

**TRB Committee on Truck & Bus Safety (ANB70)
Mid-year Meeting
October 31, 2011
Keck Center, Room 110
9:00 am – 12:30 pm**

Members in Attendance:

**Joel Ticatch, Chair
Richard Pain, TRB Staff Liaison
Andy Schaudt, Secretary
Barbara Czech
Deborah Freund
Norm Littler
Gerald Krueger
Ron Knipling
Steve Keppler
Gene Bergoffen (Phone)
Jeff Hickman (Phone)
Roger Clarke (Phone)
Rebecca Brewster (Phone)
Jeffrey Burns (Phone)
Brenda Lantz (Phone)
Tom Weakley (Phone)
Anne McCartt (Phone)
George Soodoo (Phone)
Bob Scopatz (Phone)
Rebecca Olson (Phone)
Dave Melton (Phone)**

OPENING DISCUSSION

At 9:00 am, Joel Ticatch called the meeting to order, welcomed members, and opened the floor for self-introductions. A sign in sheet and copies of the agenda were distributed.

2011 PAPER SUBMISSIONS

Joel mentioned that this year the committee received 21 papers to review (same as previous year) and it appears that the quality of the papers has yet again improved. Anne McCartt requested some clarification on the process involved with accepting papers for presentation Anne suggested that the committee chair consider removing a paper and/or poster presentation even if one reviewer considers it inferior. Ron Knipling asked Rick Pain if we were meeting the TRB guidelines with regards to paper reviews, and Rick responded that indeed we were. Bob Scopatz added that in other committees it is quite common for reviewers to send an additional email to the chair when a paper/presentation submission is considered inferior. This year, 11 papers were

invited for potential publication, 4 or 5 of those will be selected. Authors have until November 15th to complete revisions.

Andy Schaudt raised the question about Ron's original idea to start nominating an outstanding paper. In 2010 a committee of 3, (Ron, Jerry, Bob S.), reviewed the 5 final papers, and identified 2 as outstanding papers. In addition, these papers were nominated with four others for the Waller Award, and one of the committee papers actually won. This year, Jerry Krueger, Bob Scopatz, and Rebecca Brewster have volunteered to again be involved in this process. Rick Pain will pull together certificates for the papers from last year.

Rick also says practice-ready papers should be utilized so we should consider this in the future. As part of the TRB suite of databases, the practice-ready section is up and ready for use.

Finally, Joel thanked those who volunteered their time near the end to perform additional paper reviews.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Ed Miller has recently resigned his membership as he has recently retired. In addition, Canadian members of the committee are now considered in the international category. Therefore, we have three additional normal membership positions available. Please share with Joel directly suggestions for new members. A state government practitioner would be good (not on the enforcement side). Driver Training perspective member would be nice as well.

Steve Keppler suggested that recruiting a member with some more technical and/or electrical engineering expertise may be beneficial with the rise in technological solutions for safer driving. Some suggestions for an area to recruit for this need would be from the U.S. DOT RITA joint program office, or even IEEE.

Anne suggested we may be a little thin on the researcher side. For example, a lot of modeling papers are being submitted, but we may need to beef up the expertise in that area.

Jeff Burns asked if we have anybody with a background in economics. Joel indicated that Mike Belzer is one of the committee's authorities on the business side of trucking.

The Young Members category is now defined as those 35 years of age or under at time of appointment. Currently there are two young member positions available. Please let Rebecca Brewster know of any potentially interested individuals for these positions. Jerry, Ron, and Steve again volunteered to help with the young member selection process. Rick Pain mentioned that TRB also has a Young Member Council that may be helpful during this recruitment process.

ANB70 COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

The committee website is being constantly 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. The attempt to use the new

ANB70 LinkedIn site failed. There just was not enough participation. If anyone would like to use this site for subcommittee work, please contact Andy Schaudt or our new Communications Coordinator, Rebecca Olson.

FMCSA UPDATES

Martin Walker's report from FMCSA's office of research will be deferred to the Annual Meeting.

