

TRB Summer Meeting Committee Minutes AT045 Intermodal Freight Transport Committee

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

1. Ted Dahlburg, Committee Secretary, opened the meeting with introductions and a review of the agenda. Brief introductions were made by all in attendance and those attending via teleconference
2. On April 1, 2008, Harold Cervený, committee chair, passed away very suddenly and unexpectedly. The committee took a moment to reflect on Harold's achievements and contributions to TRB and the transportation profession. He was honored with a moment of silence during the meeting.
3. The meeting minutes from January 2008 were approved with no additions or corrections.
4. Discussion Items:
 - a. Joedy Cambridge, TRB Staff, provided an update on several items.
 - i. She indicated that the "TRB Cheat Sheet" will be circulated to committee members; this document highlights the current status of TRB initiatives and committees.
 - ii. Committee members are encouraged to suggest freight-related webinar topics. TRB Webinars were started in September but there have been no freight or marine topics to date. TRB is trying to find more effective ways to share information and webinars have proven to be an effective tool with 400 to 1,000 participants.
 - iii. The 2009 Summer meeting will be held in Seattle. TRB is interested in member feedback concerning the effectiveness of continuing with a Joint meeting. Joedy welcomes any member feedback on the topic.
 - iv. The annual meeting attendance for 2008 was 10,500. TRB anticipates a decline in 2009 due to state budgets and economic conditions. TRBs focus areas are diversity and reaching out to membership representation from DOTs, MPOs and Shippers.
 - v. Finally, if anyone is interested in being chairperson nominations are currently being accepted.
 - b. The 2009 annual meeting theme is Transportation, Energy and Climate Change. The dates for the meeting are January 11-15, 2009. Freight Day will be on Tuesday, January 13. The committee discussed several topics for potential sessions:
 - i. How do we finance freight through reauthorization?
 - ii. How do we fund freight projects with high inflation and 400,000 construction-related jobs at stake?
 - iii. What is the solution for rural producers who don't have access to transportation? – possible joint session with agriculture committee
 - iv. Container on barge, Short Sea Shipping, Inland waterways – possible joint session with inland waterway committee
 - v. How do DOTs budget for freight?
 - vi. Container Tracker through character recognition and license plates; How do DOTs track containers outside of terminals, Why should DOTs track containers (security, commodity flow) – possible joint session with ITS committees
 - vii. System Resiliency/Redundancy, How do DOTs react and respond, What do carriers do when these events occur?
 - viii. ITS: containers, WIM, e-seals, tracking
 - ix. Virtual container yards to reduce empty moves – why is it not working (Long Beach), CTIP project with SAIC

- x. Is it time to reconsider size and weight – joint with motor vehicle size and weight committee
- xi. How do transportation and economic development interact specific to logistics centers? – possible joint session with economic development committee
- xii. What are the implications of container fees, how do they work?

Committee members are asked to consider these topics (or propose others) for the annual meeting. Anyone willing to champion a session is encouraged to discuss with Ted and Joedy Cambridge.

- c. Paper Review Process: a volunteer is needed to assign appropriate reviewers and to track the process. Typically 6-10 papers are received by the committee each year.
- d. Research Needs Database: There are currently 29 entries on freight topics and 4 from AT050. The statements are also listed on the committee website. Teresa Adams has previously volunteered to submit statements to the database. Committee members are encouraged to prepare statements to post in the database, possibly using the topics listed above.
- e. NCFRP FY09 Problem Statements are due by July 25. Items in the research needs database can be submitted to this program.
- f. Committee Website: Jack Klodzinski reported that the website redesign is underway. A beta test site is in development and will be sent to committee members to review before it is launched. Old content will be archived and new content is being developed. Jordan Srour and Sara Clark have been working with Jack on this effort.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Minutes recorded by Sara Clark.

AT045 Meeting Attendees (June 18, 2008)

Jeannie Beckett, Port of Tacoma

Jason Bittner, Wisconsin Transportation Center

Keith Bucklew, Indiana DOT

Joedy Cambridge, TRB

Sara Clark, TranSystems

Ted Dahlburg, DVRPC

Sharon Easley, E-Squared Engineering

Richard Easley, E-Squared Engineering

Art Goodwin, Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority

Steve Kale, S.R. Kale Consulting

Jack Klodzinski, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise

Todd Kohr, US DOT

Libby Ogard, Prime Focus

Chris Smith, AASHTO

Jim Wang, Transport Canada