1) Introduction of Members and Friends of the Committee

The Annual Business Meeting of ADC10 was called to order on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 8:11 am at the Hilton Washington.

2) Review of Minutes of December 16, 2009 Teleconference Business Meeting

If there are any revisions or additions please let Muggs or Jen know. The paper review process was highlighted. It was reported that ICOET in September had about 450 attendees.

3) Remarks of the Chair and Discussions (“Muggs” Stoll) (5 min-8:15 to 8:20 AM)

a) Feedback on Pre-Meeting Teleconference

The response to the pre-meeting teleconference has been positive. There were 22 active members out of a total of 26 that were able to participate. The teleconference made it easier for some to participate.

b) 2010 Annual Meeting – summary of sessions

The Committee had already hosted one workshop which was held on Sunday – Ecosystem Service markets and Associated Performance Measures. Monday had session on overlap between NEPA and 106 – Environmental and Historic Preservation Regulations: Overlap and Divergence. Tuesday afternoon there is a poster session on VMT targets. Late Tuesday there is a paper session where 3 papers will be presented. The session is called Environmental Analysis in Transportation: Applications from Planning through Project Mitigation.

Muggs reported that we were unable to set up the ability to teleconference in those individuals who couldn’t attend this meeting. There will be a separate call on Wednesday with those that missed the meeting to give a summary.

Earning AICP credits is explained in the TRB guide book. There is a form that needs to be filled out to receive credits. The information is available on the TRB website. Credits can be received for those sessions shown as offering credits.

TRB Announcement – There is a way to get the word out about what’s been done in research through TR News. TR News is always looking for ‘research pays off’ articles. Take a look at website for guidance. The spotlight theme for the 2011 Annual Meeting – ‘Transportation, Livability and Economic Development in a Changing World’

Craig Casper reported on the Saturday workshop with the Climate Change Special Task Force. Thirty members from 15 committees began work on the Special Task Force in 2008 for what
was supposed to be a 3-year term. The Task Force has already completed its specified tasks which were to facilitate communication between committees, coordinate sessions including spotlight for 2009, roadmap for future TRB committees. The Task Force helped with TRB climate change website and developed a research agenda. The June/July issue of TR News was focused on climate change. The Task Force reached out to EPA and DOE. The task force is looking for different membership and will remain past its original timeframe. If you go to the TRB website and click on the energy or environment areas there is a climate change tab. All TRB climate change activities are sorted there.

Muggs added that this year one of the committee’s sponsored workshops is on Thursday morning rather than Sunday. Great workshop so if staying until Thursday, please attend. The workshop is called the Role of Integrated Planning in Developing Sustainable Transportation Strategies. Muggs tried to contact CEQ to see if a representative could attend this meeting to discuss climate change but it didn’t work out. He will see if they are available to attend the summer workshop.

c) 2010 Summer Environmental “Mega” Meeting – Status of Planning

Last summer’s meeting in Sheperdstown, WV was fantastic. The surveys from the workshop came back with very high ratings. There were 72 attendees from the resource and regulatory agencies. There were a lot of requests to be added as friends of the committee, most from the agencies.

The 2010 summer meeting is hosted by CTE. On Sunday there will be a mini-research needs conference. Any sessions that the committee would like to plan for the Summer workshop need to be added to the list by early March. All environmental committees are participating except for Noise.

The organizing principle of the mini-research needs conference is to divide into groups of 3. The groups would look at what’s been generated over the last 5 years and to look at future research agenda. The groups would then be rotated over the 4-5 hours. Any new ideas and information on the conduct of research will be discussed as well. Best cross-cutting thinking to putting research together as well as the workshop. Joe Crossett will be the point of contact for the committee on the workshop.

There have been a few sessions that have been talked about. Carissa is doing research that we have discussed having a session on related to state DOTs and where they are with GHGs. Tom Linkous has been talked to about a session on successful mitigation programs being done on a landscape scale. Someone from ADC50 suggested that the Annual Meeting session on 4(f) and NEPA may have more to explore. At the West Virginia meeting there was talk about a Climate Change “revisited” session. Ilena is taking the lead for committee on that topic. If there are other thoughts, let Muggs or Martin Palmer know.

4) Sub-Committee Follow-up to Dec 16 Reports, if needed

a) Web-Site – Chair, Joe Crossett

There are now TRB records on all presentations and the hope is to be able to post these to the website. The committee is trying to get the word out on research that is happening and how to use our website for that. There is a place to put this information. All of the conference information will be posted on the website.
b) Steering – Chair, Chris Gesing

There is nothing new to report since the pre-Annual Meeting teleconference.

c) Strategic Issues Subcommittee – Chair, Rick Record

The subcommittee is charged with looking at issues beyond current research needs or that may make better use of current research programs or make for better delivery of transportation systems. The goal is to identify those things out there that are near-term and big or long-term and fuzzy issues. The other environmental committees have been surveyed and Rick is assembling information with some kind of distillation of the material. Another goal would be better liaison function between the committee. Help steer the conversation in meeting expectations on product and quicker delivery on projects.

