

**TRB Committee on Truck & Bus Safety (ANB70)
Mid-year Meeting
November 9, 2009
Keck Center
9:00 am – 12:30 pm**

Members in Attendance:

**Joel Ticatch, Chair
Andy Schaudt, Secretary
Richard Pain, TRB Staff Liaison
Gerald Donaldson
Deborah Freund
Steve Keppler
Ron Knipling
Gerald Krueger
Ed Miller
Duane Perrin
Pierre Thiffault
Martin Walker
Gene Bergoffen – Teleconference
Rebecca Brewster - Teleconference
Roger Clarke – Teleconference
Brenda Lantz – Teleconference
Anne McCartt – Teleconference**

Others in Attendance:

**Ken Leonard
Jennifer Lincoln
Julie Perrot (for Barbara Czech)
Paula Sind-Prunier**

OPENING DISCUSSION

At 9:00 am, Joel Ticatch called the meeting to order, welcomed members and guests, and opened the floor for self-introductions. After introductions, Joel spoke briefly about the progress made since the January 2009 ANB70 meeting. Activities mentioned included progress made on updating the committee website, research needs statements for the TRB website, and papers reviewed for the upcoming 2010 TRB Annual Meeting.

2009 PAPER SUBMISSIONS

Twenty-eight papers in all were reviewed, an increase from last year's count of 23. The resulting scores ranged from 56 to 93 on a scale of 1 to 100. The majority of the papers were reviewed by committee members and a few were strategically outsourced to other experts. A number of committee members completed extra reviews going above and beyond the call of duty and Joel thanked those people. A few members did not perform their reviews, which created an added burden for the active reviewers.

Anne McCartt mentioned she was assigned six papers this year and felt that was quite a lot for one person. Joel mentioned it was largely because members did not participate like they should have. The Committee tried to position papers of specific subject matter to members with matching expertise. This resulted, in some cases, overburdening some members.

Pierre Thiffault asked if there was any pre-screening process. Rick Pain stated that he reviews the abstracts for committee placement only. Pierre suggested that maybe the committee should have a pre-screening for some basic parameters before papers are delivered to members for review. Rick stated that a lot of these authors are first time submitters and the review/feedback process is important for them. It gives them a chance to realize where they stand in the world-class research arena. Rick suggested that a screening process for some basic parameters could be used. For example, any paper over 7,500 words can immediately be rejected, etc.

Deborah Freund mentioned that our committee should consider not accepting research that has been published before. Deborah also mentioned that it may be important for the reviewers to know the intent of the paper (if for presentation only, or possible publication) as reviewers will most definitely take that into account. Rick said he will follow up on whether that information is automatically available to reviewers, as he agrees it is important.

Ron Knipling mentioned that utilizing some people Friends of the Committee may be helpful. Joel mentioned that with the help of Andy Schaudt and Ron Knipling, a list of potential reviewers from this list will be developed.

Anne stated that our committee should consider sending some papers outside of the committee's expertise to other committees or at least bring in some members of other committees to help with the review process. Rick agreed and said this is allowed and that as long as this is requested with the appropriate amount of time allotted it should not be a problem.

ANB70 COMMITTEE WEBSITE

Brenda Lantz and Andy Schaudt reported that the website is constantly being updated throughout the year and that if anyone notices any problems to notify them and they will fix them. Deborah requested that the committee website URL be routinely referenced in committee correspondence.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Joel mentioned that Barbara Czech of NTSB will become a member and that the official paperwork is being completed now. Committee rotation is coming up in 2010. We currently still have one young member position and two international member positions available. A short survey/form will be sent out asking members about their interest in continuing with the committee or stepping aside.

In regards to the young member positions, Rebecca Brewster will develop a flyer to put at booths at the TRB annual meeting to get interest brewing. Rebecca requested three volunteers to help in

the review and ranking of resumes. Gerald Krueger, Pierre Thiffault, and Andy Schaudt volunteered.

FMCSA UPDATES

The next point of order in the meeting was to hear from the two Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) committee members. The first to report was Martin Walker, who highlighted key projects currently under way at FMCSA:

The strategic areas outlined in the current strategic plan include:

- *Produce Safer Drivers*
- *Improve Safety of Commercial Motor Vehicles*
- *Produce Safer Carriers*
- *Advance Safety Through Information-Based Initiatives*
- *Improve Security through Safety Initiatives*
- *Enable and Motivate Internal Excellence*

The following discussion identifies significant Research and Technology (R&T) division accomplishments during FY 2009. The R&T Division's completed a total of 25 safety studies in the following by strategic areas:

Produce Safer Drivers:

