



CUTR Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2013

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

Attendees:

Advisory Board Members and Designees:

Kim DeBosier, Chair, Bayside Engineering
Ed Coven, FDOT
Katherine Frazier, Florida Transportation Commission (call in)
Sonny Holtzman, The Holtzman Group
Ram Kancharla, Tampa Port Authority
Ysela Llort, Miami-Dade Transit (call-in)
Bob O'Malley, CSX Transportation
Chris Wigelsworth, Florida DEO
Thornton Williams, The Williams Law Group, P.A.

Center for Urban Transportation Research, USF:

Jason Bittner
Rob Gregg
Trent Green
Dennis Hinebaugh
Pei-Sung Lin
Steve Polzin
Stephen Reich
Ken Short
Lisa Staes
Joel Volinski
Kristine Williams
Phil Winters

Guests/Presenters:

Michael Bato
Sean Barbeau
Julie Bond
Navid Farahbakhsh
Sherrell Lall
Erica Nelson
Karen Seggerman
Jonathan Summerlin

Kim DeBosier called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of May 1, 2013 and August 1, 2013 were approved. Ram Kancharla made a motion to accept the minutes and Bob O'Malley seconded the motion. It was passed.

Chair Comments:

No comments at this time.

Jason Bittner provided his Director's Report:

Bulls Bike & Walk Week

CUTR hosted the 2nd Bulls Bike and Walk Week from September 9 – 12, 2013; it was high profile event that President Judy Genshaft led and there were other dignitaries from the city present. Presentations were given on safety; there was a drawing with fifteen bicycles given out; and classes were given on how to ride a bicycle in the city.

USF Cybersecurity Summit

There will be a new addition to the campus, a Cybersecurity Institute, which will be modeled on CUTR's business approach. It originally was going to be based in the College of Engineering but has been moved to the College of Business. There will be one full time paid director and a multi disciplinary group from many departments to include the departments of Art, Statistics, and Computer Engineering. This initiative will bring new money to USF.

TSA Administrator John Pistole

Jason Bittner was given the opportunity to attend a Chamber of Commerce focused event on behalf of the President's Office. While he was there, he spoke with TSA Administrator, John Pistole and told him that he would inform the Board members and others about the TSA program, which involves registering for a TSA pre-check to save time at the airport. Also, there is interest in expanding research in airline security. Dr. Yu Zhang, a professor in Civil Engineering program has worked in this area before.

FTA Regional Conference Planning

CUTR along with Georgia Tech had planned to have a conference in October, but it was postponed due to the government shutdown. It has now been reset for the Spring of 2015.

Automated Vehicles

Conversations have been held with Induct Technologies, which is planning to be headquartered in Tampa. They are a French company that have ties with colleagues in Tampa. There are good opportunities available. Pilots have been set up in other locations and CUTR is looking to launch its own partnerships.

National Asset Management Conference

Jason Bittner is the Chair for this conference, which will be held in Miami from April 28 – 30, 2014. Flyers were given out at last month's FPTA conference and there is hope to have a strong Florida presence. Jason acknowledged to Ysela Llorca his appreciation for Sandy's help.

APTA Annual Meeting

CUTR had a strong presence at this meeting. Michael Melaniphy, CEO of APTA and member of the NCTR board spoke and it was a good opportunity for networking and project development.

GIS in Transit Conference

Martin Catala and Amber Reep were the primary coordinators for this TRB conference held in Washington, DC. There were over 150 attendees in attendance, which was very impressive due to the fact that the government was shut down at this time. There was strong representation from CUTR.

National Urban Freight Conference

Jason Bittner attended this conference in Long Beach, California in early October.

Update on Dean Search

Jason Bittner is on the committee for the Dean search. Job description and a hiring firm engaged. It is anticipated that the airport interviews will begin in March, bring candidates in April, and a decision made in May.

There are budgetary issues. The College of Engineering's reduction is \$1.8m with the opportunity to have it spread over 3 years. Each College was asked to produce a plan. Engineering's plan for the first year is a reduction of \$740,000. CUTR's reduction is \$175,000 this year. The 2013-2014 base budget is \$325,000. It is manageable. There are not expectations for layoffs or other staffing cuts as the reserves can be used. It will leave CUTR with a balance of approximately \$500,000.

There are complicating issues. The University is trying to remove the fixed price rollovers and to eliminate the flexibility of the indirect returns. CUTR has been exempt since 2009, but this year it may change. The University proposed a different model on October 24th, which will potentially change the indirect returns. We submitted our objection although the amount doesn't change just the process.

