

**Brian Wolshon**

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**From:** TRB's Committee on User Information Systems [TRBUIS-L@LISTS.PSU.EDU] on behalf of Phil Garvey [pmg4@PSU.EDU]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2003 2:06 PM  
**To:** TRBUIS-L@LISTS.PSU.EDU  
**Subject:** TRB Reorganization and Annual Meeting Minutes

Dear Members and Associates,

TRB is reorganizing its committees. Currently we are in the Safety section (B) of the Operations and Maintenance group (3). It is being suggested that we move to a new group, "System Users" and new section, "Travelers Issues." The following is a list of the other committees suggested for that section:

- Traveler Behavior and Values
- Telecommunications and Travel Behavior
- Accessible Transportation and Mobility
- Transportation Demand Management
- Women's Issues in Transportation
- Native American Transportation Issues

There was some concern expressed by committee members at the annual meeting as to the appropriateness of this section change, however, I have been told by TRB that the move is not "in stone" and that as a committee we have some input.

Possible alternate sections include remaining in "Safety" or moving to "Operations" which has the following proposed committees:

- Communications Systems and Navigation Technologies
- Traffic Control Devices
- Regional Transportation Systems Management and Operations
- Railroad-Hwy Grade Crossings
- HOV Systems
- Operation Effects of Geometrics
- Freeway Operations
- Highway Capacity and Quality of Service
- Traffic Flow Theory and Characteristics
- Traffic Signal Systems
- Vehicle-Hwy Automation
- Access Management
- ITS

Please contact me directly by email (pmg4@psu.edu) if you would like to have some say in this matter.

It was great seeing so many of you at our annual meeting at TRB in January. Beverly Kuhn our secretary did a very nice and timely job putting together the minutes from that meeting and I have attached them to this email.

I'll be in touch sometime in the spring to talk about a mid-year meeting venue.

Sincerely,

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**COMMITTEE ON USER INFORMATION SYSTEMS, A3B08  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**MARRIOTT HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
TUESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2003  
1:30 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

**I. Call to Order**

Philip Garvey, Chair of the committee, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. in room Washington 1B in the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

**a. Self Introductions**

At Phil's request, the attendees introduced themselves, including their name, membership status, and employer. See the attached attendee sign-in sheet for a complete list of attendees. A total of 24 individuals attended the meeting.

**b. Circulation of Attendance Roster**

The full committee roster was missing so members were asked to fill out the attendance roster with complete contact information. If members are unsure of whether or not they are a member, they were instructed to put a question mark next to their name on the roster. Phil will check with TRB and the committee records to determine their status as a member and get back with them.

**II. TRB Staff Report – Rick Pain**

Rick Pain was unable to attend the meeting, so Phil summarized some of the key information that Rick was to report to the committee. Regarding attendance at the meeting, advanced registration was up 10% (to about 7800), and the expected attendance was to be just over 9000 attendees.

TRB is currently looking at having a 2005 mid-year meeting of the entire membership. Date and location times are to be announced in the future. In addition, the 2004 meeting will see the elimination of Thursday sessions on a trial basis.

TRB is currently reorganizing the technical committee structure. For those that do not know, this committee, A3B08, is in the following section: A – TRB Technical Activities Division, 3 – Operations and Maintenance Group, B – Safety Section. In the new structure we are slated to no longer be under safety but will be under Traveler's Issues Section. The committee can review this reassignment and petition

that designation if it wants to move. Phil will send out the list of the new reorganization structure it to the group and ask for comment and feed back to see if our new location is reasonable.

### **III. Committee Activities in 2002**

#### **a. Mid-year Meeting**

The mid-year meeting of the committee was held in Baltimore, MD at the HFES annual meeting at Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Heron Room, Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> between 1:30 - 3:00 pm. Attendance was sparse due to the diverse interests of the members and the few number of members who attend this particular meeting. The meeting was informative and successful despite the few attendees.

#### **b. TRB Paper Review**

Gary Thomas is our paper review chair. See Gary's summary as attached. Several papers (4) were slated for revision and re-review. Gary indicated that some committee members should expect to receive one or more of those papers for re-review in the next few weeks. The culmination of the paper review activities was 2 sessions with a total of 9 papers as noted on the attachment. The two sessions were 565 – Variable Message, Diagrammatic, and Airport Sign Research and Evaluation and 637 – Advanced Traveler Information Systems Research (Poster Session).

Some comments were received regarding the fact that two presenters declined their presentation offer because they were slated for poster presentations. The comment was to emphasize that they are equally important. Sue Chrysler indicated that Rick Pain is aware of the problem that authors may feel that poster sessions are not on par with paper presentation sessions. However, In TRB this is not the case as poster papers are published in the proceedings and the relevant papers can be published in the TRRs as well. If you have any clever suggestions of how to re-title poster presentations or the concept, then please let Rick know.

