

National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

General Session—Friday, January 09, 2004—Arlington, Virginia

Minutes of Meeting

Chairman Kobetsky called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

Executive Secretary Bob Garrett called the roll and the following council members were present:

AAA	Jeffrey Bagdade		
AAMVA	(No Delegate)		
AAR	Tom Zeinz	IACP	Gary Jenkins
AASHTO	Tom Hicks	IBTTA	Kerry Ferrier
	Rick Werts	IMSA	(No Delegate)
	Barry Warhoftig	ITE	Tom Aber
	Tim Taylor		Bruce Friedman
	Ken Kobetsky		John Fisher
	Dave Woodin		Ronnie Bell
	Ed Fischer		Gene Hawkins
	Bruce Ibarguen		Jon Upchurch
AHAS	(No Delegate)		Kevin Woodard
AHUA	Jim Keaton		Robert Canfield
APWA	Darryl Hockstra	NACE	Lee Billingsley
	Steve Oliver		Jeff Blue
			John Logan
AREMA	Richard Bowden	HFR	Fred Hanscom
ARTBA	Fred Peil	NAGHSR	Ron Lipps
ATSSA	Dave McKee	NCUTL&O	Ray Pusey
LAB	Richard Moeur	NSC	Harold Thompson
APTA	Paul O'Brien		

Honorary, Non-Voting Members: Dick Luetlich and Carlton Robinson

Secretary Garrett declared a quorum with 35 of 39 voting members present. Also present were approximately 100 other members and visitors.

Research Committee Report

Research committee chair, Jon Upchurch, reported that the committee had met last night at the FHWA Turner-Fairbank laboratory with nine members and 37 visitors in attendance where they heard several presentations. Jon also congratulated Lee Billingsley on his election as NCUTCD Chair. Ken Kobetsky expressed the appreciation of NCUTCD members for the six years that Jon has served as Vice Chair for Research and chair of the research committee.

Bicycle Technical Committee Report

Bicycle Committee chair, Richard Moeur, reported that the committee had met the past two days with 14 members and about five guests present. They had one item from the June meeting that was sent to sponsors. They discussed and resolved sponsor comments and made some changes. (Attachment No. 1-11 pages)

Moved by Moeur, seconded by Fisher to approve the recommendation of the Bicycle Technical Committee regarding Sections 9B.20 and 9B.21 of the MUTCD (Attachment No. 1). Motion passed unanimously.

The committee also approved proposed changes to the MUTCD regarding US bike route, shared-use path signs which will be sent to sponsors for comment in advance of the June 2004 meeting. The committee will present final recommendations at the June meeting.

R/W Signs Technical Committee Report

R/W Signs committee chair, Bruce Ibarguen, reported that the committee had met the past two days with 22 members and 4 guests attending. The committee has reviewed Part 7 and will be preparing a revised version to send to the NCUTCD council prior to the June 04 meeting. Sponsor comments on Sections 2B.04 and 2B.10 were also reviewed and RW will present recommendations in June.

Sub committees were appointed to review and present recommendations at the June 2004 meeting on the specific sections of the MUTCD affected by the FHWA urbanization survey.

The committee has drafted a letter to FHWA asking for clarification on the application of the MUTCD on private property. There was discussion on the letter and Pusey pointed out that there could be problems with making all aspects of the MUTCD, such as sight distance, apply to private property. There was no action by the Council on the letter.

The committee also developed a position on the use of stop and yield signs at passive grade crossings.

Signals Technical Committee Report

Signals committee chair, Bruce Friedman, reported that the committee had met the past two days with 32 members plus eight guests present. Recommendations on Section 4D.10 were tabled at the last meeting and it was recommended to keep that item tabled until the June 2004 meeting. The committee will send their revised recommendations on this item as well as recommendations on three other items (4D.08, 4E.08 and 4E.09) to sponsors prior to the June meeting. Several other items are being discussed by the STC which are not ready yet to go to sponsors.

Friedman also reported a suggestion by FHWA that more figures and tables be added to Part 4 as this complex part only has six illustrations at the present time. A member of the STC also suggested that the purchase of a TCD Handbook as a companion document to the MUTCD be strongly encouraged.

The committee presented recommended changes in section 4C.04 (Attachment No. 2- 1 page).

