I. WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM PST by Committee Chair Brent Ogden.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

There were sixteen members and guests who participated:

- Brent Ogden
- Tom Lancaster
- Doug Noble
- Gene Russell
- Brian Gilleran
- Dee Chappel
- John Van Hoff
- Joseph Palsa
- Joaquin Siques
- JoNette Khunau
- Lisa Fontana
- Phil Poichuk
- Robert Seyfried
- Alexandre Nolet (for Russell Brownlee)
- Steve Venglar
- Douglas Bowron

III. ITE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Doug Noble and Lisa Fontana of ITE reported on several ITE-related items:

- The deadline for the submittal of abstracts for presentations at the ITE Annual Meeting in Toronto in August 2017 is December 9.

- An ITE Board of Directors meeting was held last weekend. Results of the meeting are not yet available.

- The development of a new highway/rail crossing handbook is currently underway. Kimley-Horn has been contracted by ITE for this work, which is being funded by FHWA and FRA. As discussed by Dee Chappell, it is anticipated that the handbook will be a new publication rather than an update of the old handbook. It might be broken into volumes, and will be a guidance handbook, not a policy or standards manual. It will include a section on the basics of traffic signal preemption which will be oriented toward an overview of preemption rather than a technical discussion. The first task will be a literature review. There will be significant involvement by stakeholder organizations. A final draft version of the handbook is expected in about a year.
• ITE is in the process of developing a new edition of the TRIP GENERATION manual.

• A Vision Zero toolbox is being developed by Andy Kaplan.

• A traffic calming primer has been developed by ITE and has been submitted to FHWA.

• ITE is planning a series of webinars in cooperation with TRB for the new edition of the HIGHWAY CAPACITY MANUAL which has just been published.

• A letter was sent from ITE to FHWA expressing support for MUTCD Interim Approvals, and FHWA has stated that they will work with ITE on this issue. Interim Approvals have been issued for bicycle intersection traffic control devices.

• ITE is preparing a series of four webinars, starting in December, which will discuss the process and details of MUTCD Interim Approvals.

• ITE is working on guidance for self-enforcing rural roadways.

IV. ITE COMMITTEE ITEMS

1. Prior Action Items Review

• Railroad crossing sight distance in Canada: new grade crossing regulations were passed in Canada two years ago, and a new regulations document is now available. It is generally consistent with US standards. The sight distance regulations are based on the road design speed rather than operating speed or the speed limit, and include methodologies for adjusting sight distance requirements for roadway grades.

• Links from the ITE Grade Crossing Web Page to the two documents above have been added.

• The ITE Survey of Guidelines Used to Select Sidewalk Locations does not provide any content applicable to grade crossings.

• Information about the Grade Crossing Committee panel discussion from the August 2015 ITE meeting in Hollywood, FL, has not been posted within the ITE Community Forum. (Postings on the Forum have not been effective in getting people to look at our web page.)
2. ITE Grade Crossing Web Page

- Brent suggested that all links on our web page be checked to be sure that they are active. At least one is not.

- Joaquin Siques suggested that news about railroad crossings or questions about railroad crossing safety issues should be posted on the Community Forum, with references to our web page. This would be more effective in getting increased views of our web page than simply making announcements. Any such items should be posted in both the all-member forum as well as the Traffic Engineering Council Community. Any comments related to safety can be tied to the Vision Zero movement.

3. MUTCD Items

- As discussed under ITE Announcements, ITE has been working with FHWA to promote the use of Interim Approvals until a new edition of the MUTCD is published.

4. Update of Recommended Practice for the Preemption of Traffic Signals Near Grade Crossings

- Tom Lancaster reported that a draft of the RP was submitted to ITE in early September 2016. Doug Noble reported that the necessary process documentation was being prepared prior to submittal of the draft to Task Force members for a formal vote. This is expected to occur in November 2016. Following that will be a peer review panel, then public comment. The goal is to have the new RP published in the first quarter of 2017.

5. Second/Another Train Coming Task Force

- Brent Ogden reported that the Task Force concluded that producing an understandable and effective message is a “human factors” issue. A presentation was made to the MUTCD Research Committee in January 2016, and FHWA indicated an interest in picking up and funding a research project. Brent will follow up on this.

- Phil Poichuk reported that based on research in a 2006 Volpe report, Canada has approved a standard for a passive sign for second train coming.

6. Conference Sessions Update

- There were some comments regarding the use of a focus session rather than a standard presentation listing for the session on grade crossings at the Anaheim meeting in August 2016. It is believed that listing focus sessions separately from the presentations in the meeting schedule resulted in a lower attendance at our focus session. Doug Noble explained that focus sessions were used when attendance was expected to be 20 to 40 people and a smaller room would be appropriate. He said that for the Toronto meeting, they would consider including the focus sessions with the listing of presentations.
There was a discussion of possible topics for a grade crossing session at the July 2017 Toronto ITE meeting. It was suggested that in Canada, traffic signal preemption, grade separations, and the draft Transport Canada Grade Crossings Standards handbook are currently of great interest.

Steve Venglar reported that the TTI traffic signal preemption worksheets prepared for TXDOT are being revised and will be completed within a few months.

Gene Russell reported that NCHRP 288 included a methodology for determining when grade separations are warranted.

The consensus was that sessions on traffic signal preemption (particularly the new Recommended Practice), the revised TTI preemption worksheet, the new Canadian grade crossing handbook, and the new US grade crossing handbook would be appropriate session topics. Warrants and considerations for grade separations could be an alternative topic. Brent will follow up on obtaining speakers and writing abstracts for these topics. NCHRP Project 20-15, Topic 47-15: Synthesis of Traffic Signal Preemption near Highway-Rail Grade Crossings

Brent suggested that when our Recommended Practice is finalized, we should bring the document to the attention of the Project leaders.

7. Texas Transportation Institute Review of TXDOT Preemption Policies

As discussed in the previous section, Steve Venglar reported that the revised preemption timing worksheets will be completed within a few months. The worksheets are now focused on preemption timing for existing crossings rather than new crossings. The fundamentals of preemption timing will be consistent with the LADOT worksheets. Some of the trailing sections of the worksheets which apply to special situations will be removed because they are not often used. There will be a new section which addresses the issue of trucks turning left at an intersection toward a crossing where there is insufficient storage space between the intersection and the crossing.


Tom Lancaster will check on the timeline of this project and determine if the upcoming Recommended Practice can be included in the Synthesis as a reference.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought before the committee.
VI. SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- Joaquin Siques will verify that all web links in our web page are active.
- Brent Ogden will pursue the possibility of FHWA sponsoring a research project for second train coming signs.
- Brent Ogden will find speakers and prepare abstracts for a grade crossing session at the 2017 Toronto meeting.
- Tom Lancaster will determine whether the upcoming *Recommended Practice* can be included in the NCHRP 20-15 Synthesis as a reference.

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, Washington DC  
  Sunday, January 8 – Thursday, January 12, 2017 (at Washington Convention Center)
- ITE 2017 Annual Meeting and Exhibit  
  Sunday, July 30 – Wednesday, August 2, 2017, Sheraton Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, Washington DC  
  Sunday, January 7 – Thursday, January 11, 2018
- ITE 2018 Annual Meeting and Exhibit  
  Monday, August 20 – Thursday, August 23, Hilton Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 PM.