It was discussed if the issue was clear to the reviewers. The intent is that the reviewer is to review the paper on the merit of its work and then select it for presentation or not. Then the presentation format is determined by TRB staff, whether oral or poster. Phil noted that we can also request a paper to be presented during a committee meeting. Sue Chrysler also noted that the Traffic Control Devices Committee had a number of papers presented at their committee meeting that are included in the proceedings.

**c. Visibility Symposium**

This committee served as one of the sponsors of this meeting, which was held at University of Iowa in the summer of 2002. The symposium had 86 attendees and about 36 sessions. One of the draws was the opportunity to tour the national simulator. Helmut Zwahlen reported that the meeting was well-run but he was disappointed that attendees couldn't get closer to the simulator. Attendees were also able to tour the simulator in the medical area, which is more of a diagnostic tool for people with brain injuries, Alzheimer's, and other related diseases. The sessions had parallel tracks and the meeting was a good experience. It is anticipated that it will most likely be in Washington, D.C. in 2005 but that the date might be moved in order to NOT compete with the larger TRB mid-year meeting being planned for that same year.

**d. Visualization Subcommittee's Salt Lake City Symposium**

The visualization committee held their bi-annual meeting at the Snowbird resort in Salt Lake City, Utah, 22-25 April 2002. There were 143 attendees, 43 presenters, and 12 exhibits. The meeting went very well and the organizers were extremely pleased with the turnout.

**IV. Scheduled Committee Activities for 2003****a. TRB Paper Review**

Gary will stay on as the paper review committee chair for another year and then begin thinking of identifying a replacement.

**b. Committee's Midyear Meeting Location**

The 2003 HFES meeting is in Denver this year on October 13-17, 2003. This is a likely place for the next mid-year meeting of this committee. This is Phil's last year as committee chair. If you have any other suggestions, give them to Phil.

**V. Other Business****a. TRB's 2003 Human Factors Workshop**

Helmut attended the Changeable Message Sign workshop. One thing he discovered while at this workshop is that NEMA practically has a standard for VMS practically ready to go. Human factors issues were really not a concern to those developing the standard, which should be of concern to this and other committees. Helmut brought this fact to their attention, especially regarding the potential concerns of HFES and other national organizations. He suggested that perhaps this committee needs to form a joint subcommittee with other TRB committees to address the issue.

Tom Granda reported that through the TMC pooled-fund study, Connie Dudek has prepared a document providing guidelines for message content for DMS. In draft format and will be out in final version soon. In the last few weeks they have also contracted with Dudek to prepare a chapter for the MUTCD on DMS. The first draft is about 12 months away. Anything already available can be found on the TMC pooled fund study website. <http://tmcpfs.ops.fhwa.dot.gov>. Beezy Bentzen noted that this committee needs to think about making sure that those with visual impairments can use DMS as well, such as in non-highway applications like airports and transit facilities.

If members have any thoughts for new topics for the 2004 Human Factors Workshop, let Helmut know via e-mail ([zwahlen@ohio.edu](mailto:zwahlen@ohio.edu)) or send them to Rick Pain ([rpain@nas.edu](mailto:rpain@nas.edu)) by mid-March. The planning committee meeting is usually in the latter part of March or early April. If members have an idea for a luncheon speaker, provide that as well.

**b. FHWA’s “International Human Factors Highway Guideline for Road Systems”**

Richard van der Horst gave a brief overview of the status of this effort. They have 2 overall tracks, one in the United States and one in Europe. The U.S. one was an NCHRP report that is near completion. In Europe things are moving slowly because of a lack of funding. There was a workshop in 2001 and the proceedings are now on the TRB website. Next year they plan on having some focus. The subcommittee is meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Harding room and will discuss how to continue and a proposal for a three-pronged approach: contents, research needs, and user group. Neil Lerner will be talking tonight during that meeting.

Phil reminded the group that this committee has been asked to participate in this effort and that if they ever have anything that they would like to say regarding the format or content to please contact Phil. If any feedback is going to be given into the process, now is the time. Other issues up for comment include the media for distribution and the methods of distribution. Sam Tignor may want designated members from the committees to participate in the process, so Phil will check with him and get back with the group.

**c. Subcommittee Reports**

**i. Subcommittee on Visualization in Transportation – Michael Manore**

Michael has submitted a formal request for the subcommittee to be moved off the committee and designated as a task force.

**ii. Subcommittee on ATIS – David Yang and Asad Khattak**

David reported that the committee had two conference sessions Monday morning with 11 speakers and attendance was about 100 attendees per session. The sessions were well-received by the authors and the audiences. The two sessions were 422 – Research Developments in ATIS, and 465 – Implemented Projects in ATIS.

