ABE30 Conference Call Minutes

April 2013

Conference Call Date and Time: April 17, 2013, 1:30PM, Eastern Standard Time

Notes by: Ema Yamamoto and Stephanie Dock

# Welcome and Introductions

Unfortunately, Rina was unable to join us due to a delayed train but her Chief of Staff, Andrew Stober, stepped in and led the phone call. We had 45 different phone lines on this conference call, though technical difficulties made it hard to get an accurate roll call. Even though it was difficult to hear, it was an incredible turnout and really illustrates how interested individuals are in issues that pertain to urban areas. Thank you for bearing with our technical difficulties.

# General Vision

## General Vision Outline and Description

1. Changing the name of the committee from “Transportation Issues in Major U.S. Cities” to “Urban Transportation Issues”. Proposing this for two reasons:
	1. This allows for the inclusion of urban transportation issues from smaller urban areas – not just those cities with the largest populations in the United States.
	2. This also allows for the inclusion of knowledge and experience from urban centers outside the United States
2. Use this committee as a platform for further discussing the need for greater collaboration between State DOT’s and Local DOT’s and Local Transit Agencies. Rina has extensive experience working for both state and local transportation agencies and sits on the board of a transit agency and really wants to make sure that this dialogue between state and local agencies has a place to occur.

We welcome all feedback whether it is by email (ema.yamamoto@phila.gov), on our website (<https://sites.google.com/site/trbabe30/>), or in person at our Strategic Planning Session at TRB’s Mid-Year Meeting (Do you plan on attending? Don’t forget to register – <http://www.cvent.com/events/meeting-state-mpo-information-needs-in-a-constrained-fiscal-environment/event-summary-b8775fc338f245c8aa5287a105563dd1.aspx>)

## Comments about General Vision

* This vision allows smaller systems to become involved
* Urban areas, regardless of size, have issues with dealing with a shared right-of-way and thinking about curbside access
* This allows for greater knowledge sharing between American and international cities
* It is important to acknowledge that this type of committee is different than many of the other committees at TRB. This is a committee that talks about transportation and how it interacts with a specific type of development, as opposed to a technology or mode. This means that the focus changes from year to year. When the strategic plan is hammered out, this is important to keep in mind.
* It might be that the focal point changes from year to year and that these focal points become the guide to organizing the types of papers we put out calls for, sessions and workshops that are organized
* It is important to continue to showcase the great work that is occurring across the US
* It is important to remember that large cities, because of their sheer size, are not the same as just urban areas by themselves.
* This committee at its core is collaborative and that should also be incorporated into the vision

# Paper Topic Discussion

## Paper Topics Suggested by Rina’s Office

* What are the best state DOT projects in urban areas?
* How have urban transportation officials altered their approaches to infrastructure resilience from Hurricane Katrina to Hurricane Sandy?
* What are the tools in a toolbox to make transportation infrastructure (including sidewalks, transit systems, etc) more approachable to elderly and disabled individuals in a fiscally constrained environment?
* Many urban areas have seen vacancy and abandonment in certain parts of their cities. What are the tools available to maintain the transportation service and infrastructure in formerly densely populated sections of urban areas in a fiscally constrained environment?
* Communications and interactions with the public have changed drastically with new technologies and social media platforms. How can we use these changes to better communicate and coordinate within organization and with the public on major urban infrastructure projects?

## Paper Topics/Subjects Suggested by Others

* Urban sustainability initiatives that focus on auto-alternative modes, and how that helps or conflicts with the need for movement around the city
* Beyond urban infrastructure, look at urban programmatic initiatives as innovative ways of expanding capacity on the system (e.g. special education and outreach efforts).
* Best practices for how various agencies vie for the same limited roadway space, e.g. water infrastructure.
* Discussions of how the money flows so that urban areas can access the financing necessary to pay for infrastructure
* Best practices toolbox for breaking down barriers to making transportation more affordable and accessible (e.g. design standards)
* Best practices for temporary infrastructure projects (tactical urbanism) which can be made more permanent
* How cities are managing rights of way more efficiently and sustainably through means such as coordination with utilities
* Stormwater management

# Assign Roles

We have volunteers for the following roles – thank you!

* Paper Review Manager – Karina Ricks
* Communications Coordinator – Stephanie Dock
* Research Coordinator – Wes Marshall
* Committee Liaison to Transit Management and Performance (AP010) – Chris Pangilinan
* Committee Liaison to Visualization in Transportation (ABJ95) – Chris Pangilinan
* Committee Liaison to ADA60 Public Involvement in Transportation (ADA 60) – Andy Nash
* Committee Liaison to AHB55 Work Zone Traffic Control (AHB55) -- Jalil Kianfar

 We are still looking for the following roles:

* Committee Liaisons
	+ - Liaisons communicate with the Large Cities Committee about what other relevant committees are working on and help coordinate paper calls / sessions that are co-sponsored by the Large Cities Committee and other committees
		- Committee liaisons are ideally members or friends of other committees in addition to the Large Cities Committee
		- Annual Meeting Organizing Group (3 volunteers)
		- This group will organize our presence at the Annual Meeting by organizing the Paper Sessions, Talks, Poster Sessions and Workshops

If you are interested in serving in either of the above roles, please email Ema Yamamoto at Ema.Yamamoto@phila.gov.

# Open Forum for Announcements

We are looking for topics for workshops, due in the next couple months.

Linda Bailey suggested that NACTO would be interested in doing a workshop on their urban street design guide. This could perhaps be co-sponsored with the committee on geometric design and others.