



**AMS ITS/Surface Transportation Committee  
Atlanta Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, 4 February 2014  
7:00 – 8:30 AM EST**

**Meeting participants and role:**

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

**Approval of Past Minutes and Agenda**

The minutes of the 6 November 2013 AMS ITS/STC Teleconference Meeting were approved as written.

The previously distributed agenda for this meeting was also approved.

**Committee Membership Changes**

**Outgoing Members:** Jim Koermer expressed his appreciation to Mark Askelson from the Univ. of North Dakota, Elliot Abrams from AccuWeather; Steve Conger now from Snow Knowledge Inc.; and Kathy Osborne from Meridian Environmental Tech., Inc. for the past years on the panel. A special thanks to Mark for his work on the Committee's website, which we hopefully will be able to implement shortly.

New Members: Jim Koermer welcomed Bob Moran from Weather Telematics, Inc., Rob Carolan from Hometown Forecast Services; Ben Hershey from Iteris, Inc., and Leon Osborne from the Univ. of North Dakota. Jim also thanked Tina Greenfield from the Iowa DOT, Brenda Boyce from Booz Allen Hamilton, and Jeremy Duensing from TELVENTdtn for agreeing to remain on the Committee for an additional year.

### **Routine Updates**

USDOT Update from Paul Pisano: Paul highlighted the following:

- The National Highway Safety Administration will pursue regulations on connected vehicles (e.g. rulemaking). Note: A press release came out on this topic during the week. Paul didn't know the level to which these regulations would apply, but it didn't appear that weather information would be specifically addressed.
- ITS Strategic Plan Inputs: Still time to get them submitted and these were discussed later in the meeting.
- There will be no funding set asides and road weather research will have to compete with other programs for resources.
- The primary research focus will be on connected vehicles on how data comes off of them and how they can be used (e.g. Vehicle Data Translator (VDT) type research).
- VDT 3.0 is now out and freely available from NCAR. Paul encourages other to use it and provide further enhancements to the package.
- Weather Responsive Traffic Management projects are underway in several states.
- The FHWA is working on developing better relationships among the enterprise including the state DOTs, NWS, and private providers.

Mobile Observations Subcommittee Update: Prior to the meeting, Brenda had provided an outstanding draft inputs by the Subcommittee for a Committee response to the USDOT ITS JPO Strategic Plan. These were discussed in detail under old business.

TRB Update: Paul Pisano noted that Kathy Ahlenius from the WY DOT was appointed the new chair of the TRB Weather Committee. Kathy works in the research area for the WY DOT.

ITS America Update: Paul reported on the big event is the September 2014 combined ITS America and ITS World Congress event. More was discussed under old business below.

### **Old Business**

Action Item Review - Committee Website from Jim. There is still no change in status from last time--the AMS is still lagging considerably behind on updating Board and Committee websites. It appears the AMS may have hired a new contractor to take over the web updating project.

BAMS Journal Article by Curtis Walker: Curtis Walker reported that some progress has been made. However, they are not quite to their goal of having a fairly complete draft ready. They hope to have it by the April 2014 AMS ITS/ST Meeting.

USDOT ITS Strategic Plan Inputs: The majority of the meeting focused on reviewing in detail the draft inputs (see attached) proposed by the Mobile Observations Subcommittee. Those present supported all of the items suggested in the draft and there were two additional items suggested for inclusion in a final document that will eventually be submitted to the USDOT ITS JPO. Bob Moran wanted to include an item on the telematics issue, which is an important aspect of any

Connected Vehicle (CV) implementation. Bob will submit a paragraph to Jim Koermer on this issue. Jim suggested that the Committee recommend inclusion of a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) as a way to get some other institutions (e.g. universities) more involved in road weather research and interest students in this area to help expand the future professional base. Jim will take the inputs and send them to Brenda Boyce, who will send out a draft for final Committee review Jim sends them on to Ken Leonard, the director of the USDOT ITS JPO.

ITS World Congress in Detroit, 7-11 September 2014: The formal abstract submission deadline was extended and ended on 31 January 2014. Mike Chapman from this Committee was able to three sessions on road weather for the ITS World congress. We will need to see if they get accepted. The sessions are actually in 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. Let Mike know if you are planning to attend and whether you are planning to submit a paper. You still might be able to do so.

#### February AMS Annual Meeting Transportation Session Schedule:

- a. An EIPT Session, entitled “**Road Weather Applications**”, is scheduled for 1:30 PM to 2:30PM on Monday, 3 February 2014. Room C105 (The Georgia World Congress Center). This was one of the best attended transportation sessions in years with approximately 85 in attendance. One paper was withdrawn, but this period was opened for general discussion and went very well with hardly anyone leaving the room.
- b. An AMS Joint (EIPT & Policy) Session, entitled, “**Observing Weather and Environment along the Nation's Transportation