



ITE GRADE CROSSING STANDING COMMITTEE 102-02
Draft Meeting Minutes
2022 ITE Annual Meeting (In Person with Web Meeting)
August 1, 2022

I. WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 11:08 AM CST by Committee Chair Brent Ogden.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

There were 15 members and guests who attended the meeting, with an additional 13 who participated through video conferencing.

Alyssa Phaneuf	Alyssa.phaneuf@kimley-horn.com
Antonino Genoese	antonino.genoese@kimley-horn.com
Brent Ogden	brent.ogden@kimley-horn.com
Cyndi Pennington	cpennington@brla.com
Douglas E. Noble	dnoble@ite.org
Frank Penry	Frank.penry@GHD.com
Garreth Rempel	Garreth.rempel@Trainfo.ca
Gene Russell	geno@ksu.edu
Joaquin Siques	jsiques@cityofpasadena.net
Jason Stack	Jason.stack@STCtraffic.com
Jorge Mendoza	jmendoza@benesch.com
Karen Hankinson	Karen.Hankinson@Railpros.com
Ken Berner	tomboster@aol.com
Ken Wynn	
Khang Nguyen	Khang.Nguyen@Houstontx.gov
Kurt Anderson	kanderson@ctcinc.com
Marty Amundson	MAMUND@dpw.lacounty.gov
Andre McKenzie	
Nicole Jackson	NJackson@benesch.com
Paul Rathgeber	PaulRathgeber@UP.com
Phil Poichuk	phil.poichuk@gmail.com
Randy McCourt	503.Randy.McCourt@gmail.com
Roma Stevens	Roma@Stevens-Technical.com
Sarah Edel	sedel@brla.gov



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Stephen Laffey	Stephen.Laffey@illinois.gov
Steven Chan	S.Chan@TransoftSolutions.com
Ted Graef	tgraef@AllTrafficSolutions.com
Tom Lancaster	tom@lancastermoble.com

III. ITE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brent reported on a recent Traffic Engineering Council meeting chaired by Gordon Meth. A new version of the 2016 Traffic Engineering Handbook will be digital and in a wiki format. Volunteers are being sought for the transition to a wiki. Each ITE committee can contribute to it after it is established. It will include references to other sources. Brent suggested that possibly a chapter could be added for railroad/LRT grade crossings, which could be taken from Chapter 11 of the recently updated Traffic Control Devices Handbook.

Alternatively, the Traffic Control Devices Handbook, last updated in 2016, might also be converted to a wiki format if the Traffic Engineering Handbook is successful. Each committee could contribute to the wiki after it is established.

An update of traffic signal maintenance guidelines is underway, and volunteers are also needed for this project. A project is beginning for guidelines for intersection lay-outs.

ITE is planning on 12 webinars this year. All webinars will be free. When there was a charge for webinars, an attendance of 30 people was considered to be good. The typical attendance at free webinars is 200 to 300 people.

Jeff Lindley, ITE Deputy Executive Director and Chief Technical Officer, will be retiring in October 2022.

Eric Rensel, Chair of the Council Leadership Team, explained that ITE is in the process of reorganizing the councils and committees. There are now 26 groups, with two new groups planned. Our committee will continue to exist, but there will be fewer liaisons between committees and more task forces shared between committees in an attempt to improve collaboration between groups.

There was some concern in ITE that the development of wikis could undermine the integrity of professional license examinations, but strategies will be developed to manage that. ITE staff feels that providing useful information to ITE members is of more importance. Eventually, the entire ITE library may be converted to a digital format.

ITE wants to incorporate transportation planning groups in the technical councils. The number of required action plans will be reduced to make committee work easier. ITE will emphasize the concept of developing trends, which will include issues such as curbside management, automated enforcement, yellow change intervals, a SimCap users group, and vertical deflections (previously known as speed



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bumps). Brent mentioned the CurblQ application which digitizes curbside regulations using open source maps data. Randy McCourt said that he is on a task force which will simplify and reduce the present variety of 18 plaques for pedestrian pushbuttons.

IV. ITE COMMITTEE ITEMS

1. Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from January 11, 2022, were approved by consensus.

2. Annual Conference Session

The Committee's grade crossing presentation session at the New Orleans Annual Meeting and Exhibition was to be held on Wednesday, August 3, at 9 AM, with these presentations:

- A Proposal for the Application of Hybrid Beacons at Rural Railroad Crossings, Dean Tekell, E., PTOE, Principal, Dean Tekell Consulting, LLC, Lafayette, LA
- Union Pacific Railroad Crossing Program, Paul D. Rathgeber, Director – Industry & Public Projects, Union Pacific Railroad, Spring TX
- Train Detection System Pilot Project – Metarie Road, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, Herbert "Bert" Moore II, P.E. PLS, PTOE, State Transportation Leader – Louisiana, Gresham Smith, Baton Rouge, LA
- Computer Vision System for Grade Crossing Surveillance – John E. D. F. Ayers, Vice President, Operations, Ayers Electronic Systems, LLC, Richmond VA

Doug Noble stated that the call for abstracts for the 2023 Annual Meeting in Portland will likely be from about Columbus Day to about Thanksgiving 2022. He suggested that for the 2023 meeting, the committee should consider proposing only two or three presentations prior to the call for abstracts, so that additional presentation proposals submitted to ITE can be considered.

