I. WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Tom Lancaster, who was appointed by Brent Ogden lead the meeting.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

There were 13 ITE members and guests present:

Tom Lancaster, Lancaster Engineering  Chair
Linda Mosch, NJ Transit  Member
Rock Miller, KOA Corporation  Member
Scott Booker, Campbell Technology Corporation  Member
Phil Poichuk, Transport Canada  Member
Andy Davis, Quixote Transportation Safety  Member
Russell Brownlee, Giffen Koerth Forensic Engineering  Member
Joaquin Siques, City of Pasadena  Member
Chris Laface, City of Orange  Friend
Amir Farahani, City of Orange  Member
Lisa Fontana Tierney, ITE  ITE Staff
Sean Skehan, City of Los Angels DOT  Member
Brian Gilleran, USDOT – FRA  Member

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from ITE.

IV. ITE COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Conference Sessions Update

The Technical Session “Advances in Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety” was attended by over 80 people, exceeding the capacity of seats in the room. Rock Miller presided for Brent Ogden, who was unable to attend the conference.

b. US DOT Grade Crossing Handbook / Web Page

The development of a highway rail grade crossing web page was discussed at the meeting. The web site would allow ITE members to review the Highway Rail Grade Crossing Handbook and provide input for proposed changes, research results and updates on treatments implemented at highway rail grade crossings, thus creating a living document where moderated updates and other technical resources can be provided.
Joaquin Siques will be the facilitator, and the following ITE members will be moderators for the site; Brian Gilleran (USDOT-FRA), Tom Lancaster (Lancaster Engineering), Ray Lewis (West Virginia DOT), John Sharkey (Safetran Systems).

To date the following information has been received and are proposed to be posted on the website: 1) Update to Legal Considerations Section of the Grade Crossing Handbook (prepared by Ray Lewis) and 2) Preemption Timing Spreadsheet (prepared by Sean Skehan).

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Web Page Next Steps

The application for web page was completed and submitted to ITE.

Joaquin asked if there are any specific web templates or guidelines which need to be adhered to for a site that is linked to the ITE site. Lisa referred the committee to Zack Pleasant (ITE staff) to obtain web design template. Joaquin will contact Zack. The Council Project Proposal Form (to officially create the web-site and link to ITE) will be submitted to Lisa Tierney.

Lisa Fontana Tierney (ITE) recommended that the committee obtain approval from FHWA to provide the information as a web document. Based on a discussion at the meeting, it seemed that the FHWA was already in favor of this and would not have any objections. Brent Ogden will be asked to follow up with FHWA.

For the record, there was prior discussion at the January 2008 meeting on content as follows: The site could include reports and presentations such as the grade crossing handbook, grade crossing handbook supplements, preemption timing spreadsheets, and other publications along with errata for those publications. It could also include links to related material, such as the MUTCD, the TWG report, railroad crossing conference schedules, and others. Tom Lancaster suggested that an abstract accompany each link to assist people who are looking for specific items.

b. Webinars

This committee is interested in hosting additional webinars through the ITE Professional Development Program Web Seminar series. Lisa Tierney (ITE) encouraged the committee to propose topics. Three topics were discussed:

i. *RR preemption.* Sean Skehan is interested in conducting a webinar on railroad preemption based on the paper he presented at this year’s meeting. This would be the first of two webinars that could be presented on the topic.

ii. *Gate Down Circuit:* Supervised interconnect versus a 2-wire interconnect. This webinar would be a more detailed look at railroad preemption and discuss the use of the supervised circuit. Rick Campbell and Sean Skehan were proposed as
presenters for this topic. Before this topic is presented as a webinar, Lisa suggested that an article on the topic be prepared for the TENC newsletter. Sean volunteered to prepare the article.

iii. Roundabouts: Brian Gilleran (USDOT-FRA) suggested a webinar on the topic of Roundabouts near highway rail grade crossings. This may be addressed through a presentation at the ITE San Antonio meeting before it becomes a webinar topic. See “Other Activities” below.

Training proposal forms for ITE webinars can be found at the following link:

http://www.ite.org/education/RFI.asp

c. Upcoming ITE Meetings

Based on the large turnout at the technical session that occurred at this meeting, the committee discussed the possibility of proposing a panel for the 2009 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas (August 9-12, 2009). Topics for the session are due on August 25, 2008 and will be submitted via the website by Joaquin Siques. The proposed panel topic is “Advances in Highway-Rail Grade Crossings Safety” with Brent Ogden presiding and the following speakers presenting:

ii. Grade Crossings in Roundabouts: Brian Gilleran, FRA
iii. Advances in Pedestrian Safety Treatments at Grade Crossings – Tim Huya, BNSF
iv. MUTCD Updates for Grade Crossing Treatments – Sean Skehan, LADOT

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

a. MUTCD

Tom Lancaster reported on the current status of the MUTCD including proposed revisions to Chapter 8 and Chapter 10. A major modification may be the re-organizing of Chapter 10 to separate light rail transit, streetcars and potentially bus rapid transit. A draft of the revised chapter will be prepared for review by the January 2009 ITE meeting.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next ITE committee meeting will be at the TRB Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, held on January 11 – 15, 2009.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm by Tom Lancaster.