

**TRB Committee on Truck & Bus Safety (ANB70)  
Mid-year Meeting  
October 25, 2010  
Keck Center  
9:00 am – 12:30 pm**

**Members in Attendance:**

**Joel Ticatch, Chair  
Andy Schaudt, Secretary  
Richard Pain, TRB Staff Liaison  
Deborah Freund  
Ron Knipling  
George Soodoo  
Jerry Krueger  
Roger Clarke – Teleconference  
Barbara Czech – Teleconference  
Tom Weakley - Teleconference  
Jeff Hickman – Teleconference  
Andrea Sequin – Teleconference  
Rebecca Olson – Teleconference  
Karl Sieber - Teleconference  
Brenda Lantz – Teleconference  
Gene Bergoffen – Teleconference  
David Melton – Teleconference**

**Others in Attendance:**

**Ann Purdue (TRB Rail and Freight)  
John Williams (TRB IDEA and Synthesis Studies)  
Katie Fender – (On behalf of Rebecca Brewster)  
Eric Teoh (On behalf of Anne McCartt)**

**OPENING DISCUSSION**

At 9:05 am, Joel Ticatch called the meeting to order, welcomed members and new members, and opened the floor for self-introductions. After introductions, Joel requested that any materials presented in this meeting be sent to Andy Schaudt for relaying to members via email. Joel then introduced Ron Knipling who provided an update on several topics that he had recently been involved in. Ron began his discussion on the TRB hierarchy with regard to committees. The Systems User Group has about 10 committees, of which Ron is the chair. The chairs of these groups make up a Technical Activities Council. During Technical Activities Council discussions, Ron was made aware of several important issues that ANB70 members should be aware of regarding the upcoming Annual Meeting as well as TRB structural changes. These issues are below:

- Committee members will have greater access to videos and presentations from the TRB Annual Meeting technical sessions
- Some of the conference rooms at TRB will have teleconference capabilities during the Annual Meeting
- Recently, the number of Young Members allowed on a committee was changed from two to four

- Those committees that fall under the Systems User Group may have webinar capabilities in the near future
- There have been discussions on the topic of increasing the committee size restriction
- If anyone is interested in developing a Cross-cutting Session on an issue (e.g. safety culture), please don't hesitate to contact Ron or Rick Pain to discuss the details
- Research needs statements are still a very important aspect of committee work

Rick Pain clarified that the committee can perform a webinar at any time if it is deemed important and may generate great interest.

## **2010 PAPER SUBMISSIONS**

This year twenty-one papers were reviewed. The review process went relatively well. We had tremendous participation in the reviewing process from the committee members as well as some outside volunteers. In the end, we had three to five reviewers for each paper. Overall they were judged in the aggregate to be of high quality. Joel discussed important points/critiques that reviewers made that all should be aware of:

- At times research was not cited
- It was apparent that some authors were not aware of current literature in their area
- Improper use of statistics did occur
- Some papers were judged as good works, but did not make solid contributions to the research field

Eighteen best papers will be presented at the Truck and Bus Safety Research poster session during the Annual Meeting. No papers were judged ready for immediately publication in the Transportation Research Record; however, authors of nine papers were invited to revise them for potential publication. After re-review of these nine papers, four to five will likely be accepted for publication. If you were a reviewer for one of these nine papers to be re-reviewed, please do so in January (as the final submission deadline for Joel is on February 1<sup>st</sup>).

Dave Melton asked for clarification on why someone would submit a paper that they do not want it to be published. Debbie agreed that making that information available would be good.

## **ANB70 COMMITTEE WEBSITE**

The committee website is continuing to be updated with new events, handouts, and other information that members may find useful. If anyone has any suggestions for modifications or improvements, please contact Brenda Lantz or Andy Schaudt. Andy Schaudt described a new free on-line venue that could be of use to the committee called "LinkedIn". This site can allow groups to be formed and discussions created for registered members. The site will also send weekly emails on recent discussions and may help to increase committee activity over the year. Andy will put together a short presentation on this for the Annual Meeting.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Committee rotation was performed this past year. Approximately 1/3 of members were rotated off the committee and new professionals were invited to join. Jerry Donaldson has recently retired and resigned his committee membership. Racquel Pickett and Laura Blonar have also moved on and relinquished their membership. The committee is now in a position to make a couple of adjustments. Joel requested that members notify him if there are any areas that the committee feels our professionals are not covering. Dave Melton expressed his interest in more industry representation as an improvement on the membership. Dave Melton, Debbie Freund, and Gene Bergoffen offered their help in developing recruitment ideas.

## **COMMERCIAL TRUCK & BUS SAFETY SYNTHESIS PROGRAM (CTBSSP)**

John Williams from TRB reported on general activities with the synthesis program. The Commercial Truck and Bus Safety Synthesis Program (CTBSSP) is a cooperative research program sponsored by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and administered by the Transportation Research Board. The program initiates several synthesis studies annually that address concerns in the area of commercial truck and bus safety. The program is overseen by a committee representing the truck and bus safety, labor, and insurance communities. The committee is chaired by Norm Littler, Executive Director - Bus Industry Safety Council, American Bus Association. The committee meets once a year to select new topics for study. These topics can be proposed by anyone. Go to [www.trb.org](http://www.trb.org), click on “programs,” and “synthesis truck and bus safety,” and you will find a link for “suggest a topic.”

