

Minutes of the AASHTO Technical Committee on Nonmotorized Transportation (TCNT) Meeting on September 7, 2004 in Port Angeles, Washington

Dick Albin, the Chair of the TCNT welcomed the group to Port Angeles and explained that the AASHTO Standing Committee on Highways had changed the name of this group in their operating guidelines from a Task Force to a Technical Committee to indicate the permanence of the group.

- Meeting Attendees:
 - Dick Albin, WA, Chair
 - Dwight Kingsbury, FL, Vice-Chair
 - Paula Reeves, WA
 - Dennis Scott, FL
 - Darryl Anderson, MN
 - Caryn Giarratano, MO
 - John Balicki, ME
 - Michael O'Loughlin, IN
 - Susan Simmers, VA
 - Bob Laurie, AK
 - Amy Bell, VT
 - Cindy Krupp, MI
 - Ann Do, FHWA
 - Megan Hall, FHWA WA
 - Betsy Jacobsen, CO
 - Anne Lusk, Harvard
 - Mele Williams, LAB
 - Brian Parsons, LA
 - Tim Rogers, NM
 - Michael Ronkin, OR
 - Tom Dodds, SC
 - Tom Huber, WI
 - Dave Bachman, PA
 - Jim Ercolano, NY
 - Susan Kirinich, NHTSA
 - Paula Bawer, NHTSA
 - Christopher Douwes, FHWA
 - Richard Moeur, AZ
 - John Fegan, FHWA, Secretary
 - Jim McDonnell, AASHTO Staff Liaison
 - Theo Petritsch, Sprinkle Consulting
 - Michael Jackson, MD
 - Eric Glick, NV
 - Jay Meyer, WY
 - Sharon Briggs, UT
 - Aida Berkovitz, FHWA

Jim McDonnell explained the purpose of the TCNMT and how it can relate to other parts of AASHTO. Some specific activities that could be undertaken are:

- State coordinators (or task force members) could give presentations at other committee meetings on specific topics to get information out to other groups, or to get discussions started:
 - SCOD – design issues, update of Bike Guide
 - SCOP – planning issues
- Liaisons from TCNMT to other committees, cross pollination
 - Tech Comm on Geometric Design– (TCGD)
 - Tech Comm on Roadside Safety – (TCRS)
 - Standing Committee on Planning –(SCOP)
 - Standing Committee on Design –(SCOD)
 - Standing Committee on Traffic Engineering –(SCOTE)
 - NCUTCD Ped Task Force –
 - NCUTCD Bike Committee –
 - ITE Ped and Bike Council
- Invite other committees to sit in on TCNMT meetings also (ask for designated person to act as liaison from selected committees)
 - TCGD –
 - TCRS –
 - SCOP –
 - SCOD –
 - SCOTE –
 - NCUTCD Ped Task Force –
 - NCUTCD Bike Committee –
 - ITE Ped and Bike Council

Dick Albin asked for volunteers and the group asked Jim McDonnell to draw up a list of relevant groups within AASHTO to which the TCNMT could interact. The idea of including Nonmotorized issues in the mission statement of the other groups was raised. Also discussed was the inclusion of bike/ped issues in the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) Task Force and in CSS in general. The current mission statement of the TCNMT is shown as an appendix to this report

John Fegan then discussed the role of the 50 state DOT bicycle and pedestrian coordinators:

- Differences between the two groups:
 - AASHTO group is more targeted, focused on development of AASHTO guidance, sharing of information among the DOTs (crossing departmental boundaries) and the AASHTO committees
 - 50 state bike/ped coordinators, broader perspective, information exchange among the bike/ped coordinators
- State Bike/Ped Coordinators Meeting
 - State Bike/Ped Coordinators Mission statement should be developed: Tom Dodds, SC; Paula Bawer, WA; John Balicki, ME volunteered to help draft this.

- Breakout sessions with tasks? Develop something, develop a work product, etc. This could be something the TCNMT could do, also.
- Annual compendium of memos from each state listing top 5 issues in each state could be developed to aid in information exchange among the states.

John Fegan then addressed several United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) topics of interest:

