

APPROVED January 9, 2008

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

Date: June 20, 2007
Location: State Line, Nevada
Time: 13:15
Quorum: Yes

Safety Briefing by Dan MacDonald

Introductions:

Chairman: Rick Campbell, Rio Grande Pacific
Vice-Chairman: Darin Kosmak, TX DOT
Secretary: Danniell MacDonald, BNSF Ry Co
FHWA Rep: Pete Rusch

Welcome by the Chairman.

Administrative Issues:

Discussion on Membership – Sean Skehan – City of LA – Attending first meeting – will be approved tonight by executive board.

New member pending – Susan Aylesworth – MN DOT Rail – she will attend first meeting in January.

Pending members – Tom Rose, CN/IC.

Discussion on membership – desire to add light rail members. We will discuss with Paul O'Brien later this meeting (APTA members?).

Tabled reading of Minutes until tomorrow.

RR/LRT Taskforce Reports:

Light Rail Transit

Nothing new to report. Standing by for RR pedestrian taskforce for Part 8 and will adapt to Part 10.

Barrier gate

Met this morning. They will be sending out lots of information to TC members. Responses requested in 30 days. Presentation in January was withdrawn by TC in full National Committee. NC committee chair requested significant increase in information by TC in order to approve this item. Target presentation of new material at January 2008 meeting. Taskforce is considering either a new section or addition to 8D. Upon review of the previous minutes (not yet published), the direction provided in January was to create a new section on "barrier gate application". Review of 4I.01 followed. More to come on this issue.

Preemption/Roundabouts – committee reports combined

NC Taskforce on Roundabouts is now aware of RR and LR issues. Considering guidance on whether or not roundabouts should be used near RR/LR in or near the vicinity of the roundabout. Florida DOT has some design documents on this issue; these include consideration of RR/LR in or near. FHWA includes limitations of roundabouts near HRGC in FHWA resource center workshops.

Discussion of AREMA section that deals with pre-emption. At last Committee 36 meeting, approved the new pre-emption for AREMA. This language will be available in 2008 AREMA manual which will be published in Sept 2007. We will review the impacts of this action on 8D.07 tomorrow. Goal to get the pre-emption section revised and submitted to FHWA as a comment to the NPA from the technical committee.

Pedestrian

Task Force meeting tomorrow at 09:00. Full committee approved what was presented in January 2007 (Pathway-Rail Grade Crossings). Main body is there (as approved by NC). Discuss signs, possible options for additional signs and more applications for sidewalks? May need to bring in more options for sidewalks – this was outside of original scope. Discussion on sidewalks and issues with location of devices.

Fail-Safe

Tabled to January 2008. MUTCD vs. Industry standard for failsafe is the issue to be discussed. Will send to sponsors for comments in order to resolve in Jan. 2008.

NC Taskforce Liaison Reports:

Human Factors –

Scott Windley provided a report to the Committee. It was the 2nd meeting of the Human Factors taskforce. Taskforce had a visitor from Signals TC that observed the meeting with a question.

Retro-Reflectivity

AASHTO is going to propose standards in December. Discussion on where this topic is headed.

Research

Report from last meeting – January 2007. Chairman is Jeff Baghdad. Concern was expressed that some interim approvals were not supported by research. Research committee will take a more active role in developing research statements with Technical Committees. Next meeting is tomorrow at 15:30.

Committee Reports:

Edit Committee

New procedures and processes for the Edit Committee. These were sent out after the January 2007 meeting. This standardizes the way the committee does its business. Technical Committee Chairman to review and provide comments back to Edit Committee on proposed items. Standardizes the forms used.

Discussion regarding traffic control devices on private property. The Edit Committee is divided on this subject. It is an ongoing discussion – no resolution is anticipated at this time..

Discussion on reduction in volume of MUTCD.

Discussion on “What is a traffic control device” is continuing. The question was posed as to guidance related to what is a traffic control device. There is no guidance. Edit committee is working on a list of “what is”, what isn’t” and “what maybe” TCD.

Old Business:

Private Crossings

There is one more meeting for FRA’s private crossing initiative. It is scheduled for July in Syracuse, NY.

New Business:

Review sponsor comments

Upon review of the meeting notes, and subject to verification of national committee morning session meeting minutes (for Friday, January 19th) the ENS for both Part 8 and 10 have been adopted by the full National Committee. This issue is not going to be reopened.

Discussion on Part 10:

Discussed the need to conduct a full review of Part 10. Chairman appointed a new taskforce to review Part 10 and prepare proposed revisions to Part 10 for consideration at the January 2008 meeting. Tom Lancaster, chair, Sean Skehan, Brent Ogden, Varouj Jinbachian, Paul O’Brien, Phil Olekszyk, Chuck Fox, Dave Lanning, Kathy Dennis.

Discussion on Part 8D.07

Proposed changes to 8D.07 were discussed. The issue of the need for a definition of a “Queue-cutter signal” was raised? Does the requirement need to be included that this is at a mid-block location? Queue-cutter is not in MUTCD, is it located anywhere else? Tom and Brent will create a definition of this device? The term is in the ITE recommended practice, but not defined. It is in the proposed (not yet published) Grade Crossing Handbook, but not defined.

Adjourned at 17:10

Informal discussion on “queue cutter signals” and pre-emption followed.

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Quorum: Yes

Safety briefing reviewed by Chairman

Unfinished business: Approval of Minutes:

The meeting minutes for the January 2007 meeting were read and approved as amended.

Chairman's Report - NCUTCD General Session

The executive board approved Sean Skehan, LA DOT, as a new member of the RR/LRT Technical Committee. He was recognized at the General Session.

The focus of the January 2008 meeting will be the NPA for 2009 MUTCD. The meeting is scheduled for January 9 to 12 (Saturday). NOTE: Due to the volume of material expected as a result of the NPA, the Winter meeting is scheduled for Wednesday to SATURDAY. Saturday is expected to be used by the National Committee in General Session; it is not anticipated that the Technical Committees will meet on Saturday. However, technical committee members need to be available early Wednesday morning (i.e. Tuesday arrival is suggested) for technical committee meetings. The official agenda will be forthcoming.

Pete Rusch is retiring in September from FHWA. At the present time, FHWA has not appointed a new liaison to the RRLRT TC.

Hari Kalla, FHWA, briefly discussed the proposed NPA. He highlighted Wayside Horns, Yield/Stop initiative and Pathway Rail grade crossings as areas potentially under consideration for the NPA. FHWA anticipates an August/September timeframe for issuance of the NPA. The NPA will be open for 6 months for comment. The next version of MUTCD is still anticipated late 2008 or early 2009.

Signs and Pavement markings technical committee proposals were presented and acted upon by the National Committee.

New Business:

Pre-emption changes

Proposed changes to Section 8D.07 were discussed at length. Proposed changes to Section 8A.01 related to the definitions used in Section 8D.07 were discussed at length.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and passed, it was resolved to adopt the proposed changes to Sections 8D.07 and 8A.01 as amended, with editorial comments, and present the changes to the National Committee on Friday.

Pedestrian Taskforce

Proposed changes to Chapter 8F, as passed by the National Committee on January 19, 2007, were discussed at length. The pedestrian taskforce proposed clarifying additions to Chapter 8F.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and passed, it was resolved to adopt the proposed additions to Chapter 8F (as passed by the National Committee on January 19, 2007), as amended, and present the additions to the National Committee on Friday.

Adjourned at 18:55.

Respectfully Submitted

Danniel MacDonald
Secretary
RR/LRT Technical Committee Parts 8 & 10