Moved by Friedman, Seconded by Woodard to approve the proposed changes to Section 4C.04 as presented by the Signals Technical Committee (Attachment No. 2) Motion passed unanimously.

Markings Technical Committee Report

Markings committee chair, Gene Hawkins, reported that the committee had met the last two days with 27 members and seven visitors present. They heard presentations by FHWA staff and others and heard reports from task forces. The committee expects to act on roundabout task force recommendations and send to sponsors afterward.

The committee reviewed sponsor comments on suggested revisions to Section 3B.16, Staggered Stop Lines and made some changes in response to those comments. The final recommendation of the Markings committee is included in (Attachment No. 3-2 pages).

Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Hockstra to approve the recommended changes to Section 3B.16 as shown in (Attachment No. 3). Motion passed unanimously.

The committee had considered sponsor comments on the recommended new section "Do Not Block Intersection" and made some changes including one of four options. During discussion there was a question on the New York sign "Do Not Block the Box" and some wording changes were agreed to. The final version of this proposed new section is (Attachment No. 4-2 pages).

Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Hockstra to approve the proposed new section on "Do Not Block Intersection" (Attachment No. 4). Motion passed unanimously.

The Markings committee will have several items to send to sponsors prior to the June 2004 meeting and will be presenting these recommendations to the Council at that time.

G/MI Signs Technical Committee Report

G/MI committee chair, Barry Warhoftig, reported that the committee had met for the past two days with 21 members and 13 visitors attending. They heard four presentations by FHWA and others and discussed a number of items including; bilingual signing and clear-view fonts and have no action items to present to the Council at this time. The committee will have three items to go to sponsors prior to the June 2004 meeting and will be presenting these to the council at that time.

Pharmacy Provisions in Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Jon Upchurch presented information on provisions in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill being considered by congress. Section 124 of the bill requires that the US DOT amend the MUTCD to include a provision permitting the inclusion of a logo sign for 24-hour pharmacies. There was concern expressed with such a requirement being initiated by legislation without proper consideration of highway safety issues. It was felt that such decisions regarding highway signing should be made through the proper rulemaking process. Ensuring that all viewpoints and perspectives are considered.

There was discussion of NCUTCD sending a letter to members of congress and agreement that the NCUTCD should not send a letter, but that sponsoring organizations should be encouraged to contact members of congress. After further discussion the following resolution was presented:

“The NCUTCD will encourage sponsors of the NCUTCD to provide information to House and Senate authorizing committees on Motorist Information concerning pharmacy services, including, but not limited to, the issues of:

1. Driver information overload
2. Sign spreading
3. Priority of motorist needs for services.

And recommend that legislation be introduced to consider motorist information signing for pharmacies through the federal rulemaking process of amending the MUTCD.”

Moved by Pusey, seconded by Upchurch to approve the resolution to encourage sponsors to contact members of congress regarding pharmacy signing. Motion passed unanimously.

Subsequently, a memo was sent from the NCUTCD chair to sponsors (Attachment No. 5-4 pages)

Railroad/Light Rail Transit Technical Committee Report

RR/LRT technical committee chair, Richard Bowden, reported that the committee had met the past two days with 38 members and six visitors in attendance. The committee heard reports from five task forces. The committee will have one item on determination of preemption to go to sponsors.

Recommended changes to Sections 8B.01, 8B.03, 8B.04, 8B.05, 8B.06, 8B.08, 8B.15, 8B.16 and Figures 8B-1, and 8B.2 were presented and discussed and it was moved to table until a joint task force with Signs and Markings technical committees could look at remaining issues.

Temporary Traffic Control Technical Committee Report

TTC committee chair, Lee Billingsley, reported that the committee had met the last two days with 36 members and 10 visitors present. They reviewed several items and have no action items to present to the Council at this time. They will have one item on figure 6F-6 to send to sponsors.

June Meeting in Juneau, Alaska

There was discussion on the June 2004 meeting in Juneau, Alaska and an informal survey indicated that there were only five people who indicated they would not be attending.

Announcements

Outgoing Chair, Ken Kobetsky presented remarks on his 15 years as chair and introduced incoming chair, Lee Billingsley who also presented some remarks.

Executive Secretary, Bob Garrett, announced that a committee is working to upgrade the NCUTCD web page and it will be working in advance of the June meeting. He also outlined the procedure for applying for technical membership.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Robert M. Garrett, Executive Secretary