- Craig Rayborn, new FHWA on-site technical person (replacing Andy Clarke)
- Other US DOT Topics:
 - Special interest group has said that FHWA perceived as lessening support for bike/ped issue. That is not the case.
 - Reauthorization: Continuing resolution ends Sep 24; however, Congress may not pass a full six year bill this year; there is the potential for another continuing resolution, which would be for up to a year, and the new 109th congress would then take up the issues all over again (could reintroduce previous legislation, or could start from scratch)
 - The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center has been extended to July 1, 2005.
 - When USDOT gets new legislation, they develop “program guidance”; Are there new or existing topics that could use clarification?
 - Ex: how to deal with Segways on federal-aid projects
 - A suggestion was made about including a recommended width of sidewalks off the state or federal systems
 NOTE: THE Federal Government does not set design standards.
 - Language to help guide liability issues (“if we don’t build sidewalks, then we don’t have liability issues”)
 - The coordination of state bicycle and pedestrian initiatives with the Scenic Byways Program was discussed by Michael O’Laughlin. It was noted that Scenic Byway funds can be used for bike/ped projects if they serve the same set of users.
 - An issue was brought to the attention of FHWA by the State of Maine regarding the development of criteria for ATV use of federally funded trail facilities.
 - Maine will be developing proposed criteria for ATVs to use trails as an exception to the Federal prohibition on motorized trail use. It was noted that the letter from FHWA is not a permission for ATVs to use all trails, but rather an effort by the FHWA Maine Division Office to work with relevant individuals from Maine on the development of proposed criteria.
 - John Balicki is the point person on this issue
 - Problems with the Listserv of State Coordinators were discussed. Apparently some State DOTs filter out mail from Topica and this results in coordinators not receiving mail from the Listserv. Several alternatives to the existing listserv (e.g. APBP, PBIC, and AASHTO) were briefly discussed.. John Fegan said he would meet with the moderator of the Listserv to solve this problem and report to the group when it is solved.
 - The Conference Call on the 2nd Tuesday of every other month, was discussed. It was determined that 2 PM is a better time for future calls.

A review of ongoing activities and research was then presented:

- Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities: Publication in October is expected. It was noted that the Bike/Ped coordinators would like a CD also.
- NCHRP 20-7, 168 – Appropriate Railing Heights for Bicyclists
 - Did center-of-gravity analysis, concluded that 48 inches is appropriate, with some conditions being higher (examples: locations with high winds, sharp turns)
 - This result is between the 42-inch stipulation in the AASHTO Bridge Specifications and the 54-inch stipulation in the AASHTO Bike Guide
 - Current standard rail heights are often 42 inches, also there are aesthetic issues
 - Recommendation will have to go to Bridge Committee for implementation in their guides and to the Bike Guide Update
 - What is the hierarchy of the various AASHTO guides? Which manuals take precedence when there is disagreement? Will this be covered in the study to correct the titles of the guides? Where are the inconsistencies (6 feet in Green Book versus 4 feet in Bike Guide?)?
 - Is there research that says that 42 inch railing have failed to prevent bicyclists from going over them? (The NCHRP study was unable to find any such research, and documented only one case in which a railing at least this high – it was 54 inched high--failed to stop a cyclist from going over it.)
 - Technical committee members to send e-mail with concerns over 48-inch railing height to Dick Albin
 - Jim to post the report on the web and send link to bike/Ped coordinators
- NCHRP 20-7, 187 – Research for Bicycle Guide Update
 - Contract awarded
 - Putting together outline for next AASHTO Bike Guide
 - Internet survey, detailed, goes over all points in guide and additional points sometime in late September
 - Completion scheduled for Dec 2004, output will be a list of needs for the new Bike Guide
- US Bicycle Routes Task Force
 - Richard Moeur is the chair of this task force
 - Concept of US Bicycle Routes reinforced through resolution from SCOTE (adopted by SCOH and AASHTO Board of Directors(BOD))
 - Recent developments:
 - ad hoc task force created
 - action plan developed
 - Creating a logical, national, systems-level or corridor-level US Bicycle Routes plan; plan will be used by states to proposed actual routes for designation
 - 4 members from Subcommittee on Design, 4 from Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering: Balicki and Bachman from TCNMT on this task force

- Still need another member from TCGD
 - Also includes folks from Adventure Cycling and other orgs
 - TF will collect, compile, and review info on existing and proposed multi-state routes
 - Map will be produced and reviewed by SCOD, SCOTE, State coordinators, and comments considered by ad-hoc task force; then revised plan submitted to SCOH and presented to Route Numbering Committee;
 - Map will be a sort of “system template”
- Research proposals task force (Tom Dodds, Tom Huber, and Dave Bachman)
 - Received input from TRB Bike Committee; still awaiting info from TRB Ped Committee
 - How does the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) work?
 - Every year, NCHRP solicits proposed research problem statements from the State DOTs, FHWA, and AASHTO Committees
 - NCHRP is part of the Transportation Research Board; it utilizes a percentage of federal funding from the State DOTs’ federal funding; approx \$25-\$30 million per year
 - Proposals are ranked by various groups (AASHTO committees and states)
 - FHWA/NHTSA also funds research projects
 - State Coordinators should find their research members and talk with them about the importance of their research proposals. Jim McDonnell can send this list out.
 - 18 summaries/proposals were submitted for consideration

Training and related issues were discussed by John Fegan:

