

ADC50 Committee Meeting Minutes

Chairman Antony Opperman called the meeting to order at 8:00 am on Monday, January 14, 2008. Those members and friends in attendance are identified on the attached sign-in sheet. The meeting was adjourned a little after noon.

Membership Rotation

Mr. Opperman explained that to increase participation, TRB is telling committees to limit members to two, three-year terms. Membership turns on April 15th. Those who have already served two terms will not be re-appointed. The committee, however, is not required to rotate any more than 1/3 of its members to ensure continuity. Mr. Opperman will be contacting those who cannot be reappointed and those that he will invite to serve. The definition of a “young member” is under 35. When a young member turns 35, young-member status is terminated.

Section Business

Energy and environment committee section head Kate Quinn reported to the committee that the theme of the 2009 annual meeting will be energy and climate change. An environmental “mega session” is being planned for the summer of 2010, most likely at Williamsburg. She asked the committee to think about to other, non-environmental committees that should be invited to plan and participate with the 2010 summer session. SCOE is participating. One goal of the “mega session” (theme not been established) is to produce proceedings.

ADC50-Sponsored 2008 Programs at Annual Meeting

#125. Integration of Planning & Environmental Analysis in Transportation. Addressed how to integrate planning under SAFETEA-LU. Antony Opperman (ADC50) was a presenter as were Don Klima of ACHP and Mark Kross of ADC10 (Environmental Analysis in Transportation).

#422. Concrete Bridges: Understanding the Past and Preserving It for the Future. Joint with AFF30 (Concrete Bridge Committee). Covered history and preservation of concrete bridges with Deborah Slaton featured speaker.

#517, 582. Post-World War II Suburban Development and Transportation. The two part session offered papers grappling with the recent past and their eligibility. Speakers from all parts of the country. Organized by Anne Bruder of Maryland SHA.

#617. Context-Sensitive Solutions and Bridge Aesthetics. Procedures That Underlie Successful & Cost-Effective Designs. Co-sponsored with AFF10(2). Basics of aesthetic bridge design for workhorse bridges, including how to use historic context to inform context-sensitive designs. Presentations will be available through ADC50 website.

[list of posters]

Mid-Year Meetings

The 2008 mid-year meeting hosted by NY DOT will be at Saratoga Springs, NY September 7-10. Linda Harvey-Opiteck is the lead for ADC50, and the meeting is being co-sponsored by the committee on landscape. The site visit will be to the Erie Canal. Progress on the NCHRP study for national guidelines for historic road corridors will be a topic as Ms. Harvey-Opiteck is on the panel for that study. Site for the 2009 mid-year meeting has not been established, but the chair has been working with the committee on noise and vibration.

Committee Operations

Christy Gerencher, ADC50's TRB liaison, told the committee that TRB now has the program and equipment to conduct webinars, and she encouraged the committee to consider using this opportunity for 1 1/2-hr programs, which are free to DOTs but have a \$99 site-connection fee for others. The programs committee will consider this opportunity. Christy reported that "context-sensitive design topics are hot."

The committee will continue using TRB-facilitated conference calls to conduct its business. The next call will be February 6th.

Members and friends are responsible for updating their email address and other information on the list serve accessed through the web site.

2008 TRB Deadlines for Submissions are as follows

Feb 8	Synthesis Topics Submitted
April 15	Call for Papers for 2009 Annual Meeting
June 1	General Concepts for Annual Meeting Programs
July 27	Papers Submitted
October 1	Details for 2009 Annual Meeting Sessions

Research Needs can be entered into the database all year; there is no deadline. The Chair, however, would like to have the "ADC50 Top-10" by late March.

Suggestions for Future Programs and Research

Abba Lichtenstein urged the committee to do a program on stone masonry. PennDOT pointed out that they are preparing a stone masonry manual.

Owen Lindauer suggested a study of the practice and abilities of those who will succeed us. Where is the practice going?

The chair reported that two groups are pursuing a national context for post-World War II housing developments. The committee expressed its desire to see this research topic go forward.

MaryAnn Naber encouraged use of FHWA's STEP program for identifying research topics. It is accessible through their website.

Liaison with Other TRB Committees

Karen Van Citters reported that the Context-Sensitive Task Force (AFB50T) to which she is our liaison, is scheduled to expire but that their important work is not complete. The committee voted to request that the task force be continued.

Ron Hall introduced the co-chairs Ed Hall and Cynthia Gomez of the Native American Committee (ABE80). Marcella Giles will be their liaison with ADC50.

Mary McCahon is working with AFF10 General Structures and AFF10(2) Bridge Aesthetics.

Robert Newbery is working with Transportation History Committee (ABG50).

Transportation in the Developing Countries (ABE90) sent a representative to reach out to ADC50. The chair will follow up to ascertain how we might be able to assist them.

Mark Kross, chair of Environmental Analysis in Transportation (ADC10) attended the committee meeting and offered many suggestions on how to efficiently implement goals and tasks of ADC50's strategic plan based on successful techniques from their committee.

Announcements

Member Emeritus Abba Lichtenstein announced the 8th Historic Bridge Conference sponsored by The Ohio State University will be held in Columbus April 28 and 29. Members Amy Squitieri and Robert Newbery are presenting papers, and friend Eric DeLony is participating. The proceedings will be published.

Wayne Kober outlined ways that AASHTO's Center for Environmental Excellence can assist the committee with meeting the goals and tasks of its strategic plan. He also offered suggestions with items like a themed newsletter and asking for articles on specific topics.

MaryAnn Naber reported on the historic bridge summit that FHWA and the National Trust hosted in November. She said that the intent for the bridge alliance to work toward a community of practice, identifying research needs, and opportunities to advance common goals through upcoming reauthorization of federal legislation.

Strategic Plan

The chair led a review and discussion of the ADC50's draft strategic plan. Agreed-to revisions will be reflected in a final draft of the plan that will be voted on by the members. The chair noted that the plan has dates and responsibilities for members to complete goals and tasks. He also stressed the importance of generating problem statements and encouraged using the Research Needs Database (RND) for inputting the statements. The committee currently has three (3) statements in the RND.

The chair requested that any comments on the plan be submitted to him by January 25th.

The committee expressed its appreciation to the dedication of Margaret Buss, Hope Luhman, and Mary Alfson for the concise and effective plan.

MaryAnn Naber suggested that the electronic newsletter that is part of goal 2 include subcommittee reports.

To bring the committee's structure in a subcommittee in line with the goals of the plan, the chair is reconsidering the subcommittee structure. A subcommittee on liaison with other TRB committees was established. Mary McCahon agreed to lead it, and Abba Lichtenstein volunteered to assist. A subcommittee on communications was established, and it will have Hope Luhman and Mary Alfson as co-chairs.

Compiled by Mary E. McCahon