

**Minutes of June 18-19, 2007 AASHTO Technical Committee on
Nonmotorized Transportation (TCNT) in Lake Tahoe, NV**

Note: The TCNT met in conjunction with the meeting of the AASHTO Standing Committee on Traffic Engineering (SCOTE). For some of the time the two committees met in joint session, and at other times the committees met separately.

June 18, Opening Joint Session of the TCNT and the SCOTE:

After introductions and background information for SCOE, Dick Albin, the TCNT Chair, explained to the SCOTE that the TCNT had been in existence for 5-6 years: that the TCNT reports to the AASHTO Committee on Design; and that the TCNT has 4 representatives for each of the 4 AASHTO regions. Dick discussed the goals of the Committee: (1) an exchange of technical information and (2) setting an agenda for new research – particularly for consideration under the NCHRP. Dick explained the need for the research items to mesh with the AASHTO Strategic Plan; the necessity of balancing short and long term research needs; and the priority setting process.

John Fegan, the FHWA liaison and TCNT Secretary, explained he would be retiring and that FHWA would be naming his replacement shortly. John also provided a status report on the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program, the FHWA outreach effort on its Surface Transportation Environmental Research Program (STEP), as well as several new FHWA research and program products. John also mentioned the relatively new Safe Routes to School Program authorized by the SAFETEA-LU legislation.

June 18 Meeting of the TCNT:

Attendees:

Dick Albin, TCNT Chair, WA DOT
Jim McDonnell, AASHTO staff
Dwight Kingsbury, TCNT Vice Chair, FL DOT
Barb Solberg, MD DOT
Scott Woodrum, VA DOT
Caryn Giarratano, MO DOT
Tony Laird, WY DOT
Liz Walton, MN DOT
Tom Dodds, SC DOT
Tom Huber, WI DOT
Eric Glick, NV DOT
Richard Moeur, AZ DOT
John Fegan, TCNT Secretary, Federal Highway Administration

Guests:

Ginny Sullivan, Adventure Cycling
Scott Windley, US Access Board

Eric welcomed the group to Nevada

Dick explained a new requirement for the AASHTO Subcommittee on Design to rank the research problem statements – particularly for the 20-7 Program.

Mission and Vision Statements of the TCNT:

Dick then introduced a discussion of the TCNT's mission and vision statements. The need to integrate consideration of bicyclists and pedestrians throughout the operations of AASHTO was mentioned. The Subcommittee on Design is developing a strategic plan within which the TCNT needs to be included. Some other concepts were:

- Having bicyclists and pedestrians included in all AASHTO publications, policies, etc.
- Make better use of bicycling and walking as solutions to larger transportation issues such as reducing congestion, improving air quality, etc.
- Look at the AASHTO Green Book to see where bicyclists and pedestrians are currently mentioned and determining where additional mentions are needed
- Look at the deliverables or products produced by AASHTO.

A vision statement that was proposed:

- Propose research to advance the state of the art
- Develop and maintain guidance for non motorized transportation alternatives
- integrate routine accommodations for non motorize transportation into AASHTO
- promote non motorized transportation as a means to improve transportation for all modes

A list of proposed deliverables was

- Benefits of Bike Ped Brochure
- Bike Guide update (2010)
- ADA guidance (2011) Access Board may be publishing something soon.
- Ped Guide update (2015)
- Review AASHTO Publications for Bike Ped Guidance (2009)
- Training Programs (Designers)
- Monitor Guidance for Safe Routes to School being done by Highway Safety Research Center (2009)
- Guide for Shared Use paths (Trails) – is there a need?
- Comment on proposed rule for ADA
- Recommendation on US Bike Route network

Updates of Activities and Ongoing Research:

NCHRP Project 17-37 Pedestrian Predictive Crash Methodology for Urban and Suburban Arterials: Tom Huber is on the panel. This is an add on to project 17-26. MRI is the consultant doing the work. The project is investigating roadway characteristics to be used to predict pedestrian crashes. Existing databases from MN, Toronto, and from Charlotte, NC are being used. Additional information is being collected on turning movements and the presence of pedestrian islands. Completion is scheduled for September 2007.