What is the evolving role of NEPA? Maybe it’s time to revisit the fundamentals. How do new policy issues fit in? For example, the issue of footprint versus eco-shed. Sustainability mandate brings into question. How to better optimize decision-making? Where does risk management fit in? Trying to find a better way to get information posted for input.

Article in the environmentally-themed TR News issue (May/June 2009) effectively captures where thinking is on this.

d) Liaison – Chair, Susan Killen

A few new liaisons have been added. The information will be posted after the conference. Send list of liaisons to the subcommittees. See if there are liaisons to the committees that are attending the summer workshop.

e) Mid-Year Workshop – Chair, Martin Palmer

Continue to look for potential back-ups to 2011 and 2012 in case Minnesota and Arkansas do not work out. There is a handout showing where ADC10 has held meetings and where it is looking in the future.

f) Newsletter – Chair, Tamara Cook

There is nothing new to report since the pre-Annual Meeting teleconference.

g) Research Topics – Chair, Joe Shalkowski

Pat Trombly has offered to assist with research statements. Held 3rd Annual Research Topics meeting. Taking a look at where we stand on state of research in Environment and transportation. FHWA published on Friday a solicitation in the Federal Register to get input in research and development strategic plan. There is an ongoing discussion about the state of completed research. Wayne suggested that we mine completed research that is waiting to be implemented. There are actually 63 completed research projects on the shelf from NCHRP 25-25. There was discussion of reviewing those and to see if authors would participate in our programs (presentations, sessions about topics) or hold some webinars. Nanda Srinivasan from NCHRP came and talked about the status of research. Research is being advanced by NCHRP and 25-25. There are six RFPs out on 25-25. Go into TERI and review and screen the ideas and choose most relevant. Develop the research statement further and then the SCOE subcommittees review which should be advanced and got to the six. Various entities give NCHRP projects to consider. These are then scored, panels are created to review the topics, etc.
Compare research ideas that were generated at the summer meeting that were screened down to 10. These ten were handed off to the STEP program in December. Any fresh and new ideas that we have that we can develop.

Joe will be sending out a solicitation to see who wants to be members of the research subcommittee. Members will help with writing research statements.

Nanda reported that when the consultants start working, one will go out with a survey. Please provide input. NCHRP is trying to keep projects on time and on schedule. It would help when projects are done if the products are used. Have workshops or sessions to focus on projects. Nanda can provide contact information. The deadline for Synthesis program is February 12th.

Wayne mentioned that it is usually the state DOTs that are surveyed. Can the survey go to committee and friends? ADC10 has 400 friends. Pass survey to Muggs who can forward on to friends.

Joe Crossett said that between him and Kate Kurgen the selection process will kick off in the next month or so. Keep an eye out for e-mail on TERI database and request for ideas. Encourage everyone to contribute when that comes out.

h) Publications – Chair, Ken Hess

In addition to 3 papers being presented in one of the workshops there is also a paper being presented at one of the poster sessions.

i) History – Chair, Pat Trombly

There is nothing new to report since the pre-Annual Meeting teleconference.

5) Remarks by Christy Gerencher, Senior Program Officer, TRB

Thank everyone for patience with construction. Next year the Annual Meeting will be back to a normal schedule.

Brenda Craig answered the question of whether other committees will still be having comparable mid-year meetings? The summer workshop is pretty comprehensive so it will substitute for the normal meetings.

This year TRB was able to secure AICP credits for 152 workshops. TRB is currently working on credits for the summer meeting.

6) Report from FHWA Office of Project Development and Environmental Review – Shari Schaftlein

Shari is going to summarize what she talked about at the December pre-annual meeting teleconference.

There are not expected to be any new rules, regulations over the next year. Use the toolbox on improving project deliveries. Over 250 Notice of Intents are out and over half are over the 3-year timeframe. There is a pilot program to look at streamlining.

SHRP2 rollout. Look at beta test that’s available on CO1. The question now is how will FHWA help care and feed that. FHWA needs to give it a home and roll it out nationally.
Barney commented about 40th anniversary of NEPA. What’s needed is more transparency and public involvement in NEPA. Shari said that there was a FHWA meeting yesterday on the subject of transparency. This was a general discussion. There is not going to be an Executive Order that anyone’s aware of.

Kate reported that there is a new Integrating Frieght in NEPA process handbook. There is also information on the project development process and where to insert guidance.

Mike Culp said last Fall guidance came out on measuring performance in the PEL. There was a peer exchange in Denver on corridor planning and using results in NEPA. A report and guidance will be out on that.