- Driver Distraction in Commercial Vehicle Operations
- Pilot Test of Low Cost Onboard Monitoring System (DriveCam)
- Defensive Driving Tips for Fleet Safety Managers and CMV Drivers training tool
- Assessment and Refinement of North American Fatigue Management Program (NAFMP)
- Investigation into Motor Carrier Practices to Achieve Optimal CMV Driver Performance
- Drowsy Driver Warning Device
- Safety Belt Use System
- Skid pad project at Lewis-Clark State College
- Motor Carrier Efficiency Study
- Wireless Roadside Inspection Proof-of-Concept (WRI POC)
- Santa Teresa, New Mexico Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Field Operational Test

Improve Safety of CMVs:

- Assessment of Exposure Risks of Trucking Occupational Hazards faced by CMV drivers
- Identify Factors That Affect the Service Life of Cargo Tanks
- Onboard Safety System (OSS) Assessment Report
- Hydrogen Fuel Regulations
- Assessment of the use of Onboard Safety Systems
- Onboard Safety System Industry Demographics Analysis Project

Produce Safer Carriers:

- Pilot Test of a State Employer Notification Service
- Efficacy of Web-Based Instruction for Training CMV Regulations and Best Practices study
- HAZMAT Shipper Prioritization study
- HAZMAT Serious Crash Analysis

Advance Safety through Information-Based Initiatives:

- Evaluation of the Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks (CVISN) Program

Improve Organizational Excellence:

- The Analysis, Research, and Technology (ART) Office begin the process of updating the ART Office's 5-year strategic plan (2010-2015); this effort will be completed by December 2009. The research and technology divisions sent two Reports to Congress, one on the Motor Carrier Efficiency Study and the other regarding 2009 Research and Technology Funding Report. Additionally, the ART Office supported and participated in the Driving Distraction Summit and DOT's Human Factors Coordinating Committee's (HFCC) International Conference on Fatigue in Transportation Operations. The ART Office also supported and participated in the 2009 International Driver Assessment Conference.

New Safety Initiatives:

- Onboard Monitoring Field Operational Test (FOT)
- Case-Control Commercial Driver Individual Differences Study (CDIDS)
- Driver Distraction
 - Synthesis of Literature & Operating Safety Practices Relating to Cell Phone/PDAs Use in Commercial Truck and Bus Operations
 - Driver Distraction in Commercial Trucks and Buses: Assessing Prevalence in Conjunction with Crashes and Near-crashes
- Drowsy Driver Monitoring System
- Effectiveness of Fostering Safety Culture in Motor Carriers
- IntelliDrive Program
- Wireless Roadside Inspection research program
- Motor Carrier Efficiency Study

For further detailed information on projects above from the Research Division, Technology Division, and Analysis Division, see the FMCSA Research Handout attached to these minutes (*FMCSA Research Handout_November 2009.pdf*).

Gerald Donaldson stated that all distraction devices should be investigated, not just cell phones (e.g. dispatching devices, CB radios, etc.). Martin Walker confirmed that FMCSA is actively investigating all areas of distraction, not just cell phone use.

Steve Keppler suggested that a document of Martin's report be developed and sent out to members with hyperlinks to each project description.

Ron Knipling requested a status update on the Case Control study. Martin said it will appear on Grants.gov soon and be open for 30 to possibly 60 days for proposal submittal.

The next FMCSA delegate to report was Deborah Freund from the Office of Policy. An overview of 2009 Rulemaking Activities is presented below:

Final Rules:

- RIN 2126–AB16 - Elimination of Route Designation Requirement for Motor Carriers Transporting Passengers Over Regular Routes
- RIN 2126–AA25 - General Jurisdiction Over Freight Forwarder Service

NPRM:

- RIN 2126–AB19 xxx print 1-2 pp - Fees for the Unified Carrier Registration Plan and Agreement

ANPRM:

- RIN 2126–AB17 - New Entrant Safety Assurance Process: Implementation of Section 210(b) of the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999

In Progress (//regs.dot.gov):

- Unified Registration System – SNPRM publication anticipated April 2010.
- Certification of Safety Auditors, Safety Investigators, and Safety Inspectors – NPRM anticipated December 2010.
- Limitations on the Issuance of Commercial Driver Licenses with a Hazardous Materials Endorsement (IFR4: 4/2005; dependent upon TSA’s action)
- Brokers of Household Goods Transportation by Motor Vehicle – FR anticipated September 2010.
- Electronic On-Board Recorders for Hours-of-Service Compliance – FR anticipated February 2010.
- Qualifications of Drivers; Diabetes Standard ANPRM 3/2006, next action undetermined.
- National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners – FR anticipated May 2010.
- Consumer Complaint Information – FR anticipated January 2011
- Commercial Driver's License Testing and Commercial Learner's Permit Standards – FR anticipated April 2010.
- Minimum Training Requirements for Entry Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operations – FR anticipated May 2010.
- Carrier Safety Fitness Determination -- NPRM anticipated March 2010.
- New Entrant Safety Assurance Process: Implementation of Section 210(b) of the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 – ANPRM published 8/25/09.
- CMV Driver Positive Controlled Substances and Alcohol Test Results Database – NPRM anticipated August 2010.
- Drivers of Commercial Motor Vehicles: Limiting the Use of Wireless Communication Devices – Work initiated, NPRM schedule not yet determined.

