



CUTR Advisory Board Meeting

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2011

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

Attendees:

Advisory Board Members and Designees:

Kimberlee DeBosier, Chair, Bayside Engineering
Senator James Hargrett, Jr
Robert Romig, Florida Department of Transportation
Jeanette Hallock-Solomon, Florida Department of Community Affairs (call-in)
Ysela Llort, Miami-Dade Transit (call-in)
Chris Stahl, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (call-in)

Center for Urban Transportation Research, USF:

Stephen Reich
Jan Davis
Dennis Hinebaugh
Pei-Sung Lin
Steve Polzin
Ken Short
Lisa Staes (call in)
Phil Winters
Joel Volinski

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 May 11, 2011 meeting minutes that was seconded by Robert Romig, they were unanimously approved.

Chair's Comments:

Kimberlee DeBosier did not have a specific report. She wanted to inform everyone that Ananth Prasad, FDOT Secretary will be keynote speaker at the CUTR Transportation Achievement Award Dinner on October 26, 2011. Also, she was at an engineering conference in Miami where it was very well attended and Dr. Steve Polzin was one of the presenters.

Status of the Director Search:

Ken Short reported since the last CUTR Advisory meeting, the Search Committee for CUTR's Director met on July 12th to discuss the candidates. The pool of candidates was narrowed to four but one of them dropped out before the phone interview. On July 26th there were three phone interviews with the following candidates: Mr. Jason Bittner, Deputy Director/Research Scientist, Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education, Wisconsin Transportation Center, College of Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison, MPA, Public Administration, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI; Dr Jill Hough, Director, Small Urban and Rural Transit Center, PhD Transportation Technology and Policy, University of California, Davis, MS Agricultural Economics (Marketing) North Dakota State University, Fargo; and Dr. Shashi Nambisan, Director, Institute for Transportation, Iowa State University, PhD Civil Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, CA, MS Civil Engineering, Virginia Tech. The committee recommended to Dean Wiencek that all candidates be brought to the University for an in-person interview. Ken thanked Kim DeBosier for Chairing the Director Search. She in turn thanked Ken for going above and beyond the duties of organizing the Search Committee.

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

The External review, which was requested by Provost Wilcox, was held on June 19, 20, and 21, 2011 and the External Review Committee met with USF, Florida Department of Transportation, city, county and state elected officials, CUTR Advisory Board, and CUTR management. The reviewers were Robert Skinner, Jr. Executive Director, Transportation Research Board, Dr. Samer Madanat, University Transportation Center Director, University of California, Berkley, and Dr. Daniel Sperling, University Transportation Center Director, University of California, Davis. Steve Reich reviewed the highlights of the findings of the external review as follows: Strengths: engaged and responsive, strong national reputation in public transportation, diverse funding streams, positioned well for growth, and excels in applied research – given limited campus support; Weaknesses: light on credentials and academic training, interests not aligned with campus faculty, lack of tenured faculty unusual, mission and vision was not consistent with premier research institution; Opportunities: USF and CUTR can build on CUTR's strengths, Public Transportation is appropriate and positioned for future success, new funding opportunities with foundations and private philanthropy, create more mechanisms to attract additional



students. The recommendations were to recruit a Director with a blend of experience tenured position, add 3 to 4 faculty positions, restart recruitment with stronger package, increase PhDs in Program Director positions, and have USF support CUTR through additional financial resources and more faculty positions. The review was characterized as very objective and the organization is pleased with the results.. A discussion ensued on the findings.

University Transportation Center News:

The federal multi-year authorization expired on October 1, 2009 and has been enacted with several extensions. Both NBRTI (\$1.7 mill/year) and NCTR (\$1 mill/year) are authorized and funded under the SAFETEA-LU law. The latest Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011, P.L. 112-5 passed in March which included language giving the Department the discretion to redistribute funds allocated to specified research projects and programs, including UTCs if the Secretary determines that these projects have received “sufficient funds in fiscal year 2010, or a previous fiscal year, to carry out the purpose for which the project or activity was authorized.” An e-mail was received on June 3, 2011 from the Research and Innovative Technology (RITA) Administrator, Peter Appel in regards to a new program that the O’Bama administration proposed where all the 59 UTC’s that are currently designated within that act will not be funded as before for Federal Fiscal Year 2011. RITA plans to hold a competition for these FY 2011 funds so CUTR has have begun an aggressive initiative to re-compete. The new rules involve only consortia of two or more Universities to be eligible to compete and up to twenty-two university transportation center consortia will be selected: 10 regional centers, 10 Tier One centers, and 2 Tier One Centers with a public transportation focus. Each consortium will be funded in the amount of \$3,500,000 for FY 2011. A university can team in more than one proposal but receive only one UTC designation, and a match will be required at \$3,500,000. Our strategy is for CUTR/USF to propose as the lead for a transit UTC consortium; to pick two or three other transit oriented institutions to team and a center at a University serving a minority population. CUTR will work with FDOT, local agencies, private entities and USF to attempt to gain support for a match.

