

TRB Committee ADA60

Committee on Public Involvement in Transportation

Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 21, 2009 – 2:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Seattle Washington – Sheraton Hotel

Minutes

Attendance –

The following people were in attendance:

Jennifer Weeks, member (Chair)

Christopher Ryan, member

David Vomacka, member

Ed Christopher, friend

Tracee Strum-Gilliam, friend

John W. Fuller, friend

Laura Cameron, friend

Jacky Grimshaw, friend

Steve Kale, friend

The following people participated by telephone:

Jeff Moore, member

Claudia Bilotto, member

Lisa Richardson, member

Judy Dovers, member

Judy Meyer, member

Rebecca Jablon, member

Kathleen McKinney, friend

Matthew Grimes, friend

Rachael Barolsky, member

David Kuehn, member

Elizabeth Murphy, friend

Stephanie Lind, member

Welcome – Jennifer Weeks

Welcome by Chair, Jennifer Weeks, who reviewed the agenda and welcomed 3 new members to the committee (since last January).

Introductions – Jennifer Weeks

Those in attendance and on the telephone introduced themselves.

TRB News– Jennifer Weeks and Kim Fisher

Annual Meeting – Changes for 2010

Jennifer announced that there were a number of changes anticipated for the 2010 Annual Meeting, due to capacity constraints caused by Hilton Hotel renovations that are underway. Committees will only be allocated 2.0 credits to apply towards conference sessions and be allocated one 1 hour, 45 minute slot for a committee meeting unless the committee can hold its meeting on Sunday or Thursday. TRB is offering to allow committees to use webinars as a means of supplementing the annual meeting. The committee discussed the value of using a webinar as a means to discuss administrative items, such as subcommittee reports, and dedicating the committee meeting to substantive items. The committee stated its preference for using the “split” meeting.

Kim noted that because of the capacity constraints, conference activities are being shuffled between the 3 hotels. She asked the committee if we mind if all our sessions and activities were moved to the Marriot. Our Sunday workshop has already been scheduled for the Marriot. Jennifer responded that it is not ideal, because our members tend to stretch themselves between a number of sessions and activities related to planning, which are typically at the Hilton.

Annual Meeting Preparations and Schedules

Jennifer reminded committee members about the webinar series for people involved in organizing sessions or reviewing papers. The first in the series was to begin that week with a webinar on paper reviewing. Jennifer strongly encouraged participation in the webinars.

Kim reminded the committee that papers are due in PDF format only this year by August 1st. She encouraged people planning to submit a paper to do so early to avoid congesting the system. There will be no exceptions to the deadline. Paper reviews will be completed by September 15th.

Kim also reminded the committee that all session details are all due October 1st in the system. There will be no exceptions made to the deadline.

AICP CM Credits

Jennifer announced the news that TRB has struck a deal with the American Planning Association with regards to providing AICP certified planners with CM credits to apply towards maintaining their certifications. TRB committees that wish to propose that CM credits be applied towards their sessions must identify the titles of the sessions and session descriptions by September 1st. Additional details that must be supplied by October 1st include the speakers and their titles as well as a learning objective. Currently only a few restrictions apply. Poster sessions will not count, but paper sessions, panel sessions, and workshops should all be eligible.

Sessions that offer AICP credit will be identified in the program with a special symbol. Persons that participate will need to self-report their participation in the programs.

Kim noted that TRB's next goal will be to get distance learning and webinars included in the AICP accreditation program

Summer 2010

The Summer 2010 mid-year meeting will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. However, the Environmental group invited our committee's participation in their meeting, scheduled for Raleigh, North Carolina. After discussing it at the 2009 Annual Meeting, the committee accepted the invitation. David Vomacka will be participating in the meeting planning on behalf of the committee.

Triennial Review

Kim reminded the committee that triennial review reports with strategic plans are due to TRB this November. She urged pragmatism with regards to the content of the strategic plan. One committee submitted a 600-page plan, which is much more than TRB expects. The focus should be on the big picture and what can and should be accomplished by the committee over the next three years.

Annual Meeting Sessions – Jennifer Weeks

A conference call was held last spring in which initial discussions took place with regards to sessions for the committee to sponsor for the 2010 annual meeting. Given the limitations on session credits, additional attention will need to be paid to getting co-sponsors. Discussion took place regarding potential topics for the committee to sponsor or co-sponsor.

