

NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee January, 6th – 8th 2010

Wednesday 1/6

Present Ron Van Houten, Michelle De Robertis, Michael Jackson, Theo Petritsch, Cindy Engelhart, Richard Moeur, John LaPlante, Dwight Kingsbury, John Allen, James Mackay, Tim Oliver, Bill Fox, Bill Schultheiss, John Schubert

Guests: Bruce Friedman, Bill De Santis,

June 2009 BTC Minutes

Unanimous June '09 Meeting minutes approved

BTC Listserve

RM Our listserv works most of the time for most members, but some members not receiving any messages. Currently we, are looking into other possible options.

Membership

RM – Have lost 4 members in past 12 months: Bob Carrigan, Tom Dodds, Jon Wertjes, and Dorin Fera. Currently we have 18 members – ten government category and eight non-government category. Public university employees can now be considered as government if they meet criteria. We have one prospective member, Bill De Santis, who is non-government. Lee Billingsley has pointed out that we are nearly short of the correct, above 50% committee roster of government employees. We need future additional members to be public agency employees, and cannot currently add other non-government employees (beyond Bill DeSantis at present).

European Bike Ped Safety and Mobility Presentation by J. Mackay

MJ The presentation will be at Maryland DOT this Friday night at 6 PM – 8PM.

AASHTO Bicycle Guide Update

DK Will be given to NCHRP, then to AASHTO for approval process. AASHTO does not have a provision for public review.

Research Committee

RM The Research Committee chair, Paul Carlson, wants research need proposals from the technical committees. We reviewed our previous list of research topic needs.

BF Several FHWA-approved bicycle-related TCD experiments underway: Long Beach, CA, and Washington DC (for an experiment that will be primarily bike traffic signals, but may include green bike lanes). Have approved green bike lane experiments – some are dashed green,

solid green, only at conflict points, etc. Also have several bike box/advance stop line experiments underway. Lexington, Kentucky may submit a request for a bike box that would not include a No Right Turn on Red prohibition (due to infrequent likelihood of bicyclist presence).

RM Want the BTC to provide input on the Lexington proposal.

JM Contributing to the success of European bike boxes are the following items/conditions such as...near side signals, NRTOR, advance red/yellow signal indication prior to green, Trixi mirrors, frequent presence of bicyclists, motorists are not allowed to use cell phones, etc.

Bike Signal Research (supplied by Ed Fischer of Signals TC)

We discussed Ed Fischer's proposal for an NCHRP Synthesis on bicycle signals. The 2 to 3 year timeframe for a NCHRP Synthesis project could delay a bike signal proposal past the deadline for the next MUTCD. New human factors research on symbol visibility, comprehension, potential confusion, compliance under varying conditions, etc. is a higher priority than a synthesis of existing work.

Voice majority (no numeric vote) - We do not support the current Fischer proposal.

FHWA Rulemaking

BF The 2009 edition is now out. Purple is now the tollway color. June of 2012 may be the last NCUTCD meeting prior to the deadline for getting items into next NPA. He gave a presentation on topics in the new manual that were not fully in accordance with our recommendations.

We discussed comments on the shared-lane marking layout as defined in the federal docket. Two kinds of comments – some wanted to put the marking wherever they liked, others wanted strict standards to keep it out of the door zone. Friedman: guidance at least 11 feet: if deviate on the other side and a court case, will have to answer with engineering judgment.

TO The layout defined in the MUTCD will blemish the treatment, when first case of crash related to decreased offset from car results in adverse publicity.

BF Figure 9C-8, Obstruction at edge of pathway - added an additional foot of offset for raised obstruction, with definition of the striping taper rate layout.

Sponsor proposal comments:

RM “Except Bicycles” plaque, 18 states accepted as is, 5 had comments other 27 states did not respond. The original proposal was transmitted to sponsors last summer. Third comment: made “should” into “shall”. We agree. Now that this is guidance, we make it italic.

