



## **CUTR Advisory Board Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**February 9, 2011**

Center for Urban Transportation Research, Boardroom  
3808 Alumni Drive, Tampa, FL 33620

#### **Attendees:**

##### **Advisory Board Members and Designees:**

Kimberlee DeBosier, Chair, Bayside Engineering  
John Forney, Vice Chair, Raymond James & Associates  
Thornton Williams, Williams Wilson, P.A. (call-in)  
Debbie Hunt, Florida Department of Transportation (call-in)  
Walker Banning, Florida Department of Community Affairs (call-in)

##### **Center for Urban Transportation Research, USF:**

Stephen Reich  
Rob Gregg  
Dennis Hinebaugh  
Pei-Sung Lin  
Steve Polzin  
Ken Short  
Lisa Staes  
Joel Volinski  
Phil Winters

Chairman Kimberlee DeBosier called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. and welcomed attendees and guests.

#### ***Approval of Meeting Minutes***

Following a motion by Kimberlee DeBosier to approve the October 27, 2010 meeting minutes that was seconded by Thornton Williams, they were unanimously approved.



*Election of Officers of Advisory Board Chair and Vice-Chair*

A motion was made by John Forney to elect Kimberlee DeBosier as Chair, which was seconded by Thornton Williams and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Thornton Williams to elect John Forney as Vice-Chair, which was seconded by Debbie Hunt and unanimously approved.

*Chair's Comments:*

The Chair informed the group that Board Member, Bill Sheppard had recently passed away. It was noted that he had been a good friend and she expressed the Board's appreciation for all that he had contributed to CUTR and to the Board. Anyone with suggestions for replacement was asked to inform Kimberlee or Steve Reich.

*Steve Reich provided his Interim Director's Report:*

Steve congratulated Kimberlee DeBosier on being named to the College of Fellows of the American Council of Engineering Companies, an elite group of engineers who have made significant contributions to the engineering profession through their experience, knowledge, and networking abilities.

Next, CUTR's role in the annual TRB Conference was summarized. CUTR faculty had 11 papers published and 20 presentations, and 44 TRB leadership positions, including Member Emeritus, Committee Chairs, Members, Project Panel Members and Chairs.

The Board was advised that Dr. Daniel Sperling, Director, University Transportation Center at University of California, Davis and author of the book, "Two Billion Cars: Driving Toward Sustainability" would be visiting CUTR and USF on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> and making a public presentation at the Marshall Center at 2:00 pm. USF and CUTR will also be meeting with him in the morning. All board members are invited. Details will be forwarded to everyone.

Steve Reich and Steve Polzin hosted a delegation from the Czech Technical University in Prague to discuss general collaboration and specifics on a Vehicle Miles Travel charge demonstration.

Joel Volinski was in Washington with an organization of University Transportation Centers which is monitoring the federal reauthorization impacts on all Centers including CUTR's National Center for Transit Research (NCTR).

Dennis Hinebaugh was in Washington several times to discuss an expanded role for CUTR with Federal Transit Administration through CUTR's National Bus Rapid Transit Institute.

On January 20, CUTR representatives met with Mr. John Lewis, the new LYNX Director to welcome him to Florida and to describe CUTR's capabilities.



On January 21, Steve Reich gave a presentation to the Florida Transportation Commission on the future of Transportation Funding in Florida.

Many media inquiries were handled in the recent weeks on High Speed Rail and All Electronic Toll Collection.

Steve Reich and Steve Polzin hosted a delegation of Iranian transportation educators under a program sponsored by the US State Department and the National Academy of Sciences.

Steve Reich and Joel Volinski met with the FDOT Research Center and the Office of Public Transportation in Tallahassee to discuss the process for FDOT review and approval of projects funded under NCTR with state funds. It was agreed that a teleconference with FDOT and CUTR people would be held in advance of the solicitation of research ideas for next fiscal year. The purpose of the call would be for CUTR to get input from FDOT District and other FDOT personnel on their priorities and issues to serve as input to the development of project ideas.

CUTR management continues to work on getting appointments with congressional staff to brief them before federal transportation reauthorization legislation is considered. The Board's assistance would be appreciated with some of those contacts.

