MEETING MINUTES

ITE Grade Crossing Committee Meeting

Date:	November 01, 2023
Time:	8:00 am – 9:00 am PST
Location:	**Microsoft Teams meeting**

Participants:

Jason Field
Karen Hankinson
Rick Campbell
Carmen Talavera
Douglas Noble
Gary Thomas
Maryam Hedayati
J. Mark Mathis
Nicole Jackson
Jeannelia Liu
Joanna Bush
John Ayers
Stephen Kay
Marty Amundson
Nicole Aquino
Brent Ogden
Phil Poichuk
Shayne Gill
Esther Strawder
Tom Lancaster
Gyan Sinha
Casey Murdie
Garreth Rempel
Richard Smith
Steven Venglar
Louis Rubenstein
Venkat Nallamothu
Steven Venglar
Tom Urbanik
Lou Sanders
Nicole Aquino
Gene

AGENDA

- **Introductions**
  - Karen Hankinson started the meeting by going through introductions for all attendees.
  - Garreth Rempel from TRAINFO is here to present on different technologies developed for rail crossings.

- **ITE Annual Conference Recap**
  - Presentations were well received with multiple speakers.
  - Informal walking tour for an interconnected crossing that was shared by TriMet and UPRR
    - Discussed some of the operations that had been done specifically regarding the traffic signal and timing of the two traffic signals.
    - Good engagement with committee members, including Brent Ogden, providing information on another train coming.

- **Committee Products Overview:**
  - 2nd Train Coming Report
    - Brent submitted a draft to the committee and forwarded it to ITE for review. Doug Noble provided initial comments that were incorporated in the submitted version.
    - Doug has final comments that Brent will incorporate. Brent and Doug will finalize the document by Thanksgiving for the review committee.
    - Doug explained in documents we can't use the street view images from Google Earth, only plan view. Wikimedia Commons is an open source that can be used to provide proper footnotes for the sourcing.
    - Review Committee: Karen Hankinson, Nicole Jackson, Gyan Sinha, Joanna Bush, & J. Mark Mathis

- Traffic Signal Maintenance at Grade Crossings Quick Bite
  - One-page document providing information to practitioners about three key items regarding traffic signals, signal maintenance, and interconnected crossings.
  - Karen is working on draft completion. Joanna will be the reviewer of this document.
  - The document will be put through the formal ITE review process in December 2023.

- Roundabouts and Grade Crossings Quick Bite
  - Joanna has volunteered to be the author of this document.
  - Doug mentioned this should be an easy document to produce as we have a template. Doug will forward the template to Joanna.
  - It was suggested that folks from the roundabout committee be involved in the review committee.
  - Doug will make connections with representatives from Canada, New Zealand, and/or Australia
  - Review Committee: Gene, Richard Smith, Maryam Hedayati, Casey Murdie, Doug Noble, Amber Stoffels, and Amanda Austin

- We are excited for the release of the 11th edition of the MUTCD. A webinar related to part 8 changes will be led by Nicole Jackson and Richard Campbell.
- Quick Bite on Cycle track at grade crossings developed in the last six months. This will probably be the first webinar of 2024.
- Doug mentioned that ITE sponsors a Virtual Spring Conference on March 19th and 20th. We have ten spots available. Traffic Engineering Council and its associated subcommittees will attend the virtual conference.
  - Theme: Journey to Safer Communities. Railroad crossing safety fits into this theme and would be a good opportunity to collaborate with another group.
  - An update on the changes to the railroad grade crossing program from a federal level, such as the Section 130 program
  - Esther Strawder volunteered for this virtual spring conference and will provide a brief/abstract to share with the council.
  - Doug suggested he would talk to Chuck as a Traffic Engineering Council Chair and have a follow-up with Chuck and the subcommittees.

- **TRAINFO Presentation**
  - Garreth Rempel, CEO and co-founder of TRAINFO, was supported by Jack (Garreth's son)
  - TRAINFO developed different technologies for railroad crossings for incident safety to reduce collisions, congestion emissions, and 911 delays at rail crossings.
  - Three Problems of Rail Crossings:
    - Inadequate data to understand traffic problems at grade crossing (FRA inventory, short-term manual counts, modeling)
    - There are few options to address block and/or occupied grade crossings, especially traffic congestion and 911 emergencies.
    - Lack of funding
  - Sensors on poles outside of the railroad ROW to collect data to identify problems.
  - The data portal includes the following information:
    - Frequency and duration
    - Train movement type
    - Train type
    - Train length & speed
    - Traffic delay by crossing & OD pair
  - An Emergency Responder Risk model was developed to incorporate the following:

        - Number of trips delayed
        - Amount of delay due to block/occupied crossings
        - Crossings and Catchments with high risk delay
        - Useful in developing grant applications
    - This application provides real-time and predictive information to drivers and first responders
    - Safety Signs have been effective and deployed. Static signs, CMS, and flashing beacons are some treatments.
    - Other ways that this information is shared is through 511, Twitter/X integration for peds, and Waze integration.
    - Some of the technologies are covered under Section 130 program. Esther clarifies that the Section 130 program funding does not pay for operations and maintenance.
    - Regulation on timing for blocked crossing varies from state to state. FRA's Black crossing portal sends a report if a crossing is blocked for more than 15 minutes.

- **Call for 2024 Presentations**
    - The annual meeting is in Philadelphia in the month of July. This committee will be responsible for submitting ideas for technical sessions. ITE will select 36 technical sessions this year (compared to 47 in Portland) due to less availability.
    - It would be great to have a combined local tour in Philadelphia, similar to Portland.
    - Send presentation topics to Karen – due Tuesday after thanksgiving
    - Baltimore local agency contacts – please share for presentation and tour contacts