

Bicycle Technical Committee
Minutes, June 24, 1998

Chairperson Newberry walked the committee through FHWA staff (Tamara Broberg) recommendations on Part 9 language changes that were approved by National Committee in January. (FHWA staff had rejected a significant portion of the language changes the committee had made.) This generated a great deal of discussion as to our purpose and what response the committee could take. Many committee members questioned their purpose and felt abused since their agency/firms have made a considerable commitment to have them be a part of this exercise, only to have the hard work they put out not taken seriously by FHWA staff.

Sue Newberry provided the committee with its options concerning these changes which included providing FHWA staff with further justification or waiting until it was published in the Register and making comments at that time. The committee felt that it was appropriate to try and provide further justification at this time. FHWA staff member Erni Huckaby provided the committee with further understanding of the MUTCD approval process and the committee's options to get their recommendations considered. He suggested that further justification was a good idea for each change that was forwarded to FHWA. This would provide FHWA staff with a better understanding of the changes and the rationale behind the recommendation. (Erni was not at the meeting until 10:00 AM, but his information fits in the context of the earlier discussion). Erni also suggested that Part 9 changes would probably be published in the Federal Register in November and that this might allow time for FHWA to look at the changes recommended by our committee (and that were approved by National Committee in January).

The Committee then moved onto sponsor comments to five figures: 9C-6c, 9C-6d, R3-17, R9-7a, and R10-x. Considerable discussion took place on how 9c-6c&d could be modified to make them acceptable to sponsors and the Signing and Markings Committees. After a great deal of debate, the committee decided to drop these two figures and to handle this with text. An assignment was made to draft text and bring this back to the committee on the June 26th so that it could be approved and sent out to sponsors for review. Alternative versions of R3-17 and R9-7a were worked on and distributed among the other subcommittee working in San Antonio. Refined versions of both these graphics were developed and the committee agreed that it would review the outcome of other subcommittee input on June 26th before recommending anything further to sponsors for comments. Sponsor concerns over figure R10-x generated considerable discussion with the committee. It was felt that sponsors and other NCUTCD subcommittees did not fully understand the purpose for this sign, so an assignment was made to clarify the need and develop further justification to accompany this graphic for re-submission to sponsors. This justification would also be evaluated and approved on the 26th by the full committee before being sent out.

The remainder of the day was spent going back to the National Committee approved language changes to Part 9 and developing justification/backup so that FHWA could fully understand the reasoning behind the recommended changes. The committee broke up into smaller groups to

concentrate on given sections of the language changes. The committee reconvened as a whole in the afternoon to review and wordsmith the justification generated for Part 9 changes.
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Bicycle Technical Committee
Minutes, June 25, 1998

Present: Richard Moeur, Steve Brown, Tulson Clifford, Bill Fox, Dorin Fera, Sue Newberry, Chris Vogelsang, John LaPlante, Rhonda Ray, Shawn Dikes, Michelle DeRobertis, Alex Sorton, Tim Oliver, Ken?, Ed?, Bob Corrigan, Ron Van Houten (check sign in sheet for full attendee list)

FHWA Docket review sub-committee, John L, Dorin Fera, James Mackay
Target date for FHWA release: November '98

MUTCD Chapter Re-writes:

Part 1 Alex participated yesterday

Part 7 Sue Newberry - has monitored

AASHTO Guide - John LaPlante

Had met with Green book committee last July, sent out in Feb. '98

Issues; rumble strips, width and position of, has created some controversy

John L Perhaps rumble strips should be 12" or less, and placed adjacent to the edge stripe

Sue N. Rumble strips are not an MUTCD issue - committee members should bring in available information to share with each other.

John L Need more research in order to provide better guidance.

Tim O. Rumble strips could be considered as a pavement marking. Can make a "bumpy" stripe with material added to edge stripe paint.

Sue N. Will include in the agenda next time.

John L Other major AASHTO item is railing height, had proposed to lower from 54" to 42", but now the AASHTO bridge committee wants data before approving lowering to 42" The 54" height stems from Caltrans/John Forester.

Alex Normal railing height is 36", bicycle railing is 54", handicapped railing is 42".

John L Other items will be debated in July, will send out to state DOT's in summer, hope to have passage in the fall, and printed in early '99. Will not have English/metric conversions in the design manual. Will follow through with our committee in late July
Roundabouts - Chris Vogelsang

National interest in Traffic Calming. Sometimes, traffic calming can create problems for bicyclists, including roundabouts. Can end the bike lane prior to the roundabout, or create a bike/ped facility outside of the roundabout. Roundabouts can improve ped safety, but can create problems for bike safety. Creating a bike lane around the edge of a roundabout is the worst treatment.

Alex Sorton Double-lane roundabouts on arterial streets create problems for bikes and motorcycles.