- 10-year Progress Report on the National Bicycling and Walking Study was just released by the US DOT IT can be found at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/study/>
- National Highway Institute (NHI) Training – 2 design courses:
 - Pedestrian Facility Design – 1-3/4 days, based on new AASHTO Ped Guide
 - Bicycle Facility Design – 1 day course, update will include design exercise, based on the AASHTO Bike Guide
- ADA Training – Aida Berkovitz
 - Course material being updated, working with APBP, hope to go out in October 2004 for pilot courses
 - Based on the course developed by FHWA
- New course on Safe Routes to School
 - Being developed by PBIC
 - Pilot courses in Washington DC area in September 2004
 - Goal to get multiple disciplines together to discuss issues, including enforcement, designers, etc.
 - www.pedbikeinfo.org

- LAB and NHTSA also developing training for Safe Routes to School, aimed at 6th to 8th grade students
- Mele Williams of the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) asked if there is interest in having a condensed version of the Road 1 Course at an upcoming meeting? LAB could offer this as an option for an upcoming meeting. This was adopted by consensus.
- FL is funding a 15-city training session on
- Additional training needs mentioned by attendees:
 - Trail/roadway intersection design issues
 - Treatment of peds at Interstate highway interchanges/interfaces
 - Bike/ped safety law enforcement courses, NHTSA has some courses

Anne Lusk of Harvard made a presentation – “Physical Activity, Health, and Urban Form”

- Request: wants AASHTO to consider writing new/additional design guidelines to enable physical activity for all populations
- Proposal to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to fund her research
- Current AASHTO bike guide provides guidance for on-road bicycling and leisure-based recreation path use
- Design a travel corridor to reward people for exercising
- “Physical Activity Oriented Development”
- potential for splitting bicyclists into multiple groups – experienced cyclists who are comfortable in the road, and others who are better suited for off-road paths

A discussion of research needs discussed a number of ideas. The group voted on each one with the following results: The topics to be pursued are shown in **bold** print. The number of votes for each idea are shown as are the individual who is responsible for writing up the research need in the NCHRP format.

1. **How standard highway design practices impact pedestrians from a safety perspective – 21 (Huber)**
2. **Design factors that induce more bike ridership and land use influence on bike travel – 7 (Balicki)**
3. Sidepaths – under what conditions do they work and how to treat them at intersections -- 5
4. Evaluate crosswalk marking patterns in wet/snowy conditions to minimize skidding of vehicles/slipping of pedestrians, minimize maintenance -- 4
5. Research on whether bike/ped education has an impact, before and after on adults -- 2
6. Bike lane widths as related to ADT and speeds, is there a correlation between safety and specific widths on certain roads? -- 5
7. Are airline surcharges to carry bicycles discriminatory? -- 2
8. Which agency is charged with investigating crashes on trails? -- 1

Synthesis Projects – both supported

1. **Highway work zone bike/ped safety best practices – (Reeves)**
2. **Synthesis on safe routes to school programs – (Reeves)**

Other tasks for the TCNMT:

- Technical Committee work plan must be submitted to SCOD in next month or two (Albin)

- Finalize Technical Committee Mission Statement and Objectives and adopt (and post on web)

The last item was a discussion of the location and timing of the next meeting of the TCNMT, and whether it should be in conjunction with the meeting of some other parts of AASHTO. Several possibilities were discussed:

- TCGD July in Woods Hole, MA
- SCOD late July in Chicago (TRB Symp on Geom Des)
- SCOP
- Stand alone meeting

It was determined that each of these possibilities would be examined further and the entire group would be allowed to provide their input at a later time.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Appendix:

AASHTO Joint Technical Committee on Nonmotorized Transportation (Revised)

Mission Statement

To advance the state-of-the-practice in bicycle and pedestrian planning, design, traffic engineering, construction, operation, maintenance, and safety within the AASHTO member departments and nationally.

Objectives

- Work cooperatively with other AASHTO committees, subcommittees, and technical committees to improve guidance for accommodation of pedestrians and bicyclists in all appropriate programs and documents, including *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*, the *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*, and the *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities*.
- Disseminate information to the member departments and the Association on measures that would affect bicycling and walking.
- Promote research on significant nonmotorized transportation issues via close cooperation with the Standing Committee on Research.
- Work closely with the Federal Highway Administration to provide practical advice on federal programs, policy, and research.
- Identify federal regulatory mandates or issues of national concern, provide reports thereon, and propose appropriate action.
- Serve as a forum to disseminate and exchange information among the member departments and the various other AASHTO committees and subcommittees. This shall include the inventorying of innovative measures that national organizations, individual states, and localities have developed to improve nonmotorized transportation.
- Coordinate with other transportation organizations to develop long-term plans and strategies that will provide recommended direction for AASHTO in the future, such as the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Human Powered Transportation Committee, the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP), the League of American Bicyclists (LAB), the Council for New Urbanism, and others.