Dave Carlson reported that there is STEP funding for Transportation Land use and Climate Change working group. What does changing climate mean for programs? Bring about federal policies to address issues. There is a pilot project on Cape Cod partnering with NPS, FWS, Cape Cod Commission, DOT and local towns. Development, transportation decisions, to link long range Transportation Planning effort and looking at scenarios related to climate change and adaptation. An RFQ has been released for Sustainable Highways Program, process, practices and evaluation methodology. This is being developed and the expectation is to have products out in December 2010. There will be a peer exchange and discussion. There is currently a CSS national dialogue that is ongoing. There have been two successful workshops (Boston, Portland). There are some upcoming in Charlotte (February), NJ (March 16) and St. Paul (April). There is also ECO-Logical funding. There is an intersection of gray and green infrastructure to guide future transportation decisions. In Portland featured Slopes4 project. This is a dynamic program and project helping with bridge and culvert issues. There are flyers available.

Brenda Kragh also mentioned that there is one new publication. A guide to transportation decision-making for use of the public. This would be good for public involvement. The document is available online.

Victoria Martinez is from the FHWA air quality team. She talked about working more with Shari regarding PEL. The Air Quality team is working with air toxics to see more addressed in planning before we get to NEPA. There continues to be uncertainty even with improvements in modeling. They are not endorsing additional analysis but looking for ways early to avoid exposures then maybe in NEPA can reduce analysis or better understand impacts and address those.

Joon Byun said that EPA has released a draft version of the MOVES model. There will be training nationwide. There is a draft plan but don’t have a schedule yet. The model does the analysis for green house gases, mobile source emissions. EPA is planning to add non-road portion at the end of the year. The training takes a lot of time. It is a complex model but it deals with many issues.

7) Report from AASHTO/Center for Environmental Excellence – Kate Kurgan

The Center works closely with FHWA and Wayne Kober. The booth number is 3303 and the new publications are available there. There is a Practitioner’s Handbooks on Stormwater and 4(f). There are new handbooks coming on Indirect and Cumulative and 404(b)(1), ESA, Recycled Materials and environmental compliance at maintenance facilities.
ESsquared relates to environmental stewardship and sustainability. Website case studies are being updated. There will be a survey in the near future. The green aspects of the ARRA projects will be highlighted.

Work is also being done with Climate Change issues. There are three components. There will be a series of webinars, probably 6 starting in February. There will be advertising the on website and through ADC10. The second step will be workshops with state DOTs. There was an application process for participating and had 30 of 52 apply. There are only 10 being offered so selecting states and workshops to develop climate change action plans. This will include 30 to 45 people for a day to get some momentum going. Lastly, a climate change symposium will be held in the May timeframe. During the symposium participants will talk about legislation and how states are progressing.

There are also general webinars, partnered with EPA and FHWA. There was a webinar on new storm water guidelines and which was recorded and will be on website.

8) Remarks by Kate Quinn, Environment and Energy Section Chair

There has been a new committee added which is Aviation Security and Emergency Management. There is also the Special Task force on Climate Change and Energy. The Task Force will inform TRB on a direction. As a Task Force it would either go away or become a committee. It is staying for now as advisory group. There is no intention of turning it into a committee, since there are already a few on these topics. There is a possibility that this could be done with some other topic areas.

Paper sessions were reduced this year because of construction at the Hilton but poster sessions have increased. Following the Annual Meeting TRB will post all presentations and the papers are on CD. If you are a member of sponsoring organization you don’t have to pay to get access. If you attended there is a $50 fee to do so. It is $99 if didn’t attend and want access. Spotlight theme reflects the way we’re building the program for the summer meeting. It will be interesting to see what comes out in the summer that we may want to push for at the annual meeting. There have been many webinars with approximately 8500 participants in the TRB sponsored program over the last year. There is a $99 fee per site for each webinar.

There has been a summer meeting announcement sent via e-mail. CTE, North Carolina DOT, FTA and others are involved in the meeting. The first part is a research workshop. There will be an introductory session to discuss research needs for the future. There is a point of contact needed for each committee. White papers will be developed through the VOLPI center. The committee point person would help to review this information. The papers would be available two weeks before the conference. There will be a debriefing on the 10th on the event and on the research workshop. The report developed will be posted on FHWA’s website. The goal is to identify critical research needs. There will be three days of conference sessions. The conference includes the 12 committees plus SCOE. Other committees have approached TRB to participate so there may be more. The committee members and friends are asked to help to market the event as this doesn’t happen very often. This is an opportunity for someone to come to one place and talk to a diverse group of professionals. There is a flyer that includes some preliminary information on sessions.

9) Strategic Planning Discussion (30 min-9:10 to 9:40 AM)
   a) Triennial Strategic Plan
   There was not time to go over the Triennial Strategic Plan.
10) Wrap-up Discussion –

Muggs would like to do more with Strategic Planning discussion. He is going to talk to a few people on the committee about coming in on Saturday to spend some time on this before the Sunday workshop. Muggs will follow-up on that possibility. At a minimum all the subcommittee chairs would be asked to attend.

Muggs thanked everyone for attending. There was one last call to get members and friends involved in research subcommittee.