



American Public Transportation Association

Rail Transit Committee Meeting

Paul Jablonski, Chair

APTA Rail Conference 2014

Sunday June 15, 2014

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Duluth, Convention Floor

Fairmont

Montreal, Quebec

Canada

Minutes

The chair called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Meeting minutes from 2013 Annual Meeting in Chicago were reviewed and approved.

TRB TCRP PROBLEM STATEMENTS & NEWS

- Chris Jenks of TRB noted that the deadline for TCRP problems statements is today but some leeway may be given to extending the due date. Chris also noted that new publications principally on bus related issues.
- TCRP funding is being debated as part of the overall congressional funding bill that may reduce TCRP funding for transit to \$1M in the House Bill, which would nearly close the program and only slightly better at \$3M for the Senate Bill. Paul Jablonski noted the importance of research and the importance of TCRP to the transit industry. Another casualty to the chopped TCRP budget would be TOPS and the international program that was stopped three years ago. International study missions are important to the U.S. industry. Paul mentioned the enormous learning that took place on a technical visit to China in which they are building 70 miles of monorail.

STANDARDS NEWS AND UPDATES

- Martin reported that NTSB and FRA Safety Advisory are pointing to need of better track derailment prevention through stepped up inspection efforts. APTA is working within the Track Integrity Working Group of RSAC. The FRA Safety Advisory is recommending enhanced track inspection, dynamic modeling of vehicles on track, revision to APTA truck equalization standards to accommodate AW3 (over AW0) loading and developing slow curving standards to prevent derailment. APTA is working these areas.
- AREMA and APTA have initiated a new partnership to jointly examine wheel and rail profile use in commuter rail operations, and determine optimal guidelines for reduced wear, improved ride quality and improved safety. AREMA and APTA are looking at assembling a webinar to more fully introduce the concept.

LISTENING SESSION

- The Committee is looking to its members to help identify pressing needs, overarching issues and a more integrated committee to fully utilize resources and knowledge of the group. Providing a summary annual report would help the committee gain greater visibility and help rail CEOs better understand the state of the industry. We are looking for ideas.
- Paul Jablonski and Wayne Terry noted that in San Diego and elsewhere, thieves are taking copper wire and bond wire resulting in not only the loss but also damage to propulsion system from melted rail at joints.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND FORUM NEWS / UPDATES

- **Light Rail Technical Forum – Tom Furmaniak, chair**
 - Tom Furmaniak is the new chair of the forum. Congratulations Tom! And Thanks to Mr. Richard Krisak, immediate past chair for his support and leadership of the group.
 - Tom Furmaniak went on to announce the date for the LRTRB Joint Conference to be chaired by John Wilkins and to be held in New Jersey November 15-17, 2015.
 - The forum is working on a brochure publication that provides helpful guidance for distinguishing the difference between light rail and streetcar. The publication is meant for the general public and will replace the current APTA document, “What is Light Rail?” The new document is titled: “Light Rail and Streetcar Systems: How they differ and how they overlap.” A draft is expected at the Annual meeting in Houston.
 - The Forum is hosting a session at the Rail Conference (Ottawa, Toronto, CUTA, and transit funding topics).

- **Rolling Stock Equipment Technical Forum – Gavin Fraser, chair**
 - The forum is focusing on standards as its primary effort. Key areas include development of standards for passenger weight, wheel to rail interaction (vehicle dynamics aspect), and DMU fuel tank design. A change in passenger loading to a floor weight density approach to reflect changing anthropometrics (per CDC, the average person now weighs 182 lb., the median is 176).
 - In response to NTSB accident report (R-12-036) involving hi-rail equipment, APTA is developing a standard for audible warning systems. Volunteers are sought to assist in the writing of this document.

Work Plan Topics

- (a) Standards – formalization of relationship with other standards bodies.
- (b) Rapid Transit vehicle compendium
- (c) Obsolescence management system with Asset Management.

- **Capital Projects Subcommittee – Connie Crawford, chair**

The Subcommittee is looking at the following items for its upcoming work plan.

- What are some of the SGR successful implementations, East/West coast projects? Also consider green field / brown field
- Best delivery methods
- Brain drain in the transit industry.
- Creating a new quality control plan alternative delivery tied to alternative financing.
- How to get top engineering graduates to work in the transit industry. Agencies should push down the requirements of training for next generation in the contracts. Consider legacies for next generations. Tie into universities, e.g. Michigan Tech. AREMA is doing more of this. APTA is doing some of this type of work with their workforce development initiative. TriMet – requires within their agency and also among contractors to hire interns at end of high school or in college.
- Focus on how to start doing asset management. Observations:
 - i. Atlanta and WMATA are good examples of 30+ year systems that didn't make the commitment to SGR timely.
 - ii. Martin Schroeder and other professionals did a peer review of the capital program at WMATA
- Alternative delivery tied to alternative financing.
- The Red and Purple Lines in MD are moving through FTA reviews quickly. They have had good proactive review; listed as a presidential initiative. However, FTA pulls people for priority projects from other projects, which then slows them down. Consider lessons learned session, with speakers from agency, FTA, consultants, etc.
- Lesson learned from Toronto TTC -- zero funding from FTA. New topics - too much focus on onset, funding, etc. and not enough on the tail end. The agency tends to budget for testing and acceptance, commissioning, etc.
- Transitions between project phases, safety certification, testing, commissioning. Are there information sharing platforms? What tools are out there to help everyone communicate?
- OP-54 is an FTA initiative related to operational readiness. FTA is rolling out a new version.
- Cost overrun and schedule delays have been the hallmark of capital projects. Often due to optimism up front. Need a topic on building the cost database. How to share cost info across the country. How long it takes and how much it costs. What is status of the FTA database?
- Comprehensive network database for transit agencies. Compare to a town with a comprehensive roadway/utility database, military bases and operations, use of bar scanners. Bob Perkin (AECOM) and Mike Goode will lead this.

