

National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

General Session—Thursday, June 24, 2004—Juneau, Alaska

Minutes of Meeting

Chairman Billingsley called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

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

AAA	Jeffrey Bagdade		
AAMVA	(No Delegate)		
AAR	Tom Zeinz	IACP	(No Delegate)
AASHTO	Tom Hicks	IBTTA	Kerry Ferrier
	Kurt Smith	IMSA	Greg Bothwell
	Barry Warhoftig	ITE	Tom Aber
	Tim Taylor		Gene Putman
	Ken Kobetsky		John Fisher
	Lee Roadifer		Ronnie Bell
	Scott Thorson		Gene Hawkins
	Bill Lambert		Jon Upchurch
AHAS	(No Delegate)		Kevin Woodard
AHUA	Jim Keaton		Robert Canfield
APWA	Steve Oliver	NACE	Lee Billingsley
	(No Delegate)		Jim Ellison
	(No Delegate)		John Logan
AREMA	Richard Bowden	HFR	Fred Hanscom
ARTBA	Fred Peil	GHSA	Ron Lipps
ATSSA	Dave McKee	NCUTL&O	Ray Pusey
LAB	Richard Moeur	NSC	Mike Gostovich
APTA	Paul O'Brien		

Honorary, Non-Voting Members: Jim Pline

Secretary Garrett declared a quorum with 34 of 39 voting members present. Also present were approximately 91 other members and visitors.

Moved by Pusey, seconded by Hawkins to approve the minutes of the last two council meetings January 8, 9, 2004. Motion approved unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Chairman, Lee Billingsley, reported on the previous evenings Executive Board meeting:

- The board approved 13 new technical members. Their names were read. (Attachment No. 1.)
- Approved the bylaws amendment on sponsor selection which will be voted on by the council today.
- Approved budgets for the June 2005 meeting in Buffalo, NY
- Approved the FY 2005 budget.

- Approved contracts with the Hilton Crystal City hotel in Arlington, Virginia for the January 2006, 2007 and 2008 meetings.
- Approved the Executive Secretaries contract for FY 2005
- Appointed new task forces:
 1. Task force to present recommendations on a new part for MUTCD on traffic control for private facilities to be chaired by Tom Hicks and including Dave McKee, John Logan and Bob Canfield
 2. Task force to review the NCUTCD bylaws to be chaired by Dave McKee and including Ron Lipps, Kerry Ferrier, John Logan, Ken Kobetsky and Jon Upchurch.
 3. Task force to develop a program for leadership development to include honorary members, Ken Kobetsky, Steve Oliver, Tom Hicks and Gene Hawkins.

Honorary Member Presentation

At the January 2004 meeting it was announced that Jim Pline was designated as Honorary Member. A plaque was presented to Jim at this time.

Bylaws Amendment

Moved by Lipps, seconded by Ferrier to approve the bylaws amendment relating to procedure for approving new sponsors. (Attachment No. 2) Motion passed unanimously.

FHWA Report

A report of FHWA activities was presented by Regina McElroy, Director of the Office of Transportation Operations. She introduced herself and other FHWA staff in attendance.

- This is her first time at NCUTCD and she thanked members for all the work expended on the MUTCD—over 24,000 man-hours. FHWA could not produce the MUTCD without the NCUTCD.
- MUTCD Team Leader, Ernie Huckaby, will retire in December and she asked for input from NCUTCD members in filling his position.
- Older Driver Handbook is now published and it will be distributed to NCUTCD members.
- There will be a new chapter in the MUTCD on Changeable Message Signs (CMS).
- Future initiatives of FHWA will include:
 - Commercialization of the ROW.
 - Urban applications of the MUTCD
 - TC Devices for pedestrians with disabilities
 - Reaching out to non-traditional groups to promote the MUTCD
 - Defining traffic control devices
 - Implication of congress bypassing traditional method of amending the MUTCD

Scott Wainwright presented a report on Traffic Signal Operations Self Assessment.

Edit Committee Report

GET FROM TOM

Presentation on Definition of Traffic Control Devices

Gene Hawkins made a presentation on the definition of a traffic control device and what information should be addressed in the MUTCD. The following are some of the key points addressed in the presentation:

- The MUTCD is becoming a "one-stop" document for traffic engineering practices. It is widely used by virtually all traffic engineers.
- There is a desire to include an increasing amount of information in the MUTCD.
- Some of the guidance in Part 6 addresses treatments that are not traffic control devices.
- The Markings Technical Committee is developing guidance for treatments that might not be considered traffic control devices in the traditional sense. These include detectable warnings, transverse rumble strips, and rumble strips.
- There is a need to take a strategic look at the current definition of a traffic control device and determine if the definition should be broadened or restricted. A similar look should be given to the content of the MUTCD. Should it continue to expand in content or limit itself to devices only?

John LaPlante disagreed with the need to define TC devices and said that "engineering judgment" should be used. No action by the Council at this time.

Report on Canadian NCUTCD

John Logan gave a report on the most recent meeting of the Canadian NCUTCD. (Attachment No. 3).

Presentation on Transportation Legislation

Jonathan Upchurch gave a presentation on the status of reauthorization of federal highway and transit programs. The Senate and the House passed their respective bills by wide margins in February and April; the two bills are now in conference committee to reconcile the differences.

The current major challenge is to agree on the level of funding for the bill. While the Senate bill, at \$318 billion, is larger than the House bill, at \$275 billion, both bills spend more money than the \$256 billion that the White House has proposed. In the end, it will be a question of what level of funding is politically achievable?

The state of the economy, the federal budget deficit, re-election campaigns, and election year politics are some of the dynamics that are affecting the effort to produce a bill that can be passed by the House and Senate and accepted by the White House. The so-called "donor-donee" issue is also a major issue to be resolved.

There is very little time remaining on the legislative calendar this year because of two political conventions, the August recess, and October re-election campaigns. The short time available, combined with other legislation that demands Congress' attention, will make it more difficult to pass a bill before the November election.

Report on Pharmacy Signing

Barry Warhoftig reported that the GMI Sign Technical Committee had spent yesterday afternoon reviewing the MUTCD change allowing the use of 24-hour pharmacy logo sign on the federal aid system. The committee then presented several recommended changes to that proposed change to Part 2 of the MUTCD as well as a recommendation that the NCUTCD take a position in opposition to this legislative method of amending the MUTCD.

He then presented each recommendation of the GMI committee and each was approved by the NCUTCD. In addition, it was moved by Kobetsky, seconded by Pusey that NCUTCD response to the docket say that the NCUTCD opposes the process of legislating changes to the MUTCD. Motion passed unanimously.

This position as well as all of the proposed changes were sent to the docket the next day and are in (Attachment No. 4).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.

Respectively submitted,

Robert M. Garrett
Executive Secretary