The most recently published report:

- MC-18 *Older Drivers: Do They Pose a Safety Risk?*

Report about to be published:

- MC-19, *Effects of Psychoactive Chemicals on Commercial Driver Health and Performance*

Projects under way:

- MC-20 *Operator Drug and Alcohol Testing Across Modes*
- MC-22 *Safety Effects of Motor Carrier Efficiencies*
- MC-23 *Driver Selection Tests and Measurement*

Project just getting started:

- MC-24 *Distracted Driving—Successful Practices for Commercial Vehicles*
- MC-25 *Safety Management in Small Companies*

Gene Bergoffen thanked John Williams for helping with the restructuring of the program. It has helped greatly. Ron Knipling thanked those for their help in synthesis development and participating in the related surveys.

## **FMCSA UPDATES**

The next point of order in the meeting was to hear from Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) committee members. The first to report was Debbie Freund from the Office of Policy. For further detailed information on the issues presented in Debbie's report, see the FMCSA Policy Presentation Slides and Notes attached to these minutes (*FMCSA Policy Handout\_October 2010.pdf*).

After the presentation, Roger Clarke brought up the issue of mandatory sleep disorder screening. Debbie commented that in the medical advisory committee this is a hot topic; however, it has not gone into a rulemaking process yet.

Ron Knipling asked about the size and weight issue, specifically requested further details. Debbie responded that pavement damage is severe and pointed out that with an increase in vehicle weight road damage increases substantially (actually a 4<sup>th</sup> power increase). George Soodoo also added to this discussion that with the additional weight it is crucial that there also be the addition of axles (which is crucial). Therefore, stopping distance may not be as much of a safety issue with additional axles. The highway and infrastructure damages still could be a problem.

The next FMCSA report was from the research division (Martin Walker not in attendance, report given by Joel Titch). For further detailed information on projects from the Research Division, Technology Division, and Analysis Division, see the FMCSA Research Handout attached to these minutes (*FMCSA Research Handout\_October 2010.pdf*).

## **NHTSA UPDATE**

The next point of order in the meeting was to hear from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) representative and committee member. George Soodoo, Chief of vehicle dynamics, gave a report on NHTSA activities.

The heavy vehicle projects outlined in the NHTSA 2009-2011 Rulemaking and Research Priority Plan, and in the DOT Motorcoach Safety Action Plan (NOV 2009) include:

- Truck tractor and motorcoach stability control - Agency plans to issue an NPRM in 2011; research is on-going on single unit trucks and buses.
- Heavy vehicle forward collision avoidance and mitigation - Research is on-going and agency plans to decide on next steps in 2011.
- Motorcoach roof strength - Agency plans to initiate rulemaking.
- Motorcoach fire safety - Agency decision planned in 2011.
- Motorcoach emergency evacuation - Agency decision planned in late 2010.
- Heavy vehicle electronic data recorders - Agency is developing performance requirements and plans to decide on next steps in late 2010.

Federal Register Notices include:

- Heavy truck tires - NPRM published on September 29, 2010 proposes to upgrade the heavy vehicle tire standard, FMVSS 109, to upgrade the endurance test, add a new high

speed test and new tire labeling for the speed rating of truck tires. The comment period closes on November 29, 2010.

- Motorcoach lap/shoulder belts - NPRM published on August 18, 2010 proposes to amend FMVSS 208 to require lap/shoulder belts for each passenger seating position in motorcoaches. The comment period closed on October 18, 2010.
- Truck tractor stopping distance - Final rule establishing new stopping distance performance requirements in FMVSS 121 for truck tractors was published on July 27, 2009. These requirements become effective on August 1, 2011 for 3-axle truck tractors, and on August 1, 2013 for all other truck tractors.

## **NTSB ACTIVITIES**

Barbara Czech, Deputy Director, Investigations, Office of Highway Safety, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), gave an update on recent truck and bus accident investigations and other activities.

