



**AMS ITS/Surface Transportation Committee
Teleconference Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 22 April 2014
3:00 – 4:00 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	Present
Rob Carolan	Hometown Forecast Svcs.	Member	Present
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	Present
Curtis Walker	U. of Nebraska Lincoln	Student Member	Absent
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	Present

Approval of Past Minutes and Agenda

The wrong file for the updated draft minutes of the 4 February 2014 AMS ITS/STC Meeting in Atlanta was provided by the Chair prior to the meeting. The correct attachment was sent to Committee members immediately after the teleconference and a request was made for members to provide e-mail inputs for any needed additions or corrections.

The previously distributed agenda for this meeting was approved.

Committee Membership Changes

Kathy Ahlenius from the Wyoming DOT was welcomed as the new *ex officio* member of the committee representing the Transportation Research Board (TRB) as the new Chair of the TRB Weather Committee, replacing Wilf Nixon.

Routine Updates

USDOT Update from Paul Pisano: Paul highlighted the following:

- The Weather Data Environment is doing well with acceptance testing scheduled for next month, which will be followed by introduction to the broader community.
- Vehicle Data Translator (VDT) testing and evaluation is looking good. The next step is to determine the licensing arrangements prior to distribution to interested users.
- The Integrated Mobile Observations project is ongoing with the state DOTs of Michigan, Nevada and Minneapolis with the next phase tying in with the Enhanced MDSS and Motorist Advisory and Warning applications.
- Wyoming, South Dakota, and Michigan DOTs are now involved in projects that build off the Weather-Responsive Traffic Management strategies developed in Utah and Oregon. FHWA has published a flier (<http://ntl.bts.gov/lib/51000/51000/51008/3D3FDFB9.pdf>) and report (<http://ntl.bts.gov/lib/51000/51000/51067/F9C62201.pdf>), describing the citizen reporting program deployed in Utah.
- The Pathfinder kickoff meeting with four states (CA, NV, UT, and WY) occurred on April 9-10, 2014.
- The 2014 Road Weather Management Meeting is tentatively scheduled for 12-14 August 2014 with site to be determined.
- The AMS Washington Forum was useful in providing Connected Vehicle (CV) to the broader community. Ken Leonard from the USDOT ITS Joint Program Office did show a slide outlining the gist of AMS ITS/ST Committee inputs (see below).

Mobile Observations Subcommittee (MOS) Update:

- The main MOS effort has been in formulating the Committee's superb inputs, which were submitted to Ken Leonard USDOT ITS Joint Program Office. Brenda Boyce acknowledged the primary contributions of Leigh Sturges in developing the inputs. Paul noted that the USDOT will probably not be able to address all of the inputs.
- Brenda and the MOS are now exploring surface transportation inputs for the upcoming AMS Summer Community.

TRB Update: Kathy Ahlenius from the WY DOT is still in the process of learning her new TRB responsibilities and should be able to update us on TRB weather-related activities in the future.

ITS America Update: Art Handman confirmed that the main planned activity is the ITS World Congress in Detroit, 7-11 September 2014.

Old Business

Action Item Review - Committee Website from Jim. After several years, there is finally some action in this area. The newest AMS contractor, developing the overall web structure for AMS boards and committees, held training sessions on setting up board and committee websites in early February and Jim Koermer attended the webinar. After this session, participants expected to be able to configure their sites in a matter of days, but the approval to start doing this didn't come until about two weeks ago. Jim hopes to be able to work on this sometime before the end of the month.

BAMS Journal Article: Mike Chapman and Curtis Walker, who are leading this project, could not attend the meeting, but Jim Koermer reported that some slow progress continues to be made. There is a draft proposal to submit an article to the Bulletin of the AMS (BAMS) covering the history, current state, and projected future of road weather support.

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 sessions 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: As reported in February, the formal abstract submission deadline ended on 31 January 2014. Mike Chapman from this Committee was able to propose three sessions on road weather for the ITS World congress. The sessions were actually to be part of the ITS America Annual meeting portion of World Congress. The topics are on the following topics: 1. Connected Vehicles, 2. Road Weather Applications, and 3. Road Weather Research Paul Pisano indicated USDOT is planning on some big demonstration activities. To register, see <http://intelligenttransportationsocietyofamerica.createsend1.com/t/d-e-foikt-dtjtklh-r/>.