NCHRP Project 15-37 Revision of the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities: Dwight Kingsbury is on the panel. A number of critical issues have been identified:

- How does designating a bicycle facility affect maintenance, liability, and signalization needs?
- Tradeoffs on signal clearance times: Who is the design user?
- Are sidepaths and cycletracks accepted practice in the U.S.?
- Is technical guidance needed on share the road signing?

The process for review of the updated Guide by AASHTO was also discussed.

NCHRP Project 17-32 Rumble Strips – Balancing Trade-Offs: Dave Bachman is on the panel. The project is studying shoreline and centerline rumble strips as they affect all users.

NCHRP Project 15-35 Geometric Design of Driveways: Tom Dodds is on the panel. The University of Arkansas is the contractor and Bill Hecker of Birmingham, AL has been added to the team. An interim report has been prepared.

US Bike Routes Task Force: Designation decisions are still to be made. In the future, adding new routes will need to be approved by AASHTO. Note: this topic was addressed more fully later in the meeting.

AASHTO Domestic Scans: No bicycle or pedestrian topics were approved for funding this year. Topics to be considered for next year are:

- Safe Routes to School
- Traffic Control Devices for Bicycling
- Traffic Calming Effects on Bicycling
- Best practices for construction and reconstruction of bicycle facilities

2008 NCHRP Projects:

- **Right Turns at Intersections:** This project was funded. Eric Glick and John LaPlante are on the panel.
- **Liability Aspects of Bikeway Designation Updated:** This project was approved for funding.
- **Quantitative Assessment Tool and Conflict Management for Sidepaths** was not selected for funding.
- **Safety and Operational Effects of Properly Designed Bicycle Lanes** was not selected for funding
- **Review and Evaluation of Bicycle law Enforcement and Training Programs at the Municipal and State Level with Recommendations for Effective Implementation Strategies** was not selected for funding.

FHWA Surface Transportation Environment and Planning (STEP) Research Program

John reported that the comment period for FY 2008 funding would be opening shortly and that comments would be due by August 20 [deadline was later extended to August 24]. Information on the proposed research and a method of providing feedback can be found at <http://knowledge.fhwa.dot.gov/cops/step/nsf/home>

June 19 Joint Session of the TCNT and the SCOTE

Discussion of NCHRP 15-35 Update of the Bicycle Guide: John LaPlante discussed the status of this effort. Dwight chairs the panel. Jennifer Toole is the Principal Investigator. A draft outline will be submitted in November 2007; the first draft will go to the NCHRP panel in May 2008; other reviews of the draft will be done in fall 2008 proposed updates will be presented to AASHTO and TRB Committees in Winter 2008; and completion is scheduled for March 2009. After that the draft will go through AASHTO for review and voting.

No new large research will be conducted in this project. A number of possible topics to be addressed were presented.

Discussion of US Bike Routes Task Force Efforts: Ginny Sullivan of Adventure Cycling and Richard Moeur distributed the Phase 2 maps that were distributed. These are corridor level maps where the corridor is 50 miles wide. Criteria for corridor selection discussed. Questions from the audience were:

- What has been the involvement of the bicycle industry?
- What consideration was given to safety in determining the corridors?
- Whether bicycles “pay their own way” in regard to highway taxes and user fees
- How will success be measured?

Presentations on 2-Lane rural roadways becoming urbanized were made by representatives of South Carolina and Virginia.

Presentation on accessibility in the Public Rights-of-Way: Scott Windley of the US Access Board discussed the initial rulemaking; the development of several videos; the Advisory Committee and its final report; a published draft document and the current status of the Access Board determining the costs of proposed changes for the Office of Management and Budget. The five cost items being investigated are:

- Detectable warnings
- Accessible Pedestrian Signals
- Tabled intersections
- Temporary pedestrian routes during construction
- Signalization in multilane roundabouts

The differing degrees of accessibility required for new and for reconstruction (alterations) were discussed. It was noted that FHWA defined alterations in a memorandum to its field offices last fall. A demonstration of Accessible Pedestrian Signals is planned for October at the University of MD.

