

Minutes

Signals Technical Committee
June 11th and 12th, 2003
Savannah, Georgia

Meeting Chair: *Bruce Friedman*

Minutes By: *Joe Henderson*

I. Call to Order and Recognition of New Members

- A. Chairman Bruce Friedman called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. on June 11th and 12th. There were 34 members and 6 guests in attendance on June 11th and 35 members and 3 guests in attendance on June 12th.
- B. Eagan Foster with the City of Columbus, Ohio and Richard Mullinax with the North Carolina DOT were introduced as new members.

II. Other Changes in Membership

- A. Chairman Friedman reported that Pete Lind and Dave McKinley submitted their resignations from the Committee.

III. Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

- A. Members and guests were self-introduced. Sign-in sheets were distributed. Copies of the attendance sheets are attached.

IV. Roster Updates

- A. The roster was circulated for updates. An updated copy of the roster is attached.

V. Approval of January 2003 Meeting Minutes

- A. A motion was made by Bob Hintersteiner and seconded by Ray Pusey to approve the minutes of the June 2002 meeting. Dave Kuemmel noted a minor editorial change on page 10STC 1-8, 9-03 of the minutes. Under the heading "Task Force 4E – presented by Dave Kuemmel", the word "information" was added to the second sentence. The sentence now reads,

"When first adopted almost two years ago, there was very limited information available on verbal messages."

The motion was amended to approve the minutes with the noted changes. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Additions to the Agenda

- A. There were no additions made to the agenda.

VII. Assignment of Committee Members to Task Forces

- A. The following assignments were made:
 1. Task Force 4C – Richard Mullinax
 2. Task Force 4D – David Backstedt

3. Task Force 4D and 4E – Eagan Foster

The updated Task Force assignment list is attached.

VIII. Update on Status of 2003 MUTCD

- A. Ken Kobetsky indicated that the 2003 MUTCD is scheduled to be published in October 2003. He and Lisa Fontana asked for input on the format for printing the new version. The two options being considered were loose leaf versus perfect bound.

IX. Backup Power Supply for Signalized Intersections with Railroad Preemption (8D.07)

- A. Tom Lancaster and Rick Campbell of the Railroads Technical Committee made a presentation about the need for backup power supplies at signals that are preempted by railroads. The Railroads Technical Committee is updating the ITE Recommended Practice for Preempted Traffic Signals at Railroad Grade Crossings. They are considering adding language to the document recommending that backup power supplies be installed in all new signals that are preempted by trains due to the potential safety hazard resulting from a power failure. Their proposal was as follows:

Guidance

For new traffic control signals installed at or near highway rail grade crossings, the need for backup power supply should be considered.

Option

To reduce power requirements, the traffic control signal may be equipped with LED signal indications in accordance with Section 4D.18.

Some of the discussion from the STC indicated that backup power supplies be installed at all signals with railroad preemption.

- B. The following straw votes were taken:
1. A straw vote was taken related to the concept presented. The vote indicated that the STC favors this concept.
 2. A second straw vote was taken related to changing the words in the Guidance statement from “should be considered” to “should be provided”. The vote indicated that the STC favored “should be provided”.
 3. A third straw vote was taken related to the issue of extending this concept to all locations where railroad preemption is installed. The straw vote indicated that the STC favored this concept.
 4. A fourth straw vote was taken to extend this concept all signals, new or old, with railroad preemption. The vote indicated that the STC favored this concept.

X. Presentation Regarding Blind Pedestrians at Signalized Intersections

- A. Beezy Bentzen presented results of a research paper titled, “Pedestrians Who Are Blind at Signalized Intersections: Implications at Signals”.

XI. Presentation Regarding an Update on Protected/Permitted Signal Display Research

- A. A presentation was made by Kent Kacir, Chris Brehmer, David Noyce, and Bill Kloos to update the committee on research that is being conducted on displays for protected/permitted left turn phasing. A copy of a memo with details is attached.

XII. Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Roadway Crossings

- A. A presentation by Paul Carlson and Kay Fitzpartick was scheduled, however it was postponed until the January 2004 meeting.

XIII. NCUTCD Web Page Task Force

- A. There was no report.

XIV. NCUTCD Pedestrian Task Force

- A. There was no report.

XV. Status of Recommendations Sent to Sponsors

- A. The following items were sent to sponsors for their review and comment after the January 2003 meeting. A decision regarding changes to the Manual are as follows.

1. **Definition of Intersection (4A.02).** Following review of the comments provided by the sponsors, the Committee voted to unanimously retain the language that was recommended to the sponsors.

Vote:	For	28
	Opposed	0
	Abstentions	0

The Committee also voted to move this definition from Section 4A.02 to Part 1 of the Manual.

Vote:	For	28
	Opposed	0
	Abstentions	0

2. **Continuous Right Turn Green Arrow (4D.07).** Following review of the comments provided by the sponsors, the Committee voted to retain the language that was recommended to the sponsors.

Vote:	For	28
	Opposed	0
	Abstentions	0

3. **Fixed Length for Yellow Change Interval and Red Clearance Intervals (4D.10).** The Task Force voted to table this item so that further discussion could take place.