Items of Note:

Kristine Williams was awarded NCHRP Project 15-43 “Second Edition of the TRB Access Management Manual” by TRB (\$400k). She will be Principal Investigator for the project. She was also PI for the first edition and was the keynote speaker at the first International Access Management Conference in Athens, Greece this past June.

Dr. Pei-Sung Lin, Director of ITS at CUTR, Dr. Huaguo Zhou, and Enrique Gonzalez-Velez received an Excellent Paper Award at the International Chinese Transportation Professional Association’s (ICTPA) 24th Annual Conference held in Los Angeles. The paper, entitled “Development of an Integrated MOT Training Program for Incident Responders to Improve Traffic Safety and Mobility” was one of only five



papers selected. Dr. Lin was also elected Second Vice President of ICTPA. Currently, Dr. Lin is the President of ICTPA Florida Chapter.

Joel Volinski and Dennis Hinebaugh continued their visits with Florida Congressional staff through June and July.

Jan Davis and Dr. Sisinnio Concas have re-established CUTR's presence in Miami-Dade County with projects sponsored by the CITT and Miami-Dade Expressway Authority.

The Naturalistic Driver Behavior Study in Dr. Lin's group has received significant electronic media coverage and Dr. Achilleas Kourtellis has been interviewed by all of the Tampa market television stations and local radio.

President Genshaft mentioned CUTR former student Marcy Gordon and her work on the TAD device with Phil Winters and Sean Barbeau at the USF Commencement last weekend as a notable graduate.

The Annual GIS in Public Transportation Conference is sponsored by URISA & NCTR and will be held September 13 – 15, 2011 in St. Petersburg.

The webcasts are still going strong. Ed Bart, CUTR Senior Research Assistant will be presenting Transit Technician Certification: Leveraging Technology for State of the Art Training on August 11, 2011.

CUTR Transportation Achievement Award Dinner

There are seven early table sponsorships. Senator Malcolm E. Beard is the award recipient. Former Senators Tom Lee and John Grant have expressed interest in helping at the award dinner. CUTR is pleased to have Secretary Ananth Prasad as keynote speaker and Provost Wilcox has the date on his calendar.

Federal Authorization Update

Joel Volinski reported that Congressman Mica of the House Transportation Infrastructure Committee introduced a 17 page document regarding the Transportation Re-Authorization Bill proposal, which would provide \$230 billion over 6 years from the Highway Trust Fund for highway, transit, and highway safety programs. It limits annual funding of surface transportation to the \$35 billion appropriated to the Highway Trust Fund, a level consistent with current projected trust fund incomes. Congress will not support a gas tax increase and this proposal does not raise taxes. The Senate is working on a 2 year bill. Bob Romig stated that FDOT supports Congressman Mica's proposal.

Board Members Updates

Bob Romig reported on the highlights of FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad's Transportation Vision. The emphasis is on tolling and highway systems. The Department has created an Office of Freight Planning



and Logistics. This office will include the Seaports Office, the Rail Office and will focus on cargo movement by air and truck. Investments will be made in space and aviation. The Department will invest \$15 million for infrastructure improvements at Cape Canaveral and also will invest over \$170 million this year to support strategic investments in Florida's aviation infrastructure. In reference to regional governance, the Department is seeking to transition Florida's planning process to focus on regional and metropolitan transportation issues through stronger MPO partnerships or potential consolidation within urbanized areas. Regarding future corridors, the plan is to develop to better connect them, examples of study areas recommended for advancement include: Hillsborough County to St. Lucie County, Manatee County to Duval County, Collier County to Polk County, and Bay County to Alabama.

New Business -- none

Next Steps and Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held from 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm in Tampa on October 26, 2011. The CUTR Transportation Achievement Award Dinner will follow afterwards at the USF Marshall Student Center with reception at 5:30 pm and the dinner and program to start at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.