ITE COMBINED GRADE CROSSING COMMITTEES MEETING AGENDA
ITE 2007 MEETING – PITTSBURGH, PA
DAVID L. LAWRENCE CONVENTION CENTER
Room 308, Level 3
AUGUST 7, 2007 – 3:30 PM / 5:30 PM

I. WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 PM by ITE Committee Chair Brent Ogden. This is a special, first-time combined meeting with TRB Committee AHB60 Chaired by Anya Carroll of Volpe Transportation Center.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

There were 20 ITE and TRB members and guests present; plus ITE and TRB staff:

Brent Ogden
Anya Carroll
Tom Lancaster
Kurt Anderson
Phil Poichuk
Scott Booker
Andy Davis
Bill Browder
Ken Rouse
Brian Gilleran
Suzanne Sposato
Hal Millegan
Gene Russell
Rock Miller
Robert Seyfried
Joseph Palsa
Charles Lewis
Libby Jones

ITE	TRB
Chair	Chair
Member	Friend
Member	Friend
Friend	Member
Member	Friend
Friend	Member
Member	Friend
Member	Young Member
Friend	Friend
Member	Emeritus
Member	-
Member	-
Member	Member
Friend	Friend
III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

IV. ITE COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. US DOT Grade Crossing Handbook Maintenance

Chair Brent Ogden reports that the updated Handbook is now posted on the ITE home web page. It is available in both HTML and pdf format, and is 327 pages in length. A publication date has not yet been announced by FHWA, but it is in the process of being printed. It is likely that few copies will be printed; distribution of the Handbook will be primarily electronic. New information up through late 2006 and early 2007 was included in the revised Handbook. A dedication to Hoy Richards was submitted as part of the Handbook, but FHWA rules prevent publication of dedications.

Brent suggested that a process for maintaining the Handbook in electronic format be created. Brian Gilleran, Ray Lewis, Bill Browder, Gene Russell, Andy Davis, and Kurt Anderson agreed to assist in maintaining the Handbook. Brent will set up the process, which will include method to moderate and vet suggested revisions. Lisa Tierney stated that ITE will create an errata page on the ITE web site with links to related sites so that technical mistakes can be corrected immediately. Errata should be sent to Lisa.

b. Webinars

Brent agreed to preside in an ITE webinar on December 12 to explain the revisions to the Handbook. He needs some assistance with structuring the webinar. Lisa explained that anyone can sign up for the webinar. It is not necessary to be an ITE member. Typically, a fixed fee is charged for each participating site, with no limit to the number of people who watch it. The audio is provided through a phone link, and the visual is provided through the internet. Bill agreed to assist in distributing notices of the webinar. Anya Carroll reported that TRB is now moving toward webinars, and that the Handbook webinar might be repeated by TRB.

c. Conference Topics

Brent reported that abstracts and suggestions for ITE presentations are now submitted on-line. The deadline for submissions for the spring meeting in Miami and the summer meeting in Anaheim is August 15, 2007. Brent has submitted a presentation proposal for a session. It will tentatively include Brent speaking on the revised Handbook, Sean Skehan speaking on preemption timing, Tom Lancaster speaking on revisions to the LRT chapter in the MUTCD, and Phil Poichuk speaking on grade crossing standards in Canada.

The FRA and the Illinois Commerce Commission have published a report on railroad crossing education and enforcement. Suzanne Sposato, the author, will submit an abstract to ITE.
Brent suggests finding a multimodal issue for an ITE presentation that would attract a wide audience of people rather than only those interested in railroad crossings. Charles Lewis suggests that pedestrian crossings might be an issue that would interest many people. Many organizations have pedestrian committees, including NCUTCD, AAR, ITE, Access Board, and TRB.

In an attempt to coordinate and resolve issues for the committees working on parallel efforts, there could be an ITE or a TRB pedestrian session, which could be a panel session involving audience comments. Brian Gilleran has a compilation of pedestrian studies, but it has not yet been published. Brian also mentioned that the series of FRA public hearings on private railroad crossings has been concluded.

Other possibilities for sessions that would attract more people include a discussion of Safetea-LU or traffic signal timing, including railroad preemption.

The Far West railroad crossing conference will be held in Orange County in Southern California in May 2008.

V. TRB COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The TRB committee has 25 members, but this meeting did not have a quorum. The committee needs two new members, including one Young Member (under 32). Anyone interested can contact Anya.

Four railroad crossing papers have been submitted for the next TRB meeting. The committee has one three-hour meeting at every TRB session.

The FHWA has a presentation on in-pavement lights at railroad crossings. In-pavement lights at railroad crossings could be the subject of a research problem statement. A research statement could borrow from the TRB synthesis on pedestrian crossing in-pavement markings which is currently nearing completion.

Brian Gilleran mentioned that another possible research problem statement could be the use of uninterrupted power supply (UPS) at traffic signals that are preempted by railroads. Joseph Palsa stated that his company sells UPSs, and discussed the usage of UPS.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next TRB committee meeting will be at the annual TRB meeting in Washington DC, January 13-17.

The next ITE committee meeting will be during the TRB meeting, most likely on Tuesday, January 15th.

VII. ADJOURN