

MINUTES
Transportation Planning for Small and Medium Sized Communities
Research Subcommittee ADA30(3)

Monday, January 22, 2007, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Washington, DC

ATTENDEES

Michael Anderson, Subcommittee Chair	University of Alabama @ Huntsville,
Libby Rushley	Ohio DOT
Jerry Schutz, Committee Chair	BTC, AR
Stacey Bricka, Secretary	NuStats, TX
Jeff Moore	Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Ron Poole,	NCDOT---retired
Tracy McMillan	University of Texas at Austin
Gaylord Burke	Merrimac Valley Planning Organization, MA

1. Introductions

Mike Anderson opened the meeting with introductions of the attendees.

2. Research Needs Statement Database – Jerry Schutz

- a. **Jerry** shared with the group that TRB is currently creating a Research Needs Statement Database. This database will include research needs statements that can be utilized by DOT's and Universities in selecting appropriate research as to the needs expressed by the members of TRB. The deadline for submittal of these statements is June 1st.
- b. **Mike Anderson** has been designated as the point person for the collection of these research needs statements from the Committee ADA30.

3. Development of Synthesis Projects

- a. **Mike** advised the committee that the deadlines for submittal of Synthesis Projects to TRB is February 14th for NCHRP, March 30th for TCRP, and October 6 for ACRP. The floor was then opened for discussion of possible recommendation for synthesis projects from Committee ADA30.
- b. **Jerry** opened the discussion of possible synthesis projects by stating that the Air Quality Subcommittee will probably develop a potential candidate synthesis project for consideration. Jerry mentioned that the committee had considered an overarching synthesis of work applicable to the small and medium-sized communities that we serve. Even with breaking this down by population ranges (under 50,000, 50,000 to 150,000, & 150-250,000), this was too unmanageable of a project. **Jerry** suggested that we divide the focus to specific "work areas" such as "modeling & GIS", but not have the population split.
- c. **Gaylord Burke** suggested a possible synthesis topic would be how communities are dealing with funding for projects, especially on a local level. Basically the question would be "what are transportation financing options available for projects in small and medium sized communities?" **Ron P.** suggested that an update of the Corridor Preservation Synthesis with an emphasis on project implementation in small and medium sized communities would be an effective way of addressing this synthesis topic.
- d. **Stacey B.** communicated a suggestion from Tom Schwetz for a research topic on how smaller communities are addressing transit or multimodal oriented development that is

appropriate for their size. Since this is an emerging issue among smaller communities without a great deal of documented research, the committee recommended that Tom's suggestion be developed as a Research Needs Statement that can be incorporated into the new Research Needs Statement Database by the summer deadline.

- e. **Jeff M.** suggested that the recent issues with security planning, especially in regards to dealing with system redundancy and emergency preparedness for smaller communities might be worth investigating. This suggestion developed from a statement in a fellow committee (Land Development & Transportation—ADD30) that basically every community in the nation was at risk from some form of man-made or natural threat to the transportation system. Jeff will ask the members of the Land Development & Transportation Committee to consider including small and medium sized communities into any synthesis that they may be pursuing on the security issue.
- f. **Jeff M.** suggested Public Involvement as a possible synthesis topic as to “effective tools” for smaller communities. After some discussion, this issue of providing practical tools might be best as a session focus at the upcoming conferences rather than as a synthesis project.
- g. At **Jerry's** suggestion, the committee discussed a possible synthesis topic of the impact on small communities of changes in traffic flow precipitated by the development of one-way/two way street conversions, bypasses, or major thru street reconstruction.
- h. With some discussion on safety planning focused on the impacts of new school siting on the transportation systems in smaller communities, **Tracy** offered to present to the committee on Schools & Transportation a possible synthesis topic on how communities have dealt with the impact of these major traffic generators.

4. Priorities of Synthesis Project Recommendations

The committee prioritized the suggested synthesis projects and selected volunteers to draft the synthesis statements.

- a. The top priority synthesis statement proposed is the updating of the Corridor Preservation Synthesis with an emphasis on project implementation in small and medium sized communities would be an effective way of addressing this synthesis topic. **Ron P.** will draft the statement and will coordinate with **Gaylord B.**, then present the statement to Mike by February 14th deadline.
- b. **Mike** will draft a synthesis statement on GIS & Modelling practices for small and medium sized communities.
- c. **Jerry** will draft the synthesis statement on the impact on small communities of changes in traffic flow precipitated by the development of one-way/two-way street conversions, bypasses, or major street reconstruction, then present the statement to Mike by February 14th deadline.
- d. **Vicky McLane** will draft any synthesis statement produced by the Air Quality Subcommittee and submit it to Mike.

5. Compilation of Papers from Previous Conferences

Mike reported that he and his staff (possibly a student) will sort out the previous conference papers by category and will send the finished product to Tom Schwetz for posting on our website. The Research Subcommittee tab will be the link to this compilation of the papers. There was discussion of adding possible other tabs within the home page to facilitate access to these papers.