Deborah Freund from the FMCSA Office of Policy gave a report on policy-related activities. See notes below, and for further detailed information on policy issues, please see the attached slides. (*FMCSA Policy Slides_October 2011.pdf*)

Final Rules:

HOS: Railroad Signal Employees: FMCSA adopts regulatory language consistent with the statutory exemption for certain railroad signal employees operating commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in connection with railroad signal work. This is in accordance with the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008. This action will ensure that Federal, State and local motor carrier enforcement officials are aware of the statutory exemption applicable to signal employees and eliminate the potential for issuance of improper citations. **Final rule published 5.5.2011**

CDL Testing and Commercial Learner's Permit Standards: Establishes new minimum Federal standards for States to issue the CLP. The rule requires that a CLP holder meet virtually the same requirements as those for a CDL holder. **Final rule published 5.9.2011.**

Several recent Notices of Proposed Rulemaking:

Brake Adjustment Limits: FMCSA proposes to revise the requirements regarding clamp and rotochamber brake actuator readjustment limits in the FMCSR. The purpose is to amend the readjustment limits, clarify their application, and correct an error in cross-referencing a FMVSS. This proposal responds to a petition for rulemaking from the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. **Published 9/2/2011, comments due Nov. 1.**

Inspection, Repair, and Maintenance; Driver-Vehicle Inspection Report for Intermodal Equipment: FMCSA proposes to delete the requirement for drivers operating intermodal equipment to submit, and intermodal equipment providers to retain, driver-vehicle inspection reports when the driver has neither found nor been made aware of any defects on the intermodal equipment used. This NPRM responds to a joint petition for rulemaking from the Ocean Carrier Equipment Management Association and the Institute of International Container Lessors. **Comments were due August 8.**

Harmonizing Schedule I Drug Requirements: FMCSA proposes to amend the physical qualifications for drivers and the instructions for the medical examination report to clarify that drivers may not use Schedule I drugs and be qualified to drive commercial motor vehicles under any circumstances. **Published 7.8.2011, comment period ended 9.6.2011.**

Unified Registration System: This would replace three current identification and registration systems: the US DOT number identification system, the commercial registration system, and the financial responsibility system, with an online Federal unified registration system (URS). URS would serve as a clearinghouse and depository of information on, and identification of, brokers, freight forwarders, and others required to register with the USDOT. **SNPRM published October 26, 2011. Docket No. FMCSA-97-2349. Comments accepted through December 27, 2011.**

Other Rulemaking Actions in Progress (Per September 2011 DOT Report or OMB website):

CV Drivers: Restricting the Use of Cellular Phones: Draft of Final Rule received at OMB 9/13/2011.

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners: Draft of Final Rule received at OMB 9/28/2011.

Hours of Service: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announced, on October 28, that the new Hours of Service rule, due to have been published today, will be pushed back at least a month. "FMCSA will continue to work toward publishing a final rule as quickly as possible," the agency said in a statement. "The parties to the settlement agreement will file their next status report with the Court on November 28, 2011." (Source: truckinginfo.com)

Certification of Safety Auditors, Safety Investigators, and Safety Inspectors: NPRM anticipated late May 2012.

Minimum Training Requirements for Entry Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operations: FR anticipated late 2011 or early 2012.

Carrier Safety Fitness Determination -- NPRM anticipated late December 2011.

CDL Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse – NPRM anticipated March 2012.

DOT Marks 20th Anniversary of Transportation Drug Testing Law. The U.S. Department of Transportation today marked the 20th anniversary of the statutory authority to conduct drug and alcohol testing for workers entrusted with the safe operation of our nation's transportation system. The Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act, signed into law on Oct. 28, 1991, was enacted to reduce the abuse of alcohol and illegal use of drugs by employees such as pilots, airline mechanics, railroad engineers, truck drivers, bus drivers and subway operators. Since the law was implemented, illegal drug use among transportation workers has dropped 50 percent, while the risk of fatal accidents caused by alcohol use by truck and bus drivers has dropped 23 percent. (Source: USDOT Public Affairs)

For more information ...

FMCSA's website: <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov>

USDOT General Counsel, Significant Rulemakings: <http://regs.dot.gov>

Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>

*** New Office of the Federal Register portal: <http://federalregister.gov> *** **Check out the Federal Register 2.0 portal – the advanced search feature works very well!**

*** New U.S. Government Printing Office portal: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/> ***

NHTSA REPORT

George Soodoo from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) provided a summary of proposed NHTSA rulemaking. For further details, see the attached NHTSA Handout (*NHTSA Report_October 2011.pdf*).

NTSB ACTIVITIES

Barbara Czech, Deputy Director, Investigations, Office of Highway Safety, National Transportation Safety Board, provided an update on recent truck and bus accident investigations. For further details, see the NTSB Report attached to these minutes (*NTSB Report_October 2011.pdf*).

