

NCUTCD – June 2004 BTC meeting minutes – Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday, June 23rd

Present – Bill Fox, John LaPlante, Richard Moeur, James Mackay, Dwight Kingsbury, John Ciccarelli, Jon Wertjes, Tim Oliver

Guests – Roland Stanger from FHWA

Thursday, June 24th

Present: Bill Fox, John LaPlante, Richard Moeur, James Mackay, John Ciccarelli, Jon Wertjes, Tim Oliver, Dwight Kingsbury,

Guests: Roland Stanger, Bob Laurie, Maurice Palumbo, and Regina McElroy

January 2004 minutes

Approved unanimously

Sponsor Organizations

Michael Moule submitted an application from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) for sponsor agency membership.. This went before the NCUTCD Board on Wednesday, and was placed on hold pending further information. APBP might do a full presentation to NCUTCD at the January meeting. If APBP's application is approved by the Board in January, then it will go to sponsors for concurrence in spring 2005, with a final vote by the Council in June 2005.

New Standard Highways Signs Book

Chairman Richard Moeur has made sure that new signs from Part Nine will be included.

Future Editions of the MUTCD

Chairman Moeur forwarded information from the Wednesday morning chairs' meeting that FHWA wants to set up a five year cycle for future editions of the MUTCD. FHWA would like to publish the next MUTCD in 2008, with NPR in late 2006. Therefore our BTC initiatives must have council approval by Jan 2006 and we need to have our proposals out to sponsors by 2005.

Edit Committee

Chairman Moeur will check with Tom Hicks, Chair of Edit Committee about the possibility of having a different representative at the June meetings as our current representative, Alex Sorton, can only attend January meetings.

FHWA Representatives

Roland Stanger will attend the June meetings. Guan Xu will attend the January meetings.

Mode Permission Signs

We reviewed sponsor comments, with most states having concurred. (Other comments were either incorporated or determined as not meriting a response.)

We also corrected the direction of travel for the permissive skater signs shown to provide consistency. Since we did not have a quorum present, we sent the updated version electronically to missing committee members. This resulted in our receiving electronic approvals from BTC members Theo Petritsch and Paul Schimek, and an “approved with comments” response from John Allen. In accordance with John’s comments the language has now been changed from “These signs....” to “Mode specific signs.....” (With these electronic concurrences we upheld quorum requirements so we could take this to National on Friday.).

Bicycle Guide Signs

John LaPlante discussed Chicago’s approved FHWA experiment request for a unique signing system. This resulted in Jon Wertjes of Minneapolis indicating an interest to participate in the experiment. John C. and Bill Fox will work with John L. on possible wording for a proposed revision to the next MUTCD incorporating these modifications.

“Bicycle Trail” vs. “Bikeway” Definition Issue in Part 1

Section 1.A.07 Responsibility for Traffic Control Devices of the 2003 edition of the Manual references the term "bicycle trails", but it does not define the term. Therefore an ambiguity is created by the use of an undefined term.

The term “Bikeway” is defined in AASHTO and in Part Nine of the 2003 MUTCD, but not in Part One. Therefore, Dwight and John C. will look at issue and bring recommendations for word changes, including:

- 1) Justification for language to change “bicycle trail” to “bikeway”
- 2) Determine the bigger issue of bicycle trails – add language or simply not deal with??
- 3) Definitional consistency for Edit Committee

A draft will be sent out to BTC list by July 15th. This will allow for one week’s worth of BTC discussion, then the development of a final draft by August 1st, which can then be transmitted to Bob Garrett. (this has not happened yet).

GMI TC coordination results:

- 1) Our recommendation that the M7 series auxiliaries (arrows) be deleted for bike route signing in favor of M5 and M6 series auxiliaries is acceptable to them. Therefore we need to define a roadway size and a bike size for these and we also need to develop 12' x 6" versions of M3 and M4 series auxiliaries. We will have to bring GMI all the changes we are proposing by this fall, so they can vote in January '05, allowing us to take this to sponsors in spring 05.
- 2) The proposal that the M1-8 Route Sign be redefined to allow for a unique logo or symbol placed in the upper third of the green oval was acceptable to them. Therefore, we need to develop this option so we can send this to sponsors this fall and take to National in January of '05.
- 3) GMI would like to see the Chicago Route Destination Signing proposal in the fall of this year, with a GMI response in January '05 and a submittal to sponsors in spring 2005. John C and Bill Fox to work with John L on the language.

Shared Lane Symbol

We reviewed the San Francisco shared lane symbol study and concur with Alta Planning's recommendation to use the bike and two chevron alternative that was shown to outperform the "Bike in the House" in the study. We agreed to develop language for defining the shared lane symbol in part 9C. We will send this to Markings TC this fall, address any concerns at January '05, transmit to sponsors in spring of '05 and take to National for a vote in June 05. (The fallback plan is for a National vote in Jan '06.)

Beyond "Share the Road" signing

Four different versions of "Bicyclists Take the Lane" signage are currently being used. We would like to see an agency experiment with it to make a case for approval (even though the initiative is a text-only treatment.)

Friday 6/25 National Meeting

Chairman Richard Moeur stated that our committee only had eight members attend but since nine members were needed for a quorum, other committee members were contacted by phone or email to vote on motions and all recommendations of the Bicycle Committee were approved by a majority of committee members.

Council Action: Shared Use Path signs 9B.XX

Moved by Richard Moeur, seconded by John LaPlante to approve the Bicycle Committee recommendation on shared use guide signs, Section 9B.XX. Motion passed unanimously.

Richard also informed the National committee that we are working on the following proposals for future Council action:

1. Add a M1-8a numbered bicycle route sign to Part 9 of the MUTCD. This will be sent to sponsors in fall 2004 so that it can be voted on by the Council in January 2005.
2. Delete all instances of the term "bicycle trail" from Part 1 of the MUTCD and replace it with the term "bikeway". This will be sent to sponsors in spring 2004 so that it can be voted on by the Council in June 2005.
3. Move the M4-11 sign from Part 9 to Part 2 of the MUTCD, delete the M4-12 and M4-13 signs, and harmonize the use of route marker auxiliaries between Part 2 and Part 9. This proposal will be sent to the Guide & Motorist Information Signs Technical Committee in fall 2004 for their concurrence, and will be sent to sponsors in spring 2004 so that it can be voted on by the Council in June 2005.
4. Add a shared lane symbol to Part 9 of the MUTCD. This proposal is a revision to a proposal previously sent to sponsors in 2002. This will be sent to the Markings Technical Committee in fall 2004 for their concurrence, and will be sent to sponsors in spring 2004 so that it can be voted on by the Council in June 2005.

Also, Tom Dodds of South Carolina DOT was appointed to the BTC by the NCUTCD board.

Respectfully submitted,

James Mackay, BTC Secretary

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