Research Project Highlights

Bittner reported there are 199 active projects with a total of approximately \$14.7m in expenditures and there is \$26.3 m in budget authority.

September Project Awards

CUTR was awarded 4 of the UTC proposals in the amount of \$5m. The National Center for Transit Research was awarded \$2.8m. Also, USF partnered with 3 other successful applicants for national or regional UTCs: Portland State University (Livable Communities), Rutgers University (State of Good

Repair), and University of Tennessee (Safety) with a total value of these partnerships of \$1.1m-1.5m over 2 years.

Dr. Pei-Sung Lin's ITS group with Dr. Chanyoung Lee was awarded the NHTSA Motorcycle Safety grant with \$2.25m to support an FDOT initiative.

With these awards, CUTR's budget authority should exceed \$30m, which is the highest amount in CUTR's history and it has doubled since 2012 the year Bittner became the Director. Jason highly praised the talent of CUTR in attaining these awards.

Staffing

New Faculty Hire

There is a current listing of a Freight Focused Faculty member, which will be closed on November 18th.

New Staff Hire

Lorraine Barnett was hired to fill the administrative position of project reconciliation and will start this Friday. Bittner acknowledged the hard work of accountants, Arunima Bagui and Reena Raturi during the two month vacancy of this position.

Departures

Jennifer Iley, Training Specialist has left Phil Winters' TDM group to work for the City of Tampa in the library, but she still helps out as needed. Amber Reep, faculty who had been at CUTR for 13 years has taken a position with the Transportation Safety Institute in Oklahoma City. It was a great career opportunity for both of them.

Career Path Advancements

Alex Kolpakov, junior faculty was approved with a career path advancement. As soon as there is a contract in place, the paperwork will be processed.

Work Group Updates

Bittner reported that CUTR has made significant progress with the goals portion of the CUTR Strategic Plan. He touched on a few of them. CUTR is strengthening USF collaborations and moving forward with advancing a small investment to make larger with cutting edge products/services. The posters of our values are seen throughout the building; the freight-related efforts with Rutgers and UTC helped build ties with the Southeast region and Georgia Tech; and strategic initiatives are being developed between Universities with the help of Joel Volinski and Martin Catala.

Our next steps are to continue to develop action plans for calendar year 2014.

UTC Competition

Out of 142 applicants, 33 centers were selected with CUTR being awarded 4 of them.

Florida did well with the UTC competition. There were 4 Tier 1 centers awarded in Florida: Central Florida focused on the Electric Vehicle Transportation Center (Environment); FIU concentrated on the Accelerated Bridge Construction University Transportation Center (State of Good Repair); and FSU's Center for Safe and Accessible Transportation for an Aging Population (Safety) with Florida A & M and UNF.

Livable Communities was awarded to the National Center at Portland State University, which will generate approximately \$300,000 funding for CUTR.

Other Tier 1 universities awarded in the Livable Communities area: Montana State University (Small Urban and Rural Livability Center); and Western Michigan University (Transportation Research Center for Livable Communities)

Automated Vehicles

At next's week's summit on November 14 – 15, 2013, CUTR will launch, The Automated Vehicle Institute. Denis Eirikis has been hired as the Managing Director to work 8 hours a week. Focus is to be on policy, planning, and research. Registration is available on-line at www.FAVS2013.org.

Tampa Bay Plan

The Tampa Bay plan has initiated a \$125,000 contract with THEA. Bittner acknowledged his thanks to Joe Waggoner. Workgroups in topical areas are coming out of the summit with planned workshops in February/March. The "Tampa Bay Plan for Automated Vehicles" is anticipated to be held in the Spring of 2014.

CUTR Achievement Awards

Tonight A. Wayne Rich will be recognized as the 2013 Transportation Achievement Awards recipient at the Embassy Suites. Also, the Georgia Brosch Memorial Transportation Scholarship recipient and the NCTR Student of the year recipient will be recognized. Two employees will be presented with the CUTR's Director award and CUTR's Humanitarian award.

Board Member Updates

Thornton Williams reported that DOT is making presentations to the House so there may be the possibility of 2 transportation bills that didn't make it last time.

Sonny Holtzman reported that recommendations are being finalized to the Secretary from the ITS Advisory Council.

Ed Coven reported that FDOT is very involved with the automated vehicle summit next week and will be there in full force. The FPTA conference in Clearwater had over 350 registrants with CUTR well represented. He reported that the department gets measured each year and they successfully completed the 20 measures and the Secretary as well as himself are very proud of this accomplishment.

Old Business

None

Next Board meeting will be on February 5, 2014 at 1:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.