Tom Lancaster said that he will work on arrangements for a technical field trip to railroad and LRT grade crossings for our committee members as part of the Portland meeting. He will also contact Peter Koonce to see if anyone from the City of Portland or Tri-Met might be interested in a presentation on bicycle or pedestrian crossings of railroads.

Other potential topics for presentations could include new preemption timing forms that have been developed by Oregon DOT, CalTrans, and Los Angeles DOT. Doug suggested that these new forms might also be a good topic for a webinar. There has also been activity in nearby British Columbia with regard to train preemption. Garreth Rempel said that he would contact people there to see if there is any interest in a presentation.



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Brent said that he will arrange a follow-up conference call, probably in early October, to further discuss presentations for the Portland meeting.

3. NUTCD Report

It is expected that the new edition of the MUTCD will be available in early 2023, with a re-written Part 8. If Part 8 is substantially the same as the recommendations submitted by the NCUTCD, it will be consistent with our revised RP on traffic signal preemption.

It was reported that there were over 20,000 comments on the proposed new edition that must be reviewed by FHWA. Brent commented that the provision requiring use of straight through arrows on signal indications ahead of the tracks did not seem to be appropriate at some locations. Karen Hankinson said that she had submitted a bunch of comments.

4. Status Report on the Recommended Practice for Preemption of Traffic Signals Near Grade Crossings

Brent reported that our newly published RP received the ITE Council Leadership Team Best Project Award. Kudos to Tom Lancaster, especially, and to Karen Hankinson, Rick Campbell, Jason Field, Brent Ogden and Doug Noble, who were all named on the award.

A webinar on the new RP is planned for September 22, 2022. Nicole Jackson, who will cover the second part of the webinar dealing with advance preemption is looking for a co-presenter for the first part of the webinar which will cover preemption fundamentals and simultaneous preemption. Persons interested in supporting should reach out to Nicole.

A second webinar is planned for November 10, 2022. Brent Ogden will discuss queue management techniques at railroad crossings, and Karen Hankinson will present illustrative case studies.

There was a discussion of a possible future webinar of a comparison of the RP with the new MUTCD after it's published.

As was mentioned in ITE Announcements, all webinars are free.

5. Discussion of 2022 Action Plan

Reports were presented on the status of the Deliverables proposed by the Committee.

Alyssa Phaneuf reported on the White Paper on CAVs and grade crossings. She has reached out to others for information on this item but has not yet received any responses. She has found that there are no CAV grade crossing applications at this time, but there is some research underway. She is beginning work on the paper, and it will be based on research, not applications. She stated that more volunteers for this project are welcome. Brent mentioned that



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the key to CAV applications at grade crossings is the acquisition of data for transmission to CAVs.

Karen Hankinson reported on the informational report for bicycle/railroad grade crossings. She has been collecting information and guidance from other ITE members. She has found that there is not much consistency in the treatment of bicycle crossings, but there is a lot of interest in the subject. She is looking for more volunteers for this project and will be working with the Bicycle Committee for more input. She is hoping that this project will be completed prior to work on the next MUTCD following the 2023 edition.

Brent Ogden reported on the project for an active Another Train Coming sign. He stated that a working draft has been completed and is undergoing preliminary review. Doug Noble commented that it might be too short for a White Paper and might be more suitable as a Technical Brief. Brent stated that ideally there would be more research on this issue, possibly using the FHWA Transportation Pooled Fund Program.

6. Liaison Reports

Doug Noble reported that the Roundabouts Committee is undertaking a survey of design standards for roundabouts and is studying enforcement requirements and queue management.

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee is working on a report of decorative crosswalks.

The Transit Committee is looking at the potential for quick-install improvements for bus stops in order to improve pedestrian and bicycle access.

Gene Russell reported that a draft of a new roundabout design guide is now under review. It includes a discussion of concerns regarding queues across grade crossings, but it does not include much in the way of solutions to queuing problems. The guide is expected to be published by the end of 2022.

V. Other Business

New preemption timing forms that have been developed by public agencies, particularly the new LADOT form, can be submitted to Doug Noble for incorporation into our web page. Doug suggested that our preemption web page should be reorganized to make it easier to find preemption material.

As reported in the minutes for our previous meeting on January 11, 2022, the direct link to our web page is:

<https://www.ite.org/technical-resources/councils/traffic-engineering/joint-rail-grade-crossing-committee/>



Traffic Engineering Council



INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

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VI. Upcoming Committee Meetings

- January 11 – 13, 2023, in conjunction with TRB, Washington DC.
- August 13 – 16, 2023 in conjunction with Joint ITE International and Western District Annual Meeting, Portland OR.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 PM CDT.