4. **Distinctive Indication for Preemption (4D.13).** Following review of the comments provided by the sponsors, the Committee voted to retain the language that was recommended to the sponsors.

Vote:	For	28
	Opposed	0
	Abstentions	0

5. **U-Turn Arrow Indication (4D.16).** Following review of the comments provided by the sponsors, the Committee voted to retain the language that was recommended to the sponsors.

Vote:	For	28
	Opposed	0
	Abstentions	0

- 6. Yellow Reflective Strip on Backplate (4D.17).** Following review of the comments provided by the sponsors, the Committee voted to retain the language that was recommended to the sponsors.

Vote: For 27
Opposed 1
Abstentions 0

- 7. Verbal Messages for Accessible Pedestrian Signals (4E.06).** Following review of the comments provided by the sponsors, the Committee voted to retain the language that was recommended to the sponsors.

Vote: For 28
Opposed 0
Abstentions 0

- 8. Verbal Messages for Accessible Pedestrian Signal Detectors (4E.08).** Following review of the comments provided by the sponsors, the Committee voted to retain the language that was recommended to the sponsors.

Vote: For 28
Opposed 0
Abstentions 0

- 9. Flash Rate for In-Roadway Warning Lights (4L.02).** Following review of the comments provided by the sponsors, the Committee voted to retain the language that was recommended to the sponsors.

Vote: For 28
Opposed 0
Abstentions 0

XVI. Task Force Meetings

- A. The STC broke into Task Forces at the direction of Chairman Friedman.

XVII. Task Force Reports and Recommendations

A. Task Force 4A, 4B, 4F-4L – Presented by Robert Douglas

1. The Task Force reported on the sponsors comments related to the definition of an intersection and the flash rate for in-roadway warning lights. Refer to the section on the Status of Recommendations Sent to Sponsors.

B. Task Force 4C – Presented by Steve Jewell

1. There were no sponsors comments discussed during the Task Force meeting.
2. Based on the FHWA MUTCD Urbanization Needs Study, the Warrants Task Force proposed a modification to the peak hour warrant. This study recommended that the warrant either be improved or eliminated. The recommendations included increasing the volume threshold, requiring the satisfaction of both conditions A & B, and including delay. Another response recommended that, for a signal installed based on the peak hour warrant, if not set to operate only during the peak hours, detection be used to place the signal in stop-and-go operation only when traffic exceeds certain set values.

There was some wording that was not included in the 2000 MUTCD concerning the hours of operation for signals that are justified by this warrant. This wording involved the hours of operation for a signal based on the peak hour warrant. Members of the Task Force believe that the signal should be operated in the flashing mode during the hours when the peak hour warrant is not satisfied.

The Signals Technical Committee voted to recommend that the National Committee submit the following proposed MUTCD change to sponsors for comments.

Add text to the option statement as follows:

The traffic control signal may be operated in the flashing mode during the hours when the volume criteria are not met.

Vote:	For	26
	Opposed	5
	Abstentions	1

This item was sent to sponsors for comments. The submittal is attached.

C. Task Force 4D – Presented by Ray Pusey

1. The Task Force reported on the sponsors comments related to the following items:
 - a. Use of continuous right turn green arrow;
 - b. A fixed length for yellow and all red change intervals;
 - c. A distinctive indication for preemption;
 - d. U-turn arrow indication; and
 - e. The use of a reflective yellow strip on the backplate.
 - f. Ray reported that the Task Force will be discussing the following items at the January meeting:
 - (1) Section 4D.15 related to the use of the 8” and 12” indication; and
 - (2) RC Flagman.
 - g. The Task Force discussed the various options for the flashing yellow arrow and provided direction to the research team.

D. Task Force 4E – Presented by Dave Kuemmel

1. The Task Force reported on the sponsors comments related to the following items:
 - a. Verbal messages for accessible pedestrian signals; and
 - b. Verbal messages for accessible pedestrian signal detectors.

Refer to the section on the Status of Recommendations Sent to Sponsors.

XVIII. Other Items

A. Half-Signals – Presented by Dave Kuemmel

1. Dave gave a brief history of half-signals with respect to the MUTCD. This subject is indexed in the STC records as SG-44 and Change 4-8. A half-signal typically has the main street signalized with pedestrian phases crossing the main street, however, the side street is stop controlled. This concept was originally discussed by this Committee in the 1960’s, with a request for interpretation in 1972, denial to a change to the Manual in 1975, and

denied three times by FHWA. In 1989, a Federal Register notice indicated that the FHWA disapproved the request for use due to lack of research. Dave indicated that agencies have installed half-signals even though they are not recognized in the Manual. In addition, they are discussed in the pedestrian chapter of the new Traffic Control Devices Handbook.

Dave suggested that this topic would be a good topic for a research project. He is planning to make a presentation at the January meeting.

XIX. Adjourn

- A. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. It was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. on June 12th.

XX. Attachments

- A. Attendance sheets for June 11th and 12th sessions
- B. Updated STC roster
- C. Updated Task Force assignment list
- D. Kittelson memo related to protected/permitted left turn displays
- E. Item sent to sponsors

jlh

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