SUBCOMMITTEE/TASK FORCE REPORTS

Brief reports from the Chair of each subcommittee were provided:

- **Alternative Compliance Subcommittee** – Gene Bergoffen
 - Gene reported that the subcommittee is well under way in developing a white paper to be presented at the annual meeting and have a product to present FMCSA for alternative approaches. In addition, the subcommittee will review what has happened since the synthesis report, new reports, and develop some research needs.
 - Steve Keppler added that at CVSA's annual conference, one of its committees has been working on a policy paper on a related issue (inspection versus screening). Because CSA has changed the way carriers view their evaluations, carriers are asking the question, "How do I get healthy again?" So, CVSA wants to look at the roadside inspection itself (process/procedures). Industry has stated that they believe when a screening event occurs, a report should be generated. Although the CVSA executive committee has not affirmed this request, they are investigating alternative areas to improve the process.
- **Truck and Bus Operator Health and Wellness Subcommittee** – Gerald Krueger
 - Jerry reported that everyone could expect the Health and Wellness Symposium proceedings to be available soon. In addition, the slides used for presentations at this symposium will also be made available. Finally, Jerry reported that a registered dietician by the name of Kathryn Clements in collaboration with Harriet Hodgson (a noted journalist) produced a pocket-sized book titled, "Real Meals on 18 Wheels: A Guide for Healthy Living on the Highway." The ISBN is:

13-9781456483807. If anyone is interested in this book, please contact Jerry Krueger for further details.

- **Truck and Bus Data Subcommittee** – Brenda Lantz
 - Brenda Lantz mentioned that at the Annual Meeting earlier this year the subcommittee went over the goals of the subcommittee, reviewed the draft Truck and Bus Data Needs document, and discussed potential research needs.
 - Also, the subcommittee is in the process of assembling a web site list of data sources available/identified (with links for more information if available).
 - If folks are aware of sources they would like included, please email brenda.lantz@ndsu.edu.

- **Motorcoach Safety Organizational Subcommittee** – Norm Littler
 - The subcommittee had proposed having a mid-year meeting, but did not get enough respondents to hold a meeting. Motorcoach safety is a prominent commercial surface transportation issue right now. There are many things in play, and the Committee has a lot of members involved in the activity.

COMMERCIAL TRUCK & BUS SAFETY SYNTHESIS PROGRAM (CTBSSP)

Norm Littler provided some comments on the current status of the CTBSSP. For further details please see the attached report (*CTBSSP Quarterly Report_October 2011.pdf*).

RESEARCH NEEDS STATEMENTS

Every subcommittee should continue developing a portfolio of research needs that are considered important to articulating problems and opportunities for research. Some committees actually take this a bit further and become the main advocate for that research. In an effort to get “Back to the Basics,” two TRB-wide efforts have been proposed to move forward with Research Needs Statements: 1) evaluate the current database and look for potential improvement areas, and 2) endorse other research needs statements from other committees. Rick also mentioned that if there is something that looks reasonable for a state DOT, it can potentially be submitted to be a part of the NCHRP. Steve asked Joel how high on the priority should Research Needs Statements be for ANB70, and Joel responded that it should really be high. So Steve mentioned we should possibly put this into our Annual Meeting agenda in order to discuss ideas while the experts are at the table. Everyone agreed that this was important, but maybe more ideal for a mid-year meeting activity.

The committee has 11 posted Research Needs Statements up on TRB’s website. In addition, Roger Clarke said that there were two that are currently under review. According to TRB procedures, the committee should revalidate its research needs statements at least every 3 years or they will be automatically removed.

2011 ANNUAL MEETING ACTIVITIES AND PLANS

The preliminary program for the ANB70 Annual Meeting activities was passed around and distributed via email (*2012 ANB70 Annual Meeting Preliminary Program_October 2011.pdf*). Rooms have not yet been assigned, so stay tuned for further details as the meeting date approaches. If anyone has any ideas for presentations this coming year, please send an email directly to Joel. However, this year because the meeting is shorter in length, we will be much more conservative in our approach for selecting presentations.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ron Knipling gave a brief presentation on a recent effort on Safety Management in Small Motor Carriers. Please see the slides attached for further details (*Knipling_Safety Management_October 2011.pdf*).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jerry Krueger announced that the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Belt Partnership every year sponsors a contest for young children to draw up posters that convey why it is importance for drivers to wear safety belts. The winners of this are brought to DC and this year there is a calendar of the award winning pictures. For further information on the committee/partnership, please see www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetybelt.

Debbie announced that FMCSA has a new office director, Steven Smith.

Adjournment @ 12:15pm