The subcommittee annual meeting is being held Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. They are going to try and continue to sponsor conference sessions each year as they are popular. They are also going to try and collect the PowerPoint presentations and contact Rick Pain at TRB to see if they can publish them in a TRB Circular.

Asad noted that this year they focused on a local perspective in the conference sessions. They may attempt to address ATIS from an international perspective next year. Success is also somewhat related to the time slots for the sessions and the length of time planning the sessions. They began planning back in June 2002 and submitted to TRB in October 2002. Earlier is better.

**iii. Subcommittee on Paper Review – Gary Thomas**

See report in section III-B for his report and attached summary. He will continue for another year as chair of this subcommittee.

**d. Announcements of Interest to the Members of the Committee****i. Human Factors and Ergonomic Society Annual Meeting**

The call for papers is out on the HFES webpage and the deadline is 4 March 2003. The meeting will be held in Denver on 13-17 October 2003. If members have any questions please contact Tim Brown. They also need extra reviewers, so if members are interested, please contact Tim.

**ii. ITS America's Annual Meeting**

This meeting will be held in Minneapolis, MN on 19-22 May 2003 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The deadline for paper submissions has already passed for this meeting.

**iii. Other**

The Driving Simulation Conference North America 2003 will be held at the Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Michigan, 8-10 October 2003.

The Driving Assessment, 2<sup>nd</sup> International Driving Symposium on Human Factors in Driver Assessment, Training, and Vehicle Design, will be held at The Grand Summit Resort Hotel, Park City, Utah, July 21-24, 2003.

The Vision in Vehicles conference is slated for 6-10 September in Granada, Spain. The deadline for paper submissions has already passed for this meeting.

Beezy Bentzen announced that she has suggested to the Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility (NUMBER) the idea of developing a synthesis topic on conveying real-time traveler information for those with visual impairments. She wanted to know if this committee would be interested in also sponsoring a request for such a synthesis. Asad Khattak offered to take the lead on that as a good match for our committee.

Brian Wolshon commented that subcommittee's have an open roster as long as they have the blessing of a committee. A Task Force is something with a very specific goal in mind and ends once that task is complete. However, if the task force completes their assigned task and finds that there is more to accomplish, then they can become a full committee.

Brian reported that the website is still at the same address (<http://www.rsip.lsu.edu/brian/A3B08/>) and posting all minutes, announcements, agendas for meetings, etc. will continue. Any time members have any information contact Brian. It is also accessible via the TRB website.

Tom Granda reported about the ICON program with Battelle, a tool for building icon's and guidelines. About a year ago they produced an electronic billboards white paper which is accessible through the FHWA website under planning and environment and real estate services. He also reported that the traffic control devices pooled fund study currently has 9 states that have agreed to join and it has officially started. They are looking now to setting up the first meeting of this study. The basis is to look at novel TCD approaches to the MUTCD and to evaluate them in such a way that the results can be forwarded to the NUTCD for inclusion in the manual.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned its meeting at 3:30 p.m.

**Summary of A3B08 Paper Submittals  
2003 TRB Annual Meeting**

<b>Papers Submitted</b>	<b>19</b>
Accepted for Presentation	9
Rejected for Presentation	8
Did not submit for presentation	2
Accepted for publication	3
Requesting revision and re-review	4
Rejected for publication	12
Presentations declined	2 (both posters)
Reviewers	30
Total Reviews	60

**Session 565**

Tuesday, January 14, 2003, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM, Marriott  
Variable Message, Diagrammatic, and Airport Sign Research and Evaluation

Sponsored by:  
A3B08 - Committee on User Information Systems

Evaluation of Variable Message Signs on I-4 at Exits 30A and 30B (03-2277)  
Effectiveness of VMS Using Empirical Loop Detector Data (03-2128)  
Reducing Time to Scan Information-Dense Airport Terminal Signs (03-4454)  
Evaluation of Effectiveness of Ground-Mounted Diagrammatic Advance Guide Signs for Freeway Entrance Ramps (03-3315)  
Driver Eye Scanning Behavior While Viewing Ground-Mounted Diagrammatic Guide Signs Before Entrance Ramps at Night (03-2686)

**Session 637**

Wednesday, January 15, 2003, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hilton  
Advanced Traveller Information Systems Research (Poster Session)

Sponsored by:  
A3B08 - Committee on User Information Systems  
A1C08 - Committee on Telecommunications and Travel Behavior

Toward a Better Understanding of Needs for Travel Information: (03-2108)  
Analysis of Driver En Route Guidance Compliance and Driver Learning with ATIS Using Travel Simulation Experiment (03-3264)  
Patterns of Information and Telecommunications Use and Attitudes in Pennsylvania Turnpike Traveler Information System (03-2533)