



CUTR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

April 28, 2005

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm by Board Chair John Beck. The welcome was followed by self-introductions of participants, as follows:

Advisory Board Members

John Beck	Bill McDaniel	Kimberlee DeBosier
Marion Hart (for FDOT)	Norman Mansour	Bill Sheppard
Sarah Daugherty (for FDEP, via phone)		

CUTR

Ed Mierzejewski	Gary Brosch	Steve Reich	Lisa Staes
Joel Volinski	Beverly Ward	Kristine Williams	Patricia Ball

Guests

Jim Hendo, The LPA Group

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Ms. DeBosier was recognized for being named the 2004 Florida West Coast Engineering of the Year by the Florida Engineering Society.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the January 2005 meeting were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Dr. Mierzejewski presented a brief report on CUTR and related activities since the last meeting in January:

- CUTR hosted a dinner for U.S. Congressional staff members, attended by Dr. Mierzejewski and Mr. Brosch.
- Dr. Mierzejewski was invited to participate in the FTC's Performance Measures Work Group and to travel to Washington DC with FTC commissioners to meet with legislative staff.
- CUTR's Bus Rapid Transit Institute is among USF's top three priorities this year.
- CUTR faculty have been asked to become regular contributors to the new *Florida Transportation Monthly*.
- CUTR has been invited to contribute to Florida's Growth Management discussion by FDOT.
- As a result of the 2004 CUTR Transportation Award Dinner, \$14,000 was transferred to the Georgia Brosch Memorial Transportation Scholarship Fund.
- Several CUTR faculty members are conducting high-profile activities:

- Kristine Williams has been invited to conduct a workshop at Beijing University.
- Sisinnio Concas made a presentation at an urban transport conference in Portugal.
- Dennis Hinebaugh is working closely with ITE and ASCE to develop and conduct several national BRT workshops.
- CUTR is again participating in NSF's Research Experience for Undergraduates. Working with the USF Department of Computer Science & Engineering, students from Puerto Rico and Latin America will work at CUTR during the summer.
- Two recently-completed projects related to air transportation include the SAFE report and an economic impact study for Tampa International Airport.

REMARKS BY DEAN MARTIN-VEGA: USF College of Engineering Dean Dr. Louis Martin-Vega welcomed the Board and expressed appreciation for their contributions to CUTR. He noted that, although the ABC World News video clip was short in spite of a full day of interviews, other parts of the interviews may be seen at a future date. He also noted that he was extremely pleased at the growing collaboration and interaction among CUTR and College of Engineering faculty.

2005 CUTR AWARD DINNER: After considering many nominees, a committee of Mr. Beck, Mr. McDaniel, Mr. Holton, Mr. Mansour, and Dr. Mierzejewski recommended U.S. Congressman John Mica to be the recipient of the 2005 award, based on his influence on transportation at the state and national levels. The dinner has been tentatively scheduled for October 26, to coincide with the FTC meeting that month, and will again be held at Tampa's Museum of Science & Industry. Mr. Beck reported that Congressman Mica's office has been contacted for a commitment to attend; if Congressman Mica cannot attend, a video acceptance and/or a substitute are possibilities.

BOARD VIEWS: Mr. Beck asked each Board member in attendance to provide comments on CUTR's research and activities.

- Mr. Sheppard: Research must be of real value – "Useful research is not an oxymoron." Believes that the presentation at the last Board meeting on parking management, particularly as it relates to transit and pedestrians, is a good example of research that could be very useful, that a considerable amount of research on this topic was done in the 60s, but not much since.
- Ms. Daugherty: Environmental issues—how to minimize the impacts of transportation on environmentally-sensitive areas; expressed interest in how to minimize water quality impacts of transportation projects.
- Mr. McDaniel: Noted that CUTR has grown to be the authority on public transportation and is great at transportation policy—"the one place government can go to get objective input." Believes CUTR could provide assistance on the roadway transportation side, e.g., utilities, permits, ROW—how best to do business? Noted value of research on reversible lanes, truck lanes.
- Mr. Mansour: CUTR notable as an independent transportation expert via truth, objectivity, no politics. Believes CUTR should increase contact with decisionmakers.

Transportation environment is changing, competition increasing, CUTR can remain the leader, should be collegial but wary of competition. Suggested CUTR act as the transportation conscience in the public policy arena, should become even more active. FDOT should use CUTR more to advance its strategies, retain its objectivity. Local governments and others need CUTR's assistance because they need objectivity. Could do more marketing, meet with Editorial Boards and transportation writers, conduct workshops and retreats. New growth management legislation great opportunity for new work.

- Mr. Hart: FDOT sees lots of opportunities in growth management legislation, will be coming to CUTR for assistance, suggested CUTR gear up for new work in this area. FDOT views CUTR as an extension of the department, always have positive comments about CUTR's work, but would like to see more field data collection and increased ability to do quantitative analysis.
- Ms. DeBosier: Encouraged more work in the areas of BRT, parking management, senior mobility, distance learning, tolls, fuel efficiency. Suggested private partnerships, commercialization of research findings.
- Mr. Skinner: Comments attached.
- Mr. Beck: Suggested CUTR be more commercially active—determine what customers need, then provide it; do more marketing, particularly to local governments. Engineering firms don't do (and don't want to do) much policy work. Stressed possibilities with growth management legislation, SIS. Local governments need help with transit, access management. Look to other sources for CUTR funding—seminars, retreats—particularly for local governments, advice on how to get new funds. Produce more press releases.

CUTR staff members enthusiastically thanked the Board for their comments, noting their energizing effect and expressing interest in new ideas. It was noted that more marketing and other activity will require appropriate resources and funding be in place.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for **Thursday, July 28, 2005**, tentatively scheduled to be via conference call.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.