

**COMMITTEE ON USER INFORMATION SYSTEMS (AND20) – ANNUAL MEETING**

**MARRIOTT HOTEL – WASHINGTON, DC  
WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2006  
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON / VIRGINIA C ROOM, MARRIOTT**

**MEETING MINUTES****I. Call to Order**

Beverly Kuhn called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**A. *Self Introductions Circulation of Attendance Roster***

All those in attendance introduced themselves.

**B. *Circulation of Attendance Roster***

The attendance roster was circulated for attendees to sign. Members were also asked to verify their contact information on the list of current members that was circulated.

**II. Presentation**

Tom Granda with FHWA gave a brief presentation on the activities of the USDOT Human Factors Coordinating Committee. Briefing information regarding this committee is located at the following URL: <http://scitech.dot.gov/research/human/index.html>.

**III. TRB Staff Report**

Rick Pain reported that SHRP II is looking for members for the technical oversight committee for the safety portion. The committee will develop specific project ideas and project panels will be identified for each of these. There will be a minimum of two meetings a year for the committee, most of which will be review-related. The question arose as whether participation on the committee prohibits one from bidding on a project. Rick indicated that that is currently not clear, though there may be a potential conflict of interest. They are also looking for a Senior Program Officer for the safety program of SHRP.

Rick also added that he needs conference session topics for the 2007 Annual Meeting sometime in June 2006. The complete program detail for those sessions will be needed by September 15 to either the committee chair or Rick so that it can be entered into the website and database.

**IV. Committee Activities in 2005****A. *Committee Membership***

Beverly welcomed the new and returning members to the committee. She indicated that efforts have been made to expand the committee and that she is also interested in increasing the diversity of its members.

### ***B. Midyear Meeting***

Beverly reported that the committee held a mid-year meeting at ITS America in May 2006 in Phoenix, Arizona. Five people attended the meeting at which the group reviewed the committee scope and discussed activities for the remainder of the year.

### ***C. TRB's Critical Issues in Transportation***

The committee discussed the information put forth by TRB in *Critical Issues in Transportation*. The committee agreed that we should look at the critical issues and consider them in our activities. Safety and the driver are typically blamed from everything. Our committee represents the interface between driver and roadway. We agreed that we could comment on issues related to interfaces, traffic control devices, and dynamic message signs. The latest version of this document located at the following URL: <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/general/CriticalIssues06.pdf>.

### ***D. 17th Biennial Symposium on Visibility and Traffic Control Devices***

Beverly noted that the committee co-sponsored the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium on Visibility and Traffic Control Devices held in Washington, DC April 2-5, 2005. The meeting consisted of eleven technical sessions. Information regarding the symposium can be found at the following URL: <http://www.usd.edu/coglab/symposium/>.

### ***E. Committee Scope and Strategic Initiatives***

During the mid-year meeting, the committee added a multimodal piece to the scope. The group agreed that we may need to revisit this scope if the ATIS subcommittee becomes a Task Force. The group also changed the scope to be more forward thinking to include mobile communications devices, specifically those that drivers might be carrying with them. Jerry Wachtel is concerned about the fact that billboards and commercial signage is not included in term "information exchange between the transportation provider" in the first sentence. He would still like on-premise and off-premise commercial signs to be included in scope. David Yang recalls from the mid-year meeting discussion that the concern was that the former scope was too general and may account for dwindling membership on the committee. Jerry suggested changing "transportation provider" to "transportation system." Helmut didn't like "safe information exchange", and would like add "efficient" to that. All agreed with Jerry and Helmut's amendments.

Final version:

*The committee's activities focus on the safe and efficient information exchange between the transportation system and the user. Particular attention is be placed on emerging technologies and delivery mechanisms, defining the informational requirements based on user needs, user capabilities and limits, and situation and environmental conditions that affect the adequate, safe, and accurate dissemination of user information. The committee's purview includes the user information services associated with multimodal transportation.*

## V. Scheduled Committee Activities for 2006

### A. Sessions

The committee is sponsoring three sessions at the 2006 meeting. They are as follows:

[Session 208, Monday, January 23, 2006, 8:00 AM - 9:45 AM, Marriott – Recent Developments in Advanced Traveler Information Systems in America and Around the World](#)

[Poster Session 322, Monday, January 23, 2006, 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM, Marriott – User Information Systems Research \(Poster Session\)](#)

[Session 369, Monday, January 23, 2006, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM, Marriott – Addressing Traveler Information and Traffic Control Needs for Managed Lanes](#)

### B. Future Conference Sessions – Committee Sponsorship

The group agreed to establish a subcommittee for Conference Sessions. David Yang agreed to lead this subcommittee to organize the sponsorship of sessions for future annual meetings. He will include the topic we developed for the 2006 Human Factors Workshop that arrived too late for submission: “Emerging Issues in Technologies in Driver Information Systems.” Planning for the Workshop begins in late March. Tom Granda also suggested the idea of in-car/through windshield information delivery as a potential topic. Beverly will send request to the membership list to solicit ideas for topics and speakers for other sub-committee activities. The committee may also consider issuing a call for papers on a specific topic. The ATIS subcommittee is considering doing this for whichever topic they select.