High Speed Rail- Jeff Moore proposed a session that addresses the community implications of high speed rail. The purpose of the session would be both to introduce the concept and policy of the Obama Administration's High Speed Rail program to State DOTs, MPOs, and other affected agencies and to probe issues that might arise at the local level. Public involvement and communication would clearly be important topics as the program moves forward and projects are identified and implemented. Ideally the session would include the participation of a policy type who could describe the program and what high speed rail is. David Vomacka recommended Jolene Molitaris who is now with Ohio DOT and was FRA Administrator. Supporting speakers could address projects already planned and those underway. An international perspective might also be useful. Ben Strumwasser of Circle Point has a number of contacts in California, or could speak about his experience in California managing their communications program. Chris Ryan agreed to connect with some folks he knows in the UK to see whether they would be available to participate, or know someone who would be good for the session. Additional thoughts include looking to Maglev projects which were underway in the planning process, and the introduction of Acela trains by Amtrak.

Potential co-sponsorships have been sought by the Committees on Multimodal Statewide Planning, Metropolitan Planning, Policy, and Processes, Public Transportation Planning, and Small and Medium Sized Communities.

Public Support of Transportation Funding Initiatives– Claudia Bilotto proposed a session that addresses issues related to obtaining public support for transportation funding initiatives, such as local or regional tax measures. Federal reauthorization would be a topic to address in this session as well. A number of ideas were discussed, including getting representatives of the Bi-partisan Policy Center, the CTE, and the US Chambers of Commerce to participate. Additionally, several States and cities were suggested as possible candidates given their success and/or failure in getting funding initiatives passed in their jurisdictions. These include Seattle (Grace Crunican was suggested as the speaker), Denver, Illinois, and Georgia.

Potential co-sponsorships have been sought by the Committees on Multimodal and Statewide Planning, Metropolitan Planning, Policy and Processes, and Taxation and Finance. Jeff Moore said the Small and Medium Sized Communities might be interested as well.

FTA Public Transportation Participation Pilot Program– Rachael Barolsky has suggested this session as a way to showcase some research results of the PTP Program that address direct engagement of community groups in public involvement. Not much time was available for discussion. Rachael has approached the Committee on Public Transportation Planning and Development to co-sponsor this session.

Poster Session – Lisa Richardson is organizing this year’s poster session. Calls for posters are scheduled to go out in early-to-mid August. She asked the committee whether there is interest in mandating that posters be available in PDF format for uploading onto the committee website. After some discussion, it was decided that the call would inform people of the option of supplying a PDF for website display once the session was held. Three people agreed to assist Lisa with the poster session reviews: Chris Ryan, Judy Dovers, and Rebecca Jablon.

Communications with John and Jane Public – Judy Meyer is leading the organization of this year’s contest, which will focus on communicating public transportation concepts. Entries are due August 8th. A two-tiered judging process will take place. People interested in helping review and judge the entries should contact Judy Meyer directly. It was suggested that the announcements had not been as widely distributed as in past years, or people had not seen the redundancy as they had in past years. Judy Dovers agreed to distribute the link again to the announcement that appears on the Committee website.

Triennial Review

Jennifer decided that a detailed discussion of the triennial review process and contents would be tabled for a future conference call, to be scheduled for September. The

committee has dedicated considerable time in past sessions to Strategic Plan development, which is the core of the Triennial Review report. Committee members and friends are urged to review the draft strategic plan against the notes collected from the breakout sessions at last year's Annual meeting. Jennifer used those notes in developing the draft, focusing on the big picture items that would be appropriate for a TRB Strategic Plan document. Breakout groups were used to draft action agendas for each of the plan's goals.

Subcommittee Status Reports/Activities

Subcommittee on Research – Jennifer Weeks

Jennifer thanked the subcommittee for all their hard work this last 2 years and congratulated them on the recent award of funding to the TCRP Synthesis topic on Effective Engagement of Transit Passengers in Public Involvement.

Subcommittee on Communications – Judy Dovers

Judy announced that Stephanie Lind has agreed to take on the task of website updates and management. Stephanie has already drafted a concept for an upgrade, which will be implemented in the next few weeks.

Handouts: Provided in advance by electronic mail with paper copies available at the meeting.

- Agenda
- TRB Committee ADA60 Draft Public Involvement in Transportation Strategic Plan
- TRB Committee Draft Triennial Review Report
- Draft Action Strategies for Goals 1-5 of the Draft Strategic Plan

Any questions or corrections to the minutes, please contact Jennifer Weeks at (410) 4540-9757 or email at Weeks@pbworld.com.

Distribution of the minutes:

- ❑ Committee Members
- ❑ Committee Friends
- ❑ Jennifer Weeks, Chairperson
- ❑ Kimberly Fisher, TRB Staff Representative