

**Minutes of July 12, 2005 Meeting of AASHTO  
Technical Committee on Nonmotorized Transportation in Woods Hole, MA**

**Attendance:**

Committee Members: Amy Bell (VT), Paul Ahlenius (KS), Tom Dodds (SC), Tom Huber (WI), Eric Glick (NV), Charlotte Claybrooke (WA), Dave Bachman (PA), Caryn Giarratano (MO), John Balicki (ME), Dwight Kingsbury (FL), Richard Moeur (AZ), Dick Albin (WA) chair, John Fegan, FHWA rep, and Jim McDonnell, AASHTO staff rep

Guests: Ray Derr, (NCHRP), Theo Petritsch (Sprinkle Consulting Inc), and Josh Lehman (MA).

**Agenda Items:**

**1. Review of Activities and Ongoing Research:**

- **NCHRP 20-7 (168) “Determination of Appropriate Railing Heights for Bicyclists “** The current AASHTO Bike Guide recommends a railing height of 42 inches and the current AASHTO Bridge specification calls for a height of 54 inches. This study reviewed the available literature, conducted a survey, and concluded that 48 inches was slightly higher than the center of gravity of an average male cyclist. The study also found that there was minimal evidence that bridge railing height was responsible for bicyclists falling over these railings. The study recommended a compromise figure of 48 inches for both documents, except on downhill segments, where higher speeds may be expected and up to 54 inches was recommended. The Committee discussed the study and the consensus was to recommend that since there was no compelling argument for taller railings, the 42 inch height would be the value recommended to the Geometric Design Committee which had been authorized by the Bridge Committee to make the final decision.
- **NCHRP 20-7 (187) “Update of the AASHTO Bicycle Guide”** Theo Petritsch presented the results of an extensive survey of the state of the art and of professionals regarding recommended changes to the 1999 edition of the Bike Guide. He suggested changes in organization, adding new technical material, and 9 areas for future research. The scope of the Guide as covering not only bicyclists, but also other trail users such as in line skaters, walkers, joggers, tandem bicycles, bicycle with trailers, etc was discussed. The mechanism for performing the update was discussed by the Committee. It was determined that a problem statement for NCHRP funding to develop the first draft of the update would be pursued. The deadline for submission of the problem statement is Sept 15, 2005 for the consideration by AASHTO in March 2006 for funding.
- **US Bike Routes Task force Report by Richard Moeur:** The Task Force is comprised of 2 members of the Nonmotorized Committee (John Balicki and Dave Bachman), 2 members of the Geometric Committee, and 4 members

from the Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering. In addition, there are representatives of the East Coast Greenway, the Mississippi River Trail, Christopher Douwes from FHWA, and The Adventure Cycling Association on the Task Force. Data has been gathered from the State DOTs for existing routes. This will be used to develop nationwide routes of national importance at the corridor level. The State DOTs would be responsible for selecting routes within the recommended corridors after AASHTO approves the corridors. This approval process will go through the Subcommittee on Design and then to all of AASHTO for voting. The specific format of designation (i.e. numbers or alpha lettering) has not been determined yet. After selection of the specific routes by the State DOTs, a special AASHTO committee on route numbering could handle suggested additions, modifications, and/or deletions.

- **Possible Domestic Scan(s):** A scan team consisting of reps of 4 State DOTs, 4 FHWA staff, private sector, and academic reps would visit localities in the US identified as having experience in innovative bicycle and pedestrian design that could be shared with other localities as best practices. A large number of topics were discussed, and the Committee decided to write problem statements for domestic scans on 4 topics to be considered for funding: (1) Safe Routes to School (Glick ); (2) Traffic Control Devices for Bicyclists (Moeur and Ahlenius); (3)Traffic Calming Effects on Bicyclists and Pedestrians (Giarratano, Balicki, and Kaplan); and (4) Best Practices for Reconstruction and Maintenance of Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities (Ahlenius, and Lehman)
  - **Standing Committee on Design Report:** Dick Albin reported on the June meeting. Topics included ADA compliance, Safe Routes to School Programs, and the relation of public health to transportation.
  - **Two New (FY06) NCHRP Projects Were Chosen for Funding:** (1) Performance Requirements for Detectable Warning Materials (Kaplan to be on panel); and (2) Development of Guidelines for the Design of Driveways (Dodds to be on panel)
  - **Three Ongoing Projects Were Discussed Briefly:** (1) # 3-62 Guidelines for Accessible Pedestrian Signals; (2) # 3-78 Crossing Solutions at Roundabouts and Channelized Turn Lanes for Persons with Visual Disabilities; and (3) # A-28 Guidelines for Mitigating Pedestrian/Transit Collisions.
2. **2007 Proposed NCHRP Projects:** The process for consideration of NCHRP funding was explained. After AASHTO and FHWA evaluations, proposed topics are sent to the State Directors of Research for voting and to the Standing Committee on Research (SCOR) of AASHTO. In March of each year SCOR determines the priority order of all proposed projects and these are funded by NCHRP according to the priority order until the available funds are exhausted. A large number of topics were discussed and voted upon. It was decided to submit four topics: (1) Update of the Bike Guide – this will be a combined effort with the

Committee on Geometric Design. (Huber, Glick, Moeur, Rosenow, and Briggs); (2) Safety and Operational Impacts of Properly Designed Bike Lanes (Kingsbury); (3) Side Path Analysis (Kingsbury and Huber); and (4) Use Volumes and Mode Shifts as a Result of a Bike Network (Ahlenius, and Balicki). There was one other topic that generated interest entitled “Integrating Pedestrian Concerns into Traffic Signal Design”, but no one offered to develop this topic further.

3. **Replacements for Two Vacancies on the Committee:** John Balicki from Region 1 and Susan Simmers from Region 2 are leaving their positions. Nominations for replacements to represent these 2 AASHTO regions are being solicited.
4. **Next Year’s Meeting:** will be held in conjunction with the ProBike ProWalk Conference the first full week of September in Madison, WI. It must be coordinated with the plenary meeting of the State DOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinators.

The meeting was adjourned.

### **Joint Meeting with AASHTO Technical Committee on Design**

A half-day joint meeting was held with members of the AASHTO Technical Committee on Design. The following topics were discussed:

1. **Recommended Bicycle Railing Height:** After a review of the research on this topic and discussion, the preference of the meeting was to recommend a height of 42 inches with provision for higher rails in unique locations where a high speed, high angle impact is more likely to occur (such as short radius curves with restricted sight distance or at the end of a long descending grade) This recommendation was to be taken back to the AASHTO Bridge Committee.
2. **Research on Bike Guide:** Theo Petritsch summarized the results of the research to determine what changes and updates are needed for the next edition of the AASHTO Bike Guide. It was agreed to proceed with the development of a problem statement to be considered for NCHRP funding to develop the next draft of the document.
3. **The AASHTO Pedestrian Guide** document was also discussed. It was decided to wait a year and then request 20-7 funding to determine what changes or updates are needed at that time.
4. **FHWA ADA Presentation:** Bill Prosser from FHWA gave a presentation on an upcoming FHWA memorandum to its Division Offices clarifying FHWA’s role in implementing the American with Disabilities Act for pedestrian facilities.

The joint meeting was then adjourned.