Other News:

- Administrator Confirmed - Anne Ferro was confirmed by the Senate as the new Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator on November 5, 2009.
- Driver Pre-Employment Screening Program - On October 7, FMCSA announced that it will launch a new Driver Pre-Employment Screening Program which will allow commercial motor carrier companies to electronically access driver inspection and crash records as a part of the hiring process. The program is expected to begin in December 2009.
- Hours-of-Service Settlement Agreement - Under the terms of a settlement executed by petitioners and FMCSA, the agency will submit a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval within nine months of the date of settlement (October 26, 2009). Within 30 days of the publication of the NPRM in the Federal Register, the parties will file motions to govern further proceedings.
- New Chief Medical Officer - Benisse Lester, MD, joined FMCSA in October as the agency's first Chief Medical Officer.
- NHTSA New Tractor Stopping Distance Rule - This document amends the Federal motor vehicle safety standard for air brake systems to improve the stopping distance performance of truck tractors. The rule requires the vast majority of new heavy truck tractors to achieve a 30 percent reduction in stopping distance compared to currently required levels. Link to Federal Register document: <http://frwebgate6.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/PDFgate.cgi?WAISdocID=70278116033+0+2+0&WAIAction=retrieve>

(FMCSA Policy Handout_November 2009.pdf).

COMMERCIAL TRUCK & BUS SAFETY SYNTHESIS PROGRAM (CTBSSP)

Gene Bergoffen reported that four Syntheses studies are underway.

- 1) CTBSSP MC-21 – Special Safety Concerns of School Bus Drivers (in publication now)
- 2) CTBSSP MC-20 – Operator Drug and Alcohol Testing across Modes (second phase of peer review)
- 3) CTBSSP MC-19 – Chemical Substance Effects on Driving/Performance: Stimulants, Hypnotics, and Nutritional Aids (still under review)
- 4) CTBSSP MC-18 – Older Drivers: Do they Post a Safety Risk (under panel review)

There have been two new synthesis topics approved. John Williams and Donna Vlasak are looking to develop a process in which a peer review panel reviews the work plan and makes adjustments before the work begins.

DISTRACTED DRIVER SUMMIT

Joel opened this discussion by requesting thoughts on, reactions to, and other comments on the Distracted Driver Summit, sponsored by USDOT, September 30-October 1, 2009. Gerald Donaldson mentioned that he would send out the Executive Order on texting while driving so

that others could see how broad the definition of texting is (*Executive Order Texting.pdf*). Specifically, Donaldson encouraged FMCSA to view the topic of driver distraction as extending beyond the use of cell phones, to include commercial vehicle onboard computers, etc.

----*Five Minute Break* -----

SUBCOMMITTEE/TASK FORCE REPORTS

Truck and Bus Operator Health and Wellness Subcommittee – Gerald Krueger stated the four purposes of the subcommittee and gave a quick update on activities from 2009. Slides can be found attached to these minutes (*ANB70 Health&Wellness Slides_November 2009.pdf*).

Steve Keppler asked Gerald Krueger if he could provide a key takeaway from 2009, and Gerald responded that Schneider has been very successful at screening drivers for disorders and treating them thus retaining the drivers in the workplace. It cuts down on absenteeism and saves over 500 dollars per driver per month. Using a health and wellness program is much more cost beneficial than companies are aware of. Martin Walker mentioned that the Surface Transportation Safety Center for Excellence (STSCCE) is a consortium of researchers who are currently working on multiple projects. One project is a case study with Schneider on sleep apnea programs that have been applied. This study is currently under progress. Roger Clarke asked if there was a paper available on the cost savings? Gerald Krueger stated that there are some slides available and he would try to obtain them from Don Osterberg.

Driver Training Joint Subcommittee – Joel stated that this subcommittee is co-sponsored by Operator Education and Regulation committee (ANB30). John Brock could not be in attendance, so Joel provided a quick report. Last January the subcommittee meeting had approximately 25 people in attendance and 2 presentations were given. At the annual meeting John Brock will be calling for informal papers. Also, John Brock has provided notice that this will be his last year chairing the subcommittee and will be asking to be replaced. If anyone is interested, please contact Joel.