The manual on technical assistance for alternations may be out in July or August of 2007. It will help define “to the maximum extent feasible” requirement. The Institute of Transportation Engineers has on line accessibility training, and the Access Board is working with FHWA on a new video on surfaces.

Audience questions included:

- European use of signalization in “mature” roundabouts and what could be learned from that experience
- What are the next steps for issuing guidance on the Public Rights-of-Way? A proposed rule should appear in early 2008 for public comment, a final rule is expected in late 2009. The 2005 version is close to the 2008 document but the review of costs being done for OMB could affect the 2008 version.
- The differences between trails and sidewalks were questioned and which accessibility standards apply to each were covered.
- The importance of construction tolerances and the possibility of litigation were mentioned.
- The clearance interval for countdown signals was discussed. It was explained that visually impaired pedestrians need to know when to start crossing not when to complete their crossing.
- The requirement for detectable warnings was discussed.

June 19 Meeting of the TCNT:

Research Discussion:

The discussion of research needs continued. Suggested topics from the TRB Pedestrian and Bicycle Committees were presented and discussed.

Pedestrian Topics discussed:

- “Increasing the Safety of Interactions between Pedestrians and Large Commercial Vehicles in Urban Areas”
- “Development of a Methodology to Evaluate the Impacts of Constructing Missing Sidewalks”
- “Improving Transit and Transportation Agency Coordination to Increase the Safety of Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossings near Transit Stops”

Bicycle Topics discussed:

- “Liability Aspects of Bikeway Designation Updated”
- “Enhancing Travel Surveys for Non-Motorized Travel”
- “Systematic Data Collection of Crashes on Shared Use Pathways”
- “Design Options to reduce Turning Motor Vehicle/Bicycle Conflicts at Intersections”
- “Motorist Perceptions of Bicyclists on Roadways”

After the discussions, the following topics were identified for the development of research problem statements for consideration of 2009 NCHRP funding:

- **Crash Data Collection for Non Motorized Transportation:** Solberg and Fegan to work on this research problem statement with assistance of Michael Jackson from MD DOT
- **Guidelines for Use of Bike Lanes:** Woodrum/Glick/Kingsbury/Ed Fischer (from Traffic Engineering) to work on this research problem statement.
- **Development of Guidelines for Parallel Shared Use Paths (Sidepaths):** Kingsbury and Huber to work on this research problem statement
- **Development of Methodology for Prioritizing Sidewalks:** Dodds/Laird/Windley/ and Bill Lambert (from Traffic Engineering) to work on this research problem statement

These problem statements are needed by the end of July

Whether additional research regarding the recommended 42” minimum height for bridge rails was discussed. The TCNMT did not see a need for additional research. Concerns regarding a higher railing included:

- There has been no indication that higher rails are needed
- The importance of the railing not obstructing the view of the bicyclist was mentioned.

Reports on Other Activities and Liaisons:

Dick reported on the activities of the Context Sensitive Solutions Task Force. Dick identified the liaisons to the TRB Pedestrian Committee (Kingsbury), the TRB Bicycle Committee (Glick) and the AASHTO US Bike Routes Task Force (Bachman and Dodds).

It was agreed that Albin, Fegan, and McDonnell would work on the TCNT mission and vision statements. Dodds and Huber were identified as ADA liaisons. Fegan volunteered to ask Tim Arnade who administers the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program for FHWA for the name of a state rep for the TCNT.

The composition of the TCNT was discussed. Less active members will be asked if they wish to continue to serve on the TCNT.

Location of Next TCNT Meeting:

Option 1 is to meet on the Tuesday before ProWalk ProBike in Seattle in September 2008
Option 2 is to meet with the AASHTO Subcommittee on Design in New Mexico in June 2008.

There was a lot of interest in both of these and the vote was split by attendees. All TCNT members will be canvassed on this issue.

Meeting was adjourned.