### C. Mid-Year Meeting

The group agreed to assess the interest in holding a mid-year meeting later in the year as things progress.

## VI. Other Business

### A. Discussion – Unmet Transportation Information Needs

The committee identified several critical research needs related to user information that it will work to see that they are addressed through a variety of efforts. These issues include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The matching of information received by the user from different sources (i.e., in-vehicle vs. roadside);
- User information impacts of VII components (e.g., crash avoidance systems, lane departure systems, etc.);
- Speed limit mapping integration with VII;
- Basic information processing and decision making time parameters that could be used by system developers, operations, traffic simulation, etc.;
- Weather information in terms of accuracy and method of presentation;
- Information overload and credibility; and
- Managed lane and toll information in terms of purchase decision modeling.

## ***B. Subcommittee Reports***

### **1. Subcommittee on ATIS – Mohamed Abdel-Aty**

Mohamed reported that the sponsored session on Monday was well attended with 50 people. At the sub-committee meeting, had presentation from UCF about looking at ATIS issues in driving simulator. Discussed whether they should move from Joint Subcommittee to Task Force. They will work on a scope and mission, but they are not unanimously in favor of becoming a Task Force. Beverly is in favor of them moving to a Task Force once they work out their scope. Rick said that once the subcommittee drafts a proposal letter (3-4 pages with attachments listing typical activities, potential members, scope) by early December, then it gets discussed at the Group Council meeting during the Annual Meeting. If is established as a Task Force, it will be appointed in February. A Task Force is sunsetted in three years and can go for full committee at that point.

### **2. Subcommittee on Paper Review – Gary Thomas**

Gary Thomas reported that the committee is sponsoring 3 sessions this year: 2 podium and 1 poster. There was some discussion related to which should get published. Sue raised the issue of how to select which papers get published, should we be biased toward those that are more basic and theoretical rather than evaluations of specific technology that may be outmoded in the short-term future. David raised the point that this would cause us to pre-select topics. Gary goes more by if there is good agreement between the reviewers (all think it's great) those are the ones selected. Usually 1 to 2 of them are clear cut winners. Jose described the NIH review process. When he gets large discordant reviews, he has the reviewers read each others reviews and lets them re-submit their reviews after seeing how other reviewers have weighted certain issues. All reported that they liked seeing the other people's reviews in the current TRB process. Bryan Katz volunteered to take over as the chair of the Paper Review Subcommittee.

### **3. Subcommittee on Website – Brian Wolshon**

Brian Wolshon is stepping down as webmaster. Gary Thomas volunteered to take over, but no longer wants to handle paper reviews. Some discussion centered around using the TRB Webboard system. Gary noted that he would check on how usable the Webboard system is and that if it doesn't look feasible, he'll design his own site through TTI.

### **4. Subcommittee on Committee Liaisons**

Beverly indicated that she would like all of us to provide her with list of committees that we attend so she can identify liaisons to other committees:

- Safety Data Analysis (Art and Mohammed)
- Joint subcommittee on Intersections (Mohammed) CICAS
- ITS committee
- Vehicle User Characteristics
- Older Driver
- Visibility
- Driver Education

- Simulation and Operator Performance
- Traffic Control Devices
- Work Zones
- Managed Lanes Subcommittee
- National Parks

**VII. Announcements of Interest to the Members of the Committee**

***A. Institute of Transportation Engineers.***

[Technical Conference: Crowne Plaza Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX, March 19 – 22, 2006](#)  
[Annual Meeting: Midwest Airlines Center, Milwaukee, WI, August 6-9, 2006](#)

***B. Human Factors and Ergonomic Society***

[Annual Meeting: Hilton San Francisco Hotel, San Francisco, CA, October 16-20, 2006](#)

***C. ITS America***

[Annual Meeting: Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA, May 7-9, 2006](#)  
[World Congress: London, England, October 8-12, 2006](#)

**VIII. Adjournment**