We agreed and changed the guidance on mounting below to standard, added a standards statement to use at stop, yield or signal.

Bicycles on freeways sign:

Bill S: The signs may be used beyond freeway locations - this is an issue. Richard would be more than willing to table or kill the proposal than to allow that to happen. We agreed to add a standards statement that the sign should be used only on a highway where bicycles are restricted to the shoulder by law, ordinance or regulation.

Schubert: Could be a freewheeling interpretation, applied to support FTR laws. DeR: what if this gave a community the idea to pass an ordinance.

Van Houten: Harder for the city to do this than an engineer.

Much discussion, then Moeur: should we go back to the original wording? Schultheiss: western states and Maryland are different. LaPlante: we don't need to change the words but we need a response.

Oliver: defend this by saying this is for freeway use only, not to give arbitrary authority to traffic engineers.

Thursday January 6, 2010

Present: Bill Fox, James Mackay, John Allen, Dwight Kingsbury, John LaPlante, Richard Moeur, John Schubert, Theo Petritsch, Ron Van Houten, Bill DeSantis, Michelle DeRobertis, Cindy Engelhart, Tim Oliver, Bill Schultheiss, Michael Jackson

Guests: Joe Stafford, Michael Moule, Andy Clarke, Jim Sebastian, Ed Fischer, Doug Hansen, Kathleen Jost, Scott Beard, Bob Garbacz, Jeff Bagdade, Richard Nassi, Geoff Giffin, Hari Kalla.

Chicago Meeting June 30 – July 2nd will be at the Embassy Suites hotel, \$199 per night, includes breakfast and afternoon snacks. Parking is \$47/night. Can extend stay at same rates. Will be during Taste of Chicago event.

Except Bicycles Plaque

We made changes to the text in response to sponsor comments and internal discussions.

Bikes Use Shoulder Only

We reviewed sponsor comments and made changes, including figure and text.

M1-9 US Bicycle Route Marker

We reviewed sponsor comments and made minor changes to the sign layout and figure in response.

MUTCD Rulemaking

Shared Lane Marking offset – Council had approved our previous minimum offset standard, FHWA had made the offset a guidance statement. We will take this issue to Council on Friday.

Pending Issues

We discussed several experiments underway, including Long Beach, CA.

San Francisco's candidate green bike lane experiment may move forward this spring. Would be used under various conditions including continuous and dashed layout conditions.

Signals TC update

Ed Fischer: Committee has formed a small task force, hopefully will become a joint task force.

The Bicycle Signals Task Force will be chaired by Ed Fischer, and James Mackay. BTC Task Force members are: John Allen, Cindy Engelhart, Theo Petritsch, Michael Jackson and Bill Schultheiss. Signals TC Task Force members are: Doug Hansen, Kathleen Jost, Scott Beaird, Bob Garbacz, Jeff Bagdade, Richard Nassi, and Geoff Giffin.

James Mackay is the Bicycle TC Co -Chair of this task force, with Ed Fischer as the Signals TC Co - Chair. We will need to dialogue prior to developing a proposal for the June meeting.

BTC Priority List

We worked on our priority list and it will be posted to the website.

Part 9 Figures

Bicycle Signals

Signals TC members visited our meeting - Ed Fischer

We created a joint task force and discussed draft text.

Issues include human factors, comprehension, and driver recognition of correct signal. Color, luminance, etc. already defined in ITE.

We developed a list to guide us on this topic.

Signal placement at bike box locations needs to be figured out. Conveying that the green signal is imminent is an issue (Dwight's subsequent research showed that brief, simultaneous red/yellow indications to convey that the green indication is imminent are used in most northern and central European countries)

AustRoads has standards on bike signals.

Friday January 15th

Richard presented at Council.

NCUTCD General Session

- Votes on Fall 2009 BTC proposals
 - Except Bikes: tabled
 - Bikes on Freeways - approved
 - New M1-9 - approved

Respectfully submitted,

James Mackay

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