

NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee June 2009 Minutes- Manchester, NH

Thursday June 18, 2009

Present: Richard Moeur, John LaPlante, John Allen, Michelle DeRobertis, Bill Schultheiss, Dwight Kingsbury, James Mackay, Michael Jackson, John Schubert, Michael Colety,

Guests: Jeff Warner – Concord, NH, Bill DeSantis – Engineer at Vannase Hangen Brustlin consultants, Craig Timothy – Traffic Logic, Cara Seiderman – Cambridge, Mass., Sue Groth, Minnesota DOT State Traffic Engineer, Hari Kalla – FHWA MUTCD Team Leader

For members not available to attend in person, the chair was going to try to provide live updating during the BTC meeting via <http://twitter.com/ncutcdbtc/>

Membership:

Tom Dodds has resigned from the committee due to inability to attend under current circumstances. Bob Carrigan has been dropped from the committee due to absences. After these changes, the BTC has 20 members -11 government and 9 non-government. “Government” members as defined in NCUTCD bylaws must comprise at least 50% of total BTC membership.

Several members are in danger of lapsing membership due to absences, but expect to be at the January 2010 meeting. Bill DeSantis has expressed interest in joining the BTC.

Experimental Updates:

- Portland OR has an experiment with Bicycle Boxes. Have not heard from them lately. Portland State University will do evaluation of data for FHWA experiment.
- Long Beach, CA submitted two experiments: hybrid bicycle lane in travel lane with green stripe, and a left side bicycle way. FHWA included our requests in part of their experiment approval.
- Many shared lane experiments underway across US.
- Austin TX wants to do a bicycle box experiment, staged to determine effectiveness. Ronnie Bell, chair of Signals TC, is the traffic engineer for Austin.
- Bicycle Traffic Signal experiment completed in Denver, CO (see Friday notes).
- Bruce Friedman is our contact at FHWA, however he was unable to attend this meeting.

Non-Standard Signing:

Joseph Prichard lives in Los Angeles, and has come up with some speculative proposals and unique iconography to stimulate discussions on bicycle route signing. He's presented

this to the City, but unknown what action will be taken (Follow-up: Michelle Mowery has stated that Los Angeles is likely to implement MUTCD-compliant bicycle guide signing instead.)

MUTCD and private property:

Every TC to look at topic, per Lee Billingsley. There was some discussion of use of non-uniform symbols & signs on private property, and the fact that the public doesn't recognize difference between public & private. Committee doesn't see any specific Part Nine changes to bring to Council on this topic at this time. Michelle De Robertis will serve on a NCUTCD Private Property / Parking Task Force on behalf of the BTC.

BTC Priorities:

The committee reviewed an existing spreadsheet defining proposed MUTCD changes, assigned committee members, and criticality of need, available research, needed research, etc. Spreadsheet updated. Note that proposals cannot go to sponsors until vetted by all of the relevant TCs.

MUTCD Status:

Per Hari Kalla, FHWA plans to publish either a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Amendment (SNPA) or a Final Rule (FR) this year. To be determined after further evaluation of the 15,506 received comments (in 1,931 submittals) on the original NPA.

Bicycles on Freeways:

Proposal developed by BTC. Sent to RWSTC on Friday for review & approval. RWSTC concurred with modifications. Send to sponsors fall 2009.

Friday June 19, 2009

Present: Richard Moeur, John Schubert, Dwight Kingsbury, John Allen, James Mackay, Cindy Engelhart, Mike Colety, Michael Jackson, Michelle De Robertis, John LaPlante, Bill Schultheiss,

Guests: Jeff Warner, Bill DeSantis, Cara Seiderman, Michael Moule

US Bicycle Route Marker (M1-9) Revision:

GMITC reviewed proposed designs this morning. Based on GMITC recommendation, we will go forward with version G11, with a white reuleaux triangle on a green background, and green numerals on a white region at the bottom. Proposal to sponsors fall 2009.

FHWA/AASHTO Ped/Bike Scan Tour:

In April 2009, FHWA & AASHTO performed a 2-week European scan tour. James Mackay & Cindy Engelhart from the BTC attended. James showed a presentation of photos & observations from the tour. FHWA will be issuing a report.

Bicycle Traffic Signal Experiment:

James Mackay presented the findings. The data showed that there was virtually no change in bicyclists' entry times at the intersection during baseline, with bicycle signal, and countdown pedestrian head conditions (as an FHWA approved third phase to the experiment). The report has been transmitted to FHWA. Richard will post a pdf of the report on the BTC website. Discussions ensued about the need for bicycle traffic signals. Mackay will continue as committee lead on bike signals.

Except Bicycles Plaque:

Committee drafted a proposal to add an "Except Bicycles" plaque to the MUTCD. Proposal was sent to RWSTC for concurrence. RWSTC approved with modifications. Will revise proposal & signs and send to sponsors.

Coordination With AASHTO Bike Guide:

Toole Design is working through a NCHRP contract (15-37) to draft a revised edition of the AASHTO Guide for Bicycle Facilities. Bill Schultheiss presented figures from the draft Guide for committee feedback. Bill also presented information about parking stall markings and bicycle offsets.

Research:

John LaPlante noted that the Research Committee needs proposals for research, and has some NCHRP funding available to tap. Most of the other committees have submitted research statements that the Research Committee voted on today. BTC needs to submit wording. Synthesis submittals must be in by October, and "20-7" submittals are made twice a year.

Revised Part 9 Figures:

Figures Task Force – Bill Schultheiss, Bill DeSantis, Michelle DeRobertis, Dwight Kingsbury. LaPlante recommended including Michael Moule's recommendation of left turn lane for bicycles from road to shared pathway. Engelhart will do SLM update and review, including for climbing lanes.

BTC Listserv:

The existing e-mail list (Topica) is problematic. APBP has offered to host our email list, but is expensive. No action taken at this time.

Next Meetings:

January 2010 meeting – will be in Arlington VA, Wednesday Jan 6 – Friday Jan 8.

June 2010 meeting will be in Chicago – location and actual dates TBD.

June 2011 meeting TBD (Western US)