challenge technical committee, as set forth by the National Committee, is to review what is a traffic control device.

Adjourned for break at 15:00 – Reconvened at 15:30

Pre-emption

AREMA is reworking the issue of pre-emption. A presentation was made regarding the revisions AREMA is considering. AREMA is voting on the proposed language at this time.

Upon suspension of rules by the Chairman, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and passed, it was resolved that: Send back to Preemption committee so they can work the proposed AREMA revisions into the applicable sections of 8D.07 and supporting parts of 10D.06 of the MUTCD and send to TC for review in hopes of getting to FHWA.

Quiet Zone

Report on definition of “failsafe” – this will be returned to the taskforce, for review and development. A report on this issue will be presented tomorrow.

Pedestrian

It was reported that the RR/LRT Pedestrian taskforce met this morning with the Bicycle Technical committee to resolve issues. A consensus was reached on the definitions to be used in the proposed section in Part 8 with the Bicycle Technical Committee. Additional presentation to follow tomorrow after taskforce meets again.

Old Business

ENS:

The Chairman opened discussion with the history of the ENS sign followed by a discussion of the proposed simplified version of the previously proposed manual part. The proposed STANDARD was discussed and accepted. Guidance was amended to change language to “stopped on or at the crossing” rather than “stopped on the crossing”. Completely re-worded and moved placement of ENS info on cabin from guidance to option. Reworded other portions of option and guidance.. Revised reference to ENS on Table 8B-1 to show size is variable and add note 3 “size determined by legend”.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and passed, it was resolved to: adopt the proposed new Section 8B.12 by the Technical Committee as amended and present to the National Committee for consideration on Friday.

Meeting adjourned at 19:40.

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Meeting Minutes:

Date: January 18, 2007
Location: Crystal City, Washington D.C.
Time: 1:00 PM
Quorum: Yes

Review of Safety Briefing by Chairman

Chairman's Report:

The chairman gave a report of the morning session of the full National Committee:

Advised that Amher Nizam, Marc Morrison, and Connie Hubbard, were voted and accepted into the technical committee, and Jim Murphy was reinstated as a member of the technical committee by the executive committee of the NC last evening. They are now voting members.

Chairman presented a summary of Hari Kalla (FHWA) report. Key items were the discussion of Wayside Horns, Yield/Stop, and Part 4 – Warrant 9.

The Chairman reported that the Sign Technical Committee made changes to "safe and efficient" in Part 5F-01

Upon suspension of rules by the Chairman, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and passed, it was resolved to: revise 8A-01 and 10A-01 to match the language used in 5F-01 as passed by the National Committee today.

RR/LRT Taskforce Reports (continued from January 17, 2007):

Human Factors Taskforce - National Committee

Human Factors Resource is a sponsor, Brian Gilleran, FRA, is RR/LRT's representative to the NC taskforce on Human Factors. This was the first meeting. They are proposed to be used by the individual technical committees as needed to address human factors issues within each committee. They are a resource for the Technical committees.

Retro-Reflectivity

The sign retro-reflectivity issue is in Federal rule making.

Urbanization Task Force

Report issued this summer by Paul Box. Concerns were expressed that previous comments had not been accepted.

Report contains standard related to private crossings. This addressed the concern of the Technical Committee.

Ad-hoc discussion on the FRA Private Highway Rail Grade Crossing Hearing. Discussion of comments made in New Orleans, LA at one of the FRA hearings. Issue of “semi-public” road use. FRA is out for comments on Crossing inventory form. It closes this month. Jurisdictional considerations are paramount in any discussion or consideration by FRA in changing current policy. Particularly in relation to agency participation in diagnostic study recommendations.

Roundabouts

8D-08 was added at June 2006 meeting.

Edit Committee:

Edit committee had discussion on what is a traffic control device. Compile list of items that are or are not traffic devices. Edit committee will provide a list back to TC for review of what is a traffic control device. Traffic control devices on private property.

New Business:

Presentation of Quiet Zone Taskforce Proposed Definition

Issue of a definition for “Failsafe” was discussed. AREMA, Part 234, APTA definitions were reviewed.

Upon suspension of the rules by the Chairman, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and passed, it was resolved to: define “Failsafe” in a new definition in 8A.01 as follows:

Standard:

Failsafe – A design principal in railway signaling, the objective of which is to eliminate the hazardous effects of a component or system failure.

The Quiet Zone taskforce was disbanded at this time. Thank you to Susan Kirkland for her task force’s work.

Presentation of Pedestrian Taskforce Proposed Chapter

Discussion on pathway grade crossings. Changes and recommendations for Proposed Chapter 8F Traffic Controls for Pathway Rail Grade Crossings were discussed at length. There was lengthy discussion over definitions and differences between shared use path, pathway, and sidewalk. Pathway definition was amended to adhere to existing definition of shared use path. Sidewalk crossing definition and references to sidewalk crossings were deleted.

Tom Zeinz was tasked with developing text for sidewalk crossings to be addressed in another existing or new chapter of Part 8. LRT committee to review adopting a new Chapter in Part 10 to address pathway crossings for presentation at June 2007 meeting.

Design features v. traffic control devices relative to swing gates and fencing were discussed.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and passed, it was resolved to: adopt the proposed new Chapter 8F by the Technical Committee as amended and present to the National Committee on Friday.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:15.