- **Ventilation Technical Forum, Justin Edenbaum, chair**

- The forum will be hosting sessions and building its membership. Technical discussions look at performance of tunnel ventilation fan systems and NFPA. The group is also working with the Streetcar Subcommittee to examine possible language change within NFPA 130 regarding floor burn resistance for low-floor vehicles.

Conference Session Topics

Retrofit and upgrade of ventilation – looking for guidance.

Specification development (mechanical, fans, controls)

Design challenges (maintenance and training)

Leeds certification

Ventilation for rail grinders

Auxiliary rooms

- **Streetcar Subcommittee, Paul Grether, chair / Mr. T.R. Hickey, outgoing chair**
 - Paul Grether is the new chair. Congratulations Paul! Thanks to Tom Hickey, immediate past chair for his stewardship and leadership of the group.
 - The forum is looking at issues related to low floor NFPA-130 requirements for 30 minute burn test. Considering how best to provide discussion points within NFPA at their next markup meeting.
 - The forum is also looking at ADA low floor issues related to ramps, gaps, etc.
 - MUTCD is being updated specifically related to street running portions and street signage.
 - Off-wire technologies for powering streetcars is continuing to advance. The Committee is considering preparation of a digest on energy storage. Martin noted that APTA lead a TCRP study on wayside storage that could be helpful.)
 - The Memphis Transit Authority concluded its peer review on the car fires caused by shorted power buses on the trolleys. The peer review is leading to new maintenance practices and new car designs related to power rheostat.
 - Looking at updating the trolley standard and integrating with the modern streetcar guideline.

- **Track & Noise / Vibration Technical Forum**
 - The group continues to sponsor two or more sessions at the rail conference and hold agency technical tours and meetings outside the regular APTA conferences. These meetings tour a host property and share presentations on track and vibration / noise mitigation measures. The next meeting is in Washington, DC at WMATA October 23-24. Thanks to Gary Thomas at DART for hosting the previous meeting and to San Francisco MTA.

- **Power, Signals and Communications Technical Forum, Ed Rowe, chair**
 - Committee had 37 people at its forum meeting. The forum holds a mid-year meeting on transit traction power.
 - The forum has submitted two research project ideas for consideration by TRB TCRP including public safety regarding loss of return current.
 - The forum is also looking into power and signals training.

- **Automated Transit Technical Forum, – Simon Zweighaft, chair**

- **Elevators and Escalators, Ed LaGuardia, chair (David Wilcock reporting)**
 - The forum reconvened this spring at a meeting at NYCT May 8-9, 2014.
 - Established a new focus on the needs of transit agencies and their tradeoffs of in-house vs. contractor points of view regarding maintenance and installation and

training.

- Need for additional standards for downtime, overhaul, and availability measures, and emergency response standards.
- EE training is going well
- Group is meeting at the next NAECA.

- **Technology and Innovation (R&T Committee), Jon McDonald, chair**

Jon noted that the committee was reorganized into 11 subcommittees. Angela Miller is Vice Chair. Many items under consideration and being discussed.

- ITS Working Groups
- Senior / disability assistance using technology
- 3-D printing applications
- Networking of standards
- Wireless 220 issues related to PTC
- Wireless spectrum survey
- Bringing technology and technical issues closer to members such as a technical petting zoo as part of APTA conferences.
- Partnering with university and higher-ed committees, and university transit centers to help encourage public transportation curricula to address workforce development.
- Outreach to all other committees and technical forums within APTA through elected subcommittee chairs.
- The TCRP funded technology portal project is on again off again, although a prototype is completed.
- Standards published or in development include CCTV version 2, CCTV integration with control centers, and systems engineering concepts.
- Utilizing systems engineering concepts to help apply technology and innovation.
- TransITech being hosted together at Annual for first time. Aiming at broad technical interest to bring in middle level management and technologists.

- **Rail CEO Subcommittee, Paul Jablonski, chair**

- Rail Safety Committee is a standing item on the Rail CEO agenda.
- Use of LIDAR being seen as a tool for surveying assets. Can cover 55 miles per day. Short video provided.
- On the topic of capital projects, formation of asset management (SOGR) working group - important to get solid recommendation going forward.
- Workforce development committee chaired by Joe Calabrese is addressing signal maintainer and railcar training as discussed earlier. Theresa McMillan to work with Rail CEOs and labor. Many transit systems have signed on with The Learning Center to train signal maintainers and traction power systems technicians.
- There is also an urgent need to address succession planning.

WORK PLAN

- Asked that we expand through categorization and publication a better awareness of the standards work.
- Request more money for rail research, projects, etc. The RT Committee should express its needs and APTA to advocate.
- Develop a summary of key issues, advances, directions of rail transit through integration of subcommittees and forums.

OTHER BUSINESS / ACTIONS

- Noted that problem statements for TCRP research projects are due June 15th, 2014.
- Examine ways for Rail CEOs to get involved from a top-down perspective.

NEXT MEETING

- Next meeting will be at the APTA Annual Meeting in Houston, October 12, 2014.

Submitted by:
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