



ITE GRADE CROSSING STANDING COMMITTEE 102-02
Draft Meeting Minutes
2023 TRB Annual Meeting (In Person with Web Meeting)
Walter E. Washington Convention Center, January 9, 2023

I. WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM EST by Committee Chair Brent Ogden.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

There were 10 participants assembled in person and an additional 11 who participated through the web meeting:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Email Address. Rows are categorized under 'In Person' and 'By Teams'.



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III. LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

Brent announced that he is stepping down from the Chair role following this meeting. Karen Hankinson will be promoted to Chair and Nicole Jackson will be promoted to Vice-Chair. Brent was thanked for his service and Karen was welcomed. Gyan Sinha will assume the role of Secretary.

IV. ITE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Doug Noble, ITE Staff Liaison, provided some highlights of recent ITE activities (see attachment):

- ITE is launching a certificate-based blended learning program featuring Safe System Approach theory and practice
- ITE recently published a new Recommended Practice for Vertical Deflection Speed Reduction Techniques (replacing the Speed Hump RP)
- ITE published an Informational Report on Crosswalk Policy
- ITE released a call for data for the update to the Parking Generation Manual
- ITE will launch a TrafficWiki consolidating key resources and manuals
- An updated Traffic Signal Maintenance Handbook is in the works

Doug distributed an announcement of the **ITE Virtual Spring Conference**, which will take place on March 14-15, 2023 (attached). Doug reported that ITE now has some 17,300 members.

The ITE Annual Meeting will take place in Portland, OR, from August 13-16 in conjunction with the Western District Meeting. (There will be a session on grade crossings.)

ITE is encouraging committees to nominate students, young leaders, outstanding professionals or noteworthy projects through the Young Leaders to Follow program and our ITE Excellence in Transportation Awards. Nominations are being accepted through March

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. Essentially, the chairs of ITE standing committees such as ours, will be elevated into the Standing Committee of the ITE Traffic Engineering Council. Also, "Action Plans" will no longer be required of Standing Committees such as the Grade Crossing Committee.



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V. ITE COMMITTEE ITEMS

1. Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from October 20<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting were approved by consensus.

2. Annual Conference Session

The Committee had submitted a proposal to ITE indicating two presentations and a third listed as an "alternate". Doug Noble said that one presentation from the call was recommended so the panel would include all three proposed by the Committee plus a fourth from the Call:

- Traffic Signal Preemption for a Combined LRT/RR Crossing - Adam Moore, Portland Bureau of Transportation System Management - Presentation will discuss a Portland, OR, crossing in a shared corridor with signalized intersections on either side. The crossing also has challenges due to an unusually long crosswalk and frequent use by articulated express buses.
- Real Time Train Prediction System with Dynamic Motorist Advisory Signs - Liliana Quintero, City of Vancouver, BC - The presentation will present before and after analysis of a system which was used to advise motorists of projected delays at a crossing where construction of a grade separation would be problematic due to site environmental constraints. The system has avoided the need for building a grade separation at this location.
- Proposal for an Active Another Train Coming Sign - Brent Ogden, Kimley-Horn Associates - This presentation will present and assess various passive and active treatments and will suggest testing a U.S. prototype of an active sign which is in widespread use in Japan. This material could provide the basis for a Problem Statement to further advance and test this device.
- Joint Annual Inspections Save Lives: Case Studies from the Midwest – Joanna Bush, Mead & Hunt – Presents evidence of the importance of regular inspections of crossing warning systems at locations with preemption of nearby traffic signals.

3. NUTCD Report

As is generally known, FHWA has not yet published the Final Rule. The NCUTCD will meet later this week. The technical committees will continue to develop content for the subsequent edition and is "standing by" hoping the new manual will be released sufficiently in advance of the June meeting to allow for comprehensive review. Dee Chappell commented that there will need to be an update to the 2019 Grade Crossing Handbook to bring it into compliance with the new MUTCD and that the US DOT will be bidding out this work effort.



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

The Committee-sponsored Webinar “Part One” covering the Fundamentals of Preemption developed from the RP was presented in November with a large number of participants. “Part Two” covering Queue Management Strategies with case studies will be presented on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm EST. ITE Webinars are free to members this year.

5. Discussion of 2022 Action Plan

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

*ITS White Paper* – Alyssa Phaneuf has been assembling materials for a White Paper on CAVs and grade crossings. She said that there are numerous “threads” in this arena but there has been little substantive results to date. This prompted a long open discussion of various topics including:

- Adequacy of geo-coordinates of crossings in the FRA database
- Lack of GIS-based warning and regulatory sign database
- “Android Auto” providing warnings of upcoming crossings (but no data on occupancy or train arrivals)
- Lack of differentiation of 2-way vs 4-way stop signs (although some maps products now show traffic signals and traffic enforcement camera locations)
- Lack of uniform specs for traffic signal controllers

Doug Noble suggested that Alyssa should select which topics to engage upon. There was also a discussion of the work product. Randy McCourt indicated that the Committee needs to determine how the work product would be reviewed and pushed out. Doug Noble listed two options:

- Quick Bites – Typically a page or less on a single topic, does not require peer review
- Tech Briefs – Can be several pages, and would be peer reviewed

*Bicycle Crossings* – Karen reported that Antonino Genoese is helping develop a draft which will be available shortly.

*ATC Sign* – Brent acknowledged receipt of a markup from Doug Noble’s review of a preliminary version of the work product. Doug commented that there “is a lot of good material” in the document and he made suggestions for clarifications of content and flow.



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6. Liaison Reports

- Esther Strawder (FHWA) reported that the incentive for crossing closure has been raised to \$100,000 and that in-kind services (such as the railroads may offer) count.
- Complete Streets Committee – Karen attended a meeting at which many persons were involved in advancing numerous work products.
- Other Councils / Committees – An effort is underway to develop a “LinkedIn” site encompassing the various ITE Councils. Chuck Huffine is the administrator. Anticipate requests for content.

7. Web Page

It was noted that preemption forms provided on the Grade Crossing web page are outdated (especially LADOT). Brent reported the CPUC is using a new version which gives pedestrian advance preemption separately. Karen indicated that this form does not apply to all circumstances and said she would provide a revised version when available.

As reported previously, the direct link to our web page is:

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

V. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

VI. Upcoming Committee Meetings (meeting date and time to be announced)

- Spring Virtual Meeting – Date to be announced.
- August 13 – 16, 2023 in conjunction with Joint ITE International and Western District Annual Meeting, Portland OR.
- Fall Virtual Meeting – Date to be announced.
- January 7 – 11, 2024 in conjunction with TRB Annual Meeting, Washington DC

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM EST.