Conference Call following 2012 ITE Annual Meeting

I. WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by ITE Committee Chair Brent Ogden.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

There were 16 participants on the call:

Conference Call Participants
Brent Ogden
Tom Lancaster
Joaquin Siques
Karen Hankinson
Bob Seyfried
Lisa Fontana Tierney (ITE staff)
Phil Poichuk
Andy Davis
Dee Chappell
John Van Hoff
Brian Gilleran
John Sharkey
Steve Venglar
Ray Lewis
Gene Russell
Joe Glinsky

III. ITE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lisa Fontana Tierney reported that the attendance at the accessibility session at the Atlanta Annual Meeting was well attended, with about 75 people present.

IV. ITE COMMITTEE ITEMS

1. ITE Grade Crossing Web Page

The grade crossing web page is now in a staging format at

HTTP://staging.ITE.org:800/gradecrossing/

It is expected that the page will go live very soon.
There are several possible locations for the grade crossing at the ITE website; e.g., Councils/Technical Councils/Traffic Engineering, Technical Information/MUTCD/Resources, or both. Brent suggested adding a link from the grade crossing web page to the Recommended Practice for the Preemption of Traffic Signals Near Railroad Crossings.

Brent also suggested that a link be established between the grade crossing web page and the ITE Community. Between now and January, Brent and Joaquin Siques will attempt to establish this link and will use it to invite ITE Community members to the grade crossing web page.

Joaquin suggested that presentations related to grade crossings from previous ITE meetings be posted on the grade crossing website. Lisa stated that live video and large files were precluded from our previous temporary web page, but they can now be hosted by ITE. It was suggested that the title Previous Meeting Minutes on the grade crossing home page be expanded to read Previous Meeting Minutes and Presentations.


Bob Seyfried reported that the draft of the new edition of the handbook is now in the hands of the ITE staff and is being prepared for publication. The target date is the end of this year. The handbook will be printed in black and white to reduce costs.

3. MUTCD Items

Tom Lancaster reported that a substantial amount of new material related to traffic signal preemption is likely to be added to the next edition of the MUTCD. The Railroad / LRT Technical Subcommittee and the Traffic Signal Technical Subcommittee are working together on development of the new material.

Phil Poichuk reported that in Canada there will be a proposal for the addition of the equivalent of the US MUTCD Traffic Signal Warrant 9 (Intersection Near a Grade Crossing) to the Canadian MUTCD.

John Sharkey discussed an issue relating to the clearance distance from the track to the traffic control device. The dimension should be to the center of the traffic control device, not to the near edge.

Brent reported that the FHWA is in the preliminary stages of investigating a different format for the MUTCD. One proposal is to place all Standards into a separate manual. The FHWA is now assessing interest and opinions in a reformatting.
4. Update of *Recommended Practice for the Preemption of Traffic Signals Near Grade Crossings*

Tom Lancaster reported that drafts of the proposed revisions have been received from all but one of the task force members. When the draft of the final section has been received, all the proposed revisions will be reviewed by all the task force members. When there is a consensus on the draft, the formal ITE approval process for the Recommended Practice will begin. It is hoped that the approval process will be completed by the end of 2012.

5. Conference Sessions Update

There was an extensive discussion by Committee members regarding presentations for the 2013 Technical Conference in San Diego and the 2013 Annual Meeting in Boston. The discussion for the San Diego meeting focused on the concept of a preemption training seminar, possibly extending over more than one session. Karen Hankinson mentioned that her company has been involved in a recent project which included improvements at 13 grade crossings in the San Diego area, and that a tour of the project might be possible. A possible format would be to have the first session as a general discussion of preemption and a second session as a description of preemption as implemented in San Diego. Another possibility would be to have a separate workshop or training session for traffic signal preemption.

For the Boston meeting, the discussion centered on the use of grade crossings by non-motorized users, particularly pedestrians. Suggested presenters included Tim Huya for traffic control devices for pathways, John Van Hoff for crossing design and control standards in Utah, TriMet in Portland for pedestrian control devices, and Dee Chappell for trespassing. Tom agreed to contact TriMet for a speaker, and Brent was to contact Dee. Phil Poichuk stated that there was no new activity related to pedestrians at grade crossings in Canada.

V. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of this Committee will be held during the TRB meeting in January 2013 in Washington DC. Based on the favorable experience from the meeting in January 2012 and on the expense of holding teleconference meetings at the meeting hotel, Brent stated that he would arrange for the use of teleconferencing facilities at ITE headquarters.

VI. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.