



**AMS ITS/Surface Transportation Committee
Teleconference Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 23 July 2014
1:00 – 1:45 PM EDT**

Meeting participants and role:

Name	Organization	Membership	Status
Jim Koermer	Plymouth State Univ.	Member, Chair	Present
Brenda Boyce	Booz-Allen-Hamilton	Member	Present
Paul Bridge	Vaisala, Inc.	Member	Absent
Rob Carolan	Hometown Forecast Svcs.	Member	Absent
Mike Chapman	NCAR	Member	Absent
Jeremy Duensing	Schneider Electric	Member	Present
Tina Greenfield	Iowa DOT	Member	Present
Ben Hershey	Iteris, Inc.	Member	Present
Curtis Marshall	NOAA/NWS	Member	Absent
Bob Moran	Weather Telematics, Inc.	Member	Present
Leon Osborne	Univ. of North Dakota	Member	Absent
Leigh Sturges	Narwhal Met, LLC	Member	Absent
Curtis Walker	U. of Nebraska Lincoln	Student Member	Present
Art Handman	ITS America	Ex Officio	Present
Kathy Ahlenius	TRB (WY DOT)	Ex Officio	Present
Paul Pisano	FHWA	Ex Officio	Present
Daniel Melendez	OFCM designee (STC)	Ex Officio	Absent
Jonathan Rutz	NOAA/NWS/SLC-WFO	Guest	Present

Approval of Past Minutes and Agenda

The draft minutes of the 22 April 2014 AMS ITS/STC Teleconference Meeting, previously provided, were approved with the correction of a name typographical error.

The previously distributed agenda for this meeting was approved.

Jonathan Rutz, who will likely be joining the Committee, next year, was welcomed as a guest observer.

Recurring Reports/Updates

USDOT Update from Paul Pisano: Paul highlighted the following:

- The 2014 Road Weather Management Stakeholder Meeting will be held 12-14 August 2014 in Salt lake City. There will be several optional session on Tuesday morning including one topic on “Interpreting Weather Products” given by Ralph Patterson from Narwhal Met, LLC, and another topic on the Benefit/Cost Analysis of Road Weather Management by Mike Lawrence from Jack Faucett Associates. Currently, there were 106

registrants with a good mix from most sectors. FHWA is planning on a very interactive session with live web access.

- The USDOT is actively working with NCAR and Booz-Allen-Hamilton on demonstration activities for the upcoming ITS World Congress Meeting in Detroit.
- Funding Situation: Technically, the Highway Trust Fund goes bankrupt in 8 days, but there is a \$10.8 billion bill being considered in Congress for a 9-month extension. This could lead to many questions related to execution of various programs.
- Projects:
 - The Integrating Mobile Observations (IMO) project is wrapping up.
 - The Connected Vehicle (CV) Pilots initiative is ramping up, and will offer the opportunity to demonstrate weather-related applications.
 - The Weather Data Environment (WDE) is undergoing final testing and awaiting approvals for web access. The project is bringing in MOPED data from Weather Telematics.
 - A new 16-18 month project that has just been started focuses on road weather impacts on the freight community on a regional basis, where a previous study looked at impacts over much broader area.

Mobile Observations Subcommittee (MOS) Update from Brenda Boyce:

Brenda Boyce had provided surface transportation weather inputs to the Committee planning this year's AMS Summer Community, but there was apparently no interest, since that area had been covered in the previous two summer meetings.

TRB Update from Kathy Ahlenius:

- The TRB is currently accepting proposals for papers for the Transportation Research Board 94th Annual Meeting to be held in Washington, DC, from 11-15 January 2015. Check out <http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting2015/AnnualMeeting2015.aspx> for the Call for Papers and more information on the meeting. This is the second year in a row where the AMS Annual Meeting has not overlapped with the TRB Annual Meeting.
- Committee Chairs (e.g. Kathy for the TRB Surface Transportation Weather Committee) can invite a non-traditional person to the meeting and that person's registration fee can be waived if they are 1) serve as a session provider, speaker or panelist and/or 2) participate in a conversation with a TRB Committee as part of the Committee agenda during the meeting and/or 3) participate in a number of planned discussions with subcommittees, working groups, or other small groups organized under the auspices of the Committee. Note that this would not include travel and lodging costs. If anyone is interested, please contact Kathy ASAP.
- Kathy's Committee will be sponsoring a workshop on Sunday, 11 January 2015.

ITS America Update: Art Handman confirmed that the main planned activity is the ITS World Congress in Detroit, 7-11 September 2014. Mike Chapman was trying to organize several weather-related sessions.

Old Business

Action Item Review - Committee Website from JimKoermer. After several years, we finally have a new AMS ITS/ST Committee web site:

<http://www2.ametsoc.org/cwce/index.cfm/committees/committee-on-intelligent-transportation-systemssurface-transportation/>

It took longer than anticipated to get access and upload data to the web site and Jim is still learning some of the details, not covered in the training session that he attended. However, the membership list is up-to-date and it includes these draft Committee meeting minutes and the approved minutes from the past several years. Jim is currently re-organizing and adding to the Committee's history, which will soon be posted on the web site. There is also a calendar feature that still needs to be figured out. The possibility of a blog page will also be explored.