- Safety, Mobility, and Aging Drivers Forum to be held on November 9 -10, 2010
  - [www.NTSB.gov](http://www.NTSB.gov) - Agenda and Docket Material including background information
  - The forum will kick off with a discussion of safety metrics – accidents, injury, and fatalities – to help us understand the transportation risks associated with aging. An occupant protection panel will explore the details of decreased injury tolerance with age and the complications associated from recovery given a crash injury. It will be followed by a highway and vehicle design panel that will discuss the infrastructure and vehicle design efforts to improve the performance of aging drivers.
- Indianapolis, In on October 22, 2009
  - Tanker Rollover Accident- Propane
  - Docket is open with the factual reports
- Munfordville, KY on March 26, 2010
  - Truck Tractor semi trailer median cross-over, impact with 15 passenger van (10 fatal)
  - Finalizing Investigation
- Gray Summit, MO on August 5, 2010
  - Bobtail/Pickup Truck/2 School bus Accident (2 fatalities/1- Pickup, 1- school bus)
  - Active Investigation
- Bethesda, MD on September 29, 2010
  - Mid-size bus accident
  - Investigated in support of Dolan Springs
  - Medical Examiner is reporting a medical condition

## **SUBCOMMITTEE/TASK FORCE REPORTS**

**Truck and Bus Operator Health and Wellness Subcommittee** – Gerald Krueger stated the subcommittee is doing very well, and plans to meet again at TRB 10:15 a.m. Monday morning January 24th.

The International Conference on Commercial Driver Health and Wellness in Baltimore, November 8th-10th 2010, is being developed and is sponsored by TRB and FMCSA with partnership of NIOSH. We are anticipating approximately 200 attendees and participants for the Conference. At the conference we will have several significant keynote and guest speakers. Among them are featured: Anne Ferro, the administrator of FMCSA, Dr. Benisse Lester, Chief Medical Officer at FMCSA, Christine Branch, deputy director of NIOSH, and a kickoff keynote address by the acclaimed author, Dr. Dee Eddington of the University of Michigan Health Research Center. Participants include speakers from transportation, insurance, and health promotion communities, as well as front line commercial truck and bus/motorcoach drivers who will address health and wellness issues as they affect them and their families personally. Several of the largest truck carriers in the country (e.g. Schneider National, J.B. Hunt and Conway Freight) will share lessons learned from implementing their successful health and wellness programs with large numbers of drivers at their companies.

We plan to produce a set of Conference proceedings after the fact, and these should be available on a CD as well as be posted on several appropriate web sites (e.g. TRB, FMCSA, NIOSH) by sometime in February 2011. No doubt we will talk about some of the lessons learned in the Conference at our January meeting of the Subcommittee at the TRB annual conference in Washington DC.

**Alternative Compliance Subcommittee** – Gene Bergoffen reported that Lori Mooren submitted a paper regarding many alternative compliance programs. Also, ATRI has one project related to this currently in the works.

**Driver Training Joint Subcommittee** – Joel reported that this subcommittee is a joint effort with the ANB30 committee. Recently, John Brock retired and notified the committee that he was stepping down as the subcommittee chair. This subcommittee was quite active in the past, but we have not had anyone step up as of yet.

**Motorcoach Safety Organizational Subcommittee** – Joel reported that Gerald Donaldson resigned as the chair, so there is currently a vacancy for this position as well.

**Truck and Bus Data Subcommittee** – Joel reported that Robert Scopatz couldn't join us today and that he is concerned about the direction that it has been moving in. The circular that was in the works may be too ambitious of an undertaking.

Ron Knipling suggested that the Data Subcommittee focus on developing research needs statements as a priority.

Roger Clarke mentioned that it might be prudent to recruit a member that could be strategically placed as the Motorcoach subcommittee chair. Ron Knipling suggested that Norm Littler may be an ideal selection.

With regard to the Training Joint Subcommittee, Ron Knipling suggested that someone at PTDI may be good to recruit. Dave Melton mentioned a colleague who is on the commission of

inspection schools and he may have some ideas of who might participate. Gene Bergoffen mentioned that Loren Staplin may know someone who could be helpful as well.

Roger Clarke mentioned that Janette Montlifer would be a good chair for the data subcommittee, and Debbie Freund nominated Brenda Lantz to chair the data subcommittee as well. Joel Ticatch clarified that the Bob Scopatz was still the chair and that as of now that particular subcommittee was not in need of a new chair.

## **RESEARCH NEEDS STATEMENTS**

Roger Clarke spoke to new members about the importance of research needs statements. Recently, we have posted eight research statements to the TRB website and another one set to be reviewed shortly. The research needs statements guidelines are available on the TRB website. According to TRB procedures, the committee will need to revalidate these statements every 3 years or they will be automatically removed.

## **2011 ANNUAL MEETING ACTIVITIES AND PLANS**

The schedule of ANB70-sponsored sessions will be sent out when it has been finalized. The Human Factors program is on Sunday with a focus on fatigue and simulator fidelity. We will be holding some time towards the end of the committee meeting for some special presentations. Pierre Thiffault will present on a human factors initiative from Canada. Ron Knipling, Andy Schaudt, Jerry Krueger, Dave Melton, and Debbie Freund also volunteered to present on new topics. George Soodoo suggested that the topic of stability control may be to have a presentation on at the committee meeting. Roger Clarke suggested that fatigue management deployment may be a good presentation to have at the meeting. This year Andy Schaudt will be obtaining all presentation slides and other handout information before the meeting so that it can be ready.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

SAE has agreed that the event data recorder session will happen, probably June of 2011, for both heavy and light vehicles.

**Adjournment @ 12:00pm**