Bill Fox Have traffic circles on streets in Boulder, with bike lanes on approach streets. The bike lanes are dropped inside the circle, with signs stating "Do Not Pass Bicycles in Traffic Circle" installed at the roundabout. He is not aware of a history of bike crashes in traffic circles.

Steve Sacramento drops the bike lanes prior to traffic circles, and encourage bicyclists to take the full lane within the circle, including via TV spots.

Alex Florida's roundabout manual is the best

John Will reference bike lanes in the AASHTO greenbook, and might include recommendation to not designate bike lanes in roundabouts.

Sue Asked for information on roundabouts - committee members to collect so that she can take to pavement markings.

Ped. Task Force

Sue Bylaws for our committee say that our committee is to work on bicycle issues. There is not a pedestrian chapter in the manual. There are pedestrian issues that we can participate in via a pedestrian task force. Ped Task Force Members: Rhonda, Sue, John (resource), Bill

John AASHTO bike guide will be AASHTO's response to TEA 21 requirements.

Tim FHWA may soon shift their efforts from bikes to peds, given numbers of fatalities.

Sue Traffic Calming is an emerging issue - we should develop a position on it and be able to serve as a resource.

Tulson Is participating in development of Canadian traffic calming standards.

Steve Pedestrian refuge island usage at intersections can result in motorists deflecting away from the center of the road and impinging on the bike lane. By deleting the on-street parking, this can provide for moving the bike lane closer to the curb.

Sue Final rule on "Strong Yellow Green" signs has been released by FHWA - may be used for non-motorized applications. (schools, bikes, peds, wildlife, etc.)

Sue Need proposal for pavement markings on colored bike lanes in January. They are amenable to this proposal, but are not interested in the usage of red or blue. Sub-Committee James, Michelle, Bill, Rhonda Also need to coordinate with Bill Hunter on existing studies. Michelle will coordinate.

Ron Insurance institute funded a study on stop sign issues. Inattentiveness is an issue, right turning motorists who don't look for bicyclists alongside them. Developed a pedestrian warning sign for parking garages which detects approaching pedestrians via microwave sensors and shows motorists which direction the pedestrian is approaching from, with scanning eyes display. Blue LEDs are used for the sign display, including the "animated eyes."

Michelle Did a review of bike signs developed by municipalities - passed out copies

Tim Proposed changes to figures 9C-6C and 9C-6D to carry bike lane straight through when have a right turn lane.

Michelle Proposed changes for the bike detector pavement marking. Want to have the sign directing people to the detector have the same graphic as the pavement marking. Will work with Rhonda to create final version so Sue can send out to sponsors.

Chris R9-7 sign for directing bikes and peds to their own portions of a shared-use trail, for one-way or two-way paths. Many times only the version of the sign shown graphically in the manual is used (not the alternate version which is not shown graphically.) Need to make people aware that there are two versions of this sign.

James Presented bike/ped detour sign. Action item- create bike only, ped only versions as well. Coordinate with Sue to get on both Construction and Bike Comm. schedules, submit all three to Construction & Maintenance for approvals.

Michelle Side path warning signs, and bike lane warning signs warning motorists making a right turn across a straight through bicyclist. Several signs have been developed by individual municipalities. Want to develop some of these signs for inclusion in the manual.

Sue "Bike Lane Ends" warning sign initiative from Michael Ronkin of Oregon DOT - has been

taken to Dick Luettich of R/W committee.

Richard Skew railroad track warning sign - there are a number of versions of this developed. Is anyone doing research on this??

James Oregon has a state-standard sign to warn bicyclists of skew RR tracks.

Tim Serves on the APBP steering committee - will have a board election later this year. Will serve as the liaison between them and us. They want to hire a full-time executive member.

Sue Flashing crosswalk lights embedded in the pavement - is research underway and what are the results? NHTSA favors, but is unfamiliar with the MUTCD approval process.

Need to Review Manual for Bike/Ped References

Sue Need to review manual for any topics related to bikes and peds

Michelle Will do Part 2 signs

Dorin Part 4 signals

Alex Part 3 Markings

Bob Part 6 construction

NCUTCD Meeting Friday, 6/26/98

Bicycle Technical Committee Report

Sue Spent a lot of time preparing justifications for FHWA's comments. Many of the initiatives rejected will be re-submitted to sponsors. Will offer to sponsors to remove the right lane drop/bike lane graphics, and only offer advice in manual via text.

Ped. topics need to be addressed, have created a Ped. Task Force and will liaison with other committees.

Traffic Calming topics needs to be looked at also, as it affects bikes and peds.

Final rule makings from FHWA will be looked at by committee members.

Have learned the value of meeting with other committees first, before bringing new topics to

national committee.

Will pursue the solid green bike lanes initiative with Pavement Markings committee.

Will encourage more testing of initiatives to gain research data.

If states have funding for experimentation and research, we have several topics that we would like to see research on.

Respectfully submitted,

James Mackay
Bicycle Committee Secretary