Motorcoach Safety Organizational Subcommittee – Gerald is interested in obtaining more members with knowledge in fire suppression, operator training, CDL testing and endorsements, inspections, etc. Gerald would also like to see a NHTSA representative on the committee and subcommittee. The subcommittee meeting will have some presentations at the annual meeting, but does not believe it is time for a call for papers just yet. He hopes that at least one presentation will be given on motorcoach stability.

Truck and Bus Data Subcommittee – Robert Scopatz could not attend but Joel reported that an outline for a potential circular to identify data needs has been made and a couple of people have reviewed it. However, more help and participation is needed. Ron Knipling mentioned that he did a training seminar at a top carrier that only had 7 or 8 variables of crash data. This may be an opportunity for the subcommittee to help carriers develop data based off of LTCCS and GES variables. These carriers routinely investigate their crashes, but don't know how to use the data.

Alternative Compliance Subcommittee – Gene Bergoffen reported that while a research plan was developed, however there has been only one reviewer thus far. Gene intends to recruit new members at the annual meeting. A main objective is to update the synthesis since its publication. No subcommittee meeting is planned for the annual meeting.

NTSB ACTIVITIES

Julie Perrot reported on these activities. Board Meeting on December 8th at 9:30am to discuss the Victoria, Texas accident report. The January 8, 2008, accident involved a non-FMVSS-compliant motorcoach that rolled over and was subsequently struck on the underside by a Ford Ranger pickup truck. Of the 47 bus passengers, there was 1 fatality; the other passengers and the driver sustained various injuries. NTSB held a public hearing on this accident in October 2008.

The annual Board Meeting to update the Federal Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements was postponed because Chairman Hersman would like to have more than three sitting Board Members before holding such an important policy-setting meeting. However, we anticipate the meeting will occur sometime after the first of the year, whether there is a full Board or not.

Ongoing accident investigations:

Dolan Springs, Arizona. Specialty bus accident that occurred on January 30, 2009. Bus was occupied by a driver and 16 passengers. The driver went off the road, over corrected, and the bus rolled over 1 and ¼ times ejecting 13 passengers. Two were partially ejected. Seven passenger fatalities.

Miami, Oklahoma. On June 26, 2009, a 76-year-old driver operating a truck-tractor semitrailer was involved in a multiple-vehicle collision with slow/stopped traffic after cresting a vertical curve. As a result of the collision, 10 occupants in the passenger vehicles, struck by the combination unit, were fatally injured; nine passengers were fatally injured at the crash site and one passenger one passenger died at an area hospital. Four passengers received minor to serious injuries. The driver of the combination unit received minor injuries.

Indianapolis, Indiana. On October 22, 2009, a 73-year-old driver operating a truck-tractor combination unit with a cargo tank semitrailer loaded with liquid propane lost control on an Interstate 69 exit ramp, rolled over, and the cargo tank was breached resulting in an explosion and post-crash fire. The crash and subsequent fire severely damaged the highway bridge used to carry traffic on I-465 over the ramp. As a result of the crash, the truck driver was transported to an area hospital for treatment of his injuries. Three other occupants from vehicles that were in close proximity to the explosion and fire were also injured.

RESEARCH NEEDS STATEMENTS

Roger Clark reported that he has received six research needs statements so far. Roger had a small team review the statements, and currently revisions are being made. Roger requested that subcommittee chairs please send some more statements for review.

Pierre Thiffault mentioned that he had just finished developing research statements for Canada on fatigue and distraction and would send them to Roger.

Rick Pain suggested that maybe the entire committee should sign off on the statements before they are posted to the TRB website. The committee agreed this should probably be done.

2010 ANNUAL MEETING ACTIVITIES

Sessions that are sponsored by ANB70 have been emailed to all members. The program is now up and you can access it on the TRB website. The ANB70 committee meeting is being moved to Monday afternoon. The Poster Session will be on Tuesday evening. If anyone has any topics for the committee meeting, please send them to Joel.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ron Knipling requested from members any interest in establishing a DC-area truck safety society modeled after the Potomac Human Factors Society. It would be a social, professional networking society, possibly meeting five times each year for dinner. Ron will send out an email requesting further interest.

Deborah Freund stated that there will be a research symposium in Australia on heavy truck technology in March of 2010. Also, the 2010 SAE CVE is in Chicago and is now a 2-day event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron presented some “fun” slides that he has acquired through the years (*Fun Truck Slides.pdf*).

Adjournment @ 12:30pm