BAMS Journal Article: Mike Chapman and Curtis Walker are continuing to make some progress.

USDOT ITS Strategic Plan Inputs: Jim Koermer sent the Committee inputs, primarily formulated by the Mobile Observations Subcommittee, to Ken Leonard, the director of the USDOT ITS JPO, in early March. As mentioned earlier, Ken presented a slide at the AMS Washington Forum, which covered the main points of this submission. There was some lengthy discussion on how to better get the broader community and especially the National Weather Service (NWS) more involved and on board with connected vehicles, which was viewed as a problem by both Bob Moran and Paul Pisano. Bob indicated that it seems difficult for them to embrace new paradigms. Jim Koermer related that there has been a recent BAMS article on the AMS Partnership Topic on Mobile Observations and that there have been transportation session at the past few AMS Washington Forums and AMS Summer Community Meetings, conference sessions at the AMS Annual Meeting, and now the preparation of a new BAMS article on road weather meteorology. Jim also cited that things have also moved slow in the U.S. with AMDAR data in the aviation sector, where it is difficult to obtain until after the fact, compared to European countries that readily transmit the data in WMO format over regular transmissions,

ITS World Congress in Detroit, 7-11 September 2014: In looking quickly at the ITS World Congress site, two sessions and one activity, where the main focus is weather, were found:

- ITS Weather Systems 1: <http://itsworldcongress.org/sessions/its-weather-systems-1/>
- ITS Weather Systems 2: <http://itsworldcongress.org/sessions/its-weather-systems-2/>
- Integrated Mobile Observations (IMO): <http://itsworldcongress.org/events/integrated-mobile-observations-imo/>

Weather is also a topic included in a number of other sessions, but not the main the only topic to be covered.

January 2015 AMS Annual Meeting Transportation Sessions: Two sessions are again planned for this year; one will be joint with the Policy Meeting and the other with just the Environmental Information Processing Technologies Conference. The Call for Papers deadline is 1 August 2014 and it may not be extended as in previous years because of the early January time frame of the Annual Meeting. The proposed sessions (subject on change depending on papers submitted/accepted) are as follows:

- Mobile Observing of Weather and Environment (Policy/EIPT) – Focus: This session will focus on scientific, technical, and policy issues surrounding mobile observing of weather and the environment, whether related to motorized vehicles, trains, or aircraft. In particular, papers are sought on the following topics: (1) the accuracy and bias of mobile observations; (2) the use of mobile observations to improve weather forecasts, products or decision support tools that are provided via computers, vehicle-based or mobile devices; (3) user preferences for mobile data; and (4) issues of distraction related to providing weather information to drivers/pilots.

- Road Weather Importance, Applications, and Needs – Focus: As the title suggests, this session will focus on the importance/justification of road weather support; provide a forum to present recent work on new or improved road weather applications; and outline future needs to improve support in this area.

AMS Washington Forum (AWF): Next year's Forum was held 21-23 April 2015 in Washington, DC. Over the past two years, we have had very successful and acclaimed sessions on road weather surface transportation with much of the emphasis on mobile observations. Jim Koermer is once again on the AWF Planning Committee, which is just getting underway to identify session topics for the 2015 AWF, and needs AMS ITS/ST Committee inputs for possible topics **ASAP**, since the next Planning Committee Meeting is 25 July 2014. Specifics aren't needed at this point only a general topic and ideas for a session. On the teleconference call and a prior e-mail, Jonathan Rutz suggested reporting on some of the work done using the METRo road surface forecasting model at NWS WRHQ, not the local office here in Salt Lake. This work is being done independently of the DOT.

AMS ITS/ST Committee Membership for 2015: Suggestions were solicited for new AMS ITS/ST Committee members for next year for 3-year terms. The following six members will have terms set to end this year:

Academic Sector: Jim Koermer and Mike Chapman

Government Sector: Tina Greenfield and Curtis Marshall

Private Sector: Brenda Boyce and Jeremy Duensing

Jonathan Rutz wants to join the Committee as a Government Sector representative. Tina Greenfield, Brenda Boyce, and Jeremy Duensing have all agreed to "re-up" if needed. I do have a potential Academic Sector representative lined up, but still would like to get another (preferably from NCAR – hint: Mike).

New Business

January Meeting: The AMS ITS/ST Committee Meeting at the AMS Annual Meeting is scheduled for 7:00AM-8:30AM on Tuesday, 6 January 2015 with the exact location at the AMS Headquarters Hotel is TBD. This time has usually resulted in the fewest conflicts. We hope many will be able to attend in-person, but a dial-in capability may be possible and has been requested.

Next Teleconference: The next teleconference meeting will be held in late October or early November. A Doodle poll will be conducted in early October to select the best date/time.

Open Discussion

None.