Pei-Sung Lin was elected President of the International Chinese Transportation Professional Association (ICTPA) Florida Chapter and became one of the ICTPA Board of Directors too.

Joel Volinski has been invited to be one of the first speakers at the forthcoming monthly RITA Transportation Innovation Series in the Media Center at US DOT.

The Colorado legislature passed the Yield to Bus Law, which permits transit agencies to install "yield to bus" signals and signs, but does not require it. It costs approximately \$1,100 to retrofit each bus with the signaling. The legislation was enacted with the benefit of a CUTR prepared study on the safety and operational effects of using illuminated LED (light-emitting diode) Yield to Bus signals on the backs of buses, which found the "signs have a positive effect in the yielding behavior of motorists without posing traffic safety issues."

#### *Director Search*

A consultant hired by Dean Wiencek produced a report with recommended position description and search committee for the new CUTR Director. Kimberlee and Steve Reich met with the Dean to offer changes and suggestions to both. The search committee will consist of Kimberlee DeBosier as Chair, three CUTR senior faculty, and others from the community and university. The CUTR Management Team re-wrote and submitted a new version of the position description to the Dean on February 1<sup>st</sup> for his review and hopefully his approval.



*CUTR Initiatives*

There were several discussions with the Dean to re-examine CUTR’s business model and to gain his support for continuing a “de-centralized” model for CUTR administrative support. The Center’s revenue, expenses and organizational structure are being reviewed with an eye towards making recommendations to the Dean to increase effectiveness and to gain efficiencies.

Joel Volinski spoke a little bit more on re-authorization at the request of Kimberlee DeBosier. The reauthorization of the Federal Surface Transportation Act is almost 18 months past due. A new transportation bill will most likely be passed this year to help states do better long range planning and budgeting. The House may approve a bill that relies only on the gas tax revenue collected through the Transportation Trust Fund which generates approximately \$38 billion a year. NCTR will be in-line to compete for funds from a University Transportation Center (UTC) Program. CUTR currently receives a little less than \$1 million from the Federal Government which is matched by the Florida DOT for an annual total of a little less than \$2 million. If the House version passes, there would be a \$400,000 reduction in that figure. There will be “listening sessions” for members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee by invitation held by US Representative John Mica in ten different sites (Florida is not one of them) over the next few weeks. The UTCs around the country will try to have UTC representatives at these meetings. The Board may be asked to send letters of support to retain federal funding for the UTC program.

*Board Members Updates*

Debbie Hunt reported the status of the job search for the Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation position. Three candidate names will be forwarded onto the Governor by the Florida Transportation Commission for his decision after seven interviews on Friday.

John Forney spoke about “change” at the local, state, and federal levels. He mentioned that the business model review requested by Dean Wiencek could be viewed as a challenge to CUTR’s agenda or charter but it could alternatively be viewed as an opportunity to re-invent what needs to be improved and that CUTR should see the change in that light. By taking advantage of this new environment, CUTR can emerge different and stronger.

*Summary of 2010 CUTR Transportation Achievement Awards Dinner*

Ben Watts, CUTR’s 2010 award recipient was well received by everyone. Ed Mierzejewski and Lynn Federspiel were thanked for all their work to make the dinner a success. There were 198 attendees with 18 table sponsors. The net amount raised was \$21,566.



*2011 CUTR Achievement Awards Committee*

Kimberlee DeBosier appointed John Forney and Senator Hargrett to serve with her on the committee to choose a candidate for the 2011 recipient of the CUTR Transportation Achievement Award to be considered by the Board. The committee will report at the May meeting.

*New Business*

A letter of appreciation will be sent to Sally Patrenos since she is leaving the Florida Transportation Commission.

*Project Presentation*

Dr. Pei-Sung Lin presented the project, Tampa Bay, In-Vehicle Driving Behavior Field Study.

Board members toured the project's Data Acquisition System (DAS) Installation Facility.

*Next Steps and Meeting Schedule*

The next meeting will be held from 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm in Tampa on May 11, 2011.

*Adjournment* - The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.