February 2014 AMS Annual Meeting Transportation Sessions:

- a. An EIPT Session, entitled “**Road Weather Applications**” was well attended with an average audience of over 80 people. Even though one paper had to be withdrawn, Paul Pisano was able to run an excellent discussion session during this time slot with a lot of the focus on the Atlanta traffic problems due to weather the previous week. To view presentations, see: <https://ams.confex.com/ams/94Annual/webprogram/Session35022.html>.
- b. An AMS Joint (EIPT & Policy) Session, entitled, “**Observing Weather and Environment along the Nation's Transportation Corridors**”, had about 40-50 attendees and covered more than road weather, but also topics like shipping outlooks for a melting Arctic Ocean. The time slot was not that favorable, since it was the last time session of the day to be followed shortly thereafter by the Meeting banquet. To view presentations, see: <https://ams.confex.com/ams/94Annual/webprogram/Session34796.html>.

AMS Washington Forum: This year's Forum was held 1-3 April 2014 in Washington, DC, with the surface transportation session on the morning of 3 April. The panel was moderated by Paul Pisano and the panelists included Bob Moran from Weather Telematics, Ken Leonard from the USDOT ITS JPO, Andy Stern from the National Weather Service, and Jim Kolb, a staffer from the U.S. House of Representatives - Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Bob provided the audience with an excellent picture of where we now and the potential of connected vehicles, Ken provided the updated USDOT statistics on impact of road weather, the AMS ITS/ST Committee inputs to the 5-year USDOT ITS JPO Strategic Plan, and the USDOT vision, and Andy discussed items like the *Clarus* transition, the MADIS program, and other items relating to surface transportation. Jim related some information on the House Committee process, took copious notes, and expressed interest in what he had heard from the other panelists. You can see the entire Forum agenda at <https://ams.confex.com/ams/AMSWF14/webprogram/AMSWF14.html>. Scroll down to the Thursday morning session, which has links to view Bob's, Ken's, and Andy's slides. There was good audience participation and a summary of those discussions is being developed.

New Business

New Ex Officio Member: Once again, Kathy Ahlenius was welcomed to the Committee, representing the TRB.

AMS Summer Community Meeting: Brenda reported that she and the Mobile Observations Subcommittee is working on trying to have some input for this summer's meeting in State College, PA.

The 2015 AMS Annual Meeting: The next AMS Annual Meeting will be held in Phoenix, AZ, from 4-8 January 2015. Jim Koermer asked if anyone from the Committee would be interested in being one of the session organizers for a surface transportation session(s) and **to please let him know**, since planning is just starting to get underway. Jim has already put in a place holder for an EIPT conference session and possible a joint EIPT-Policy session as there was this year. Even if you don't want to be an organizer, but have some ideas, please let Jim know.

The 2015 AMS Washington Forum: Just like the Annual Meeting above Jim Koermer is seeking a volunteer(s) for ideas or for helping to organize a transportation session. This is one way we can continue to highlight the importance and needs of surface weather support. The Forum usually takes place in early April of each year.

AMS ITS/ST Committee Membership for 2015: 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

It was noted that the AMS will only approve 1-year extensions (each year) for those desiring to stay on the Committee. The next Chair should also come from the government sector according to the normal rotation. Jim Koermer was seeking suggestions for potential new members or whether members (listed above) would like to extend. Please send any inputs to Jim.

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

Open Discussion

Paul Pisano mentioned that the USDOT has updated the statistics on road weather-related impacts, which are now based on data from 2002-2012. The good news is that deaths are down, but it is impossible to attribute this to better awareness or improved vehicle safety. However, the amount of weather-related impacts is still staggering compared to those attributed to the more publicized weather events (e.g. tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.). This updated information can be viewed at the following site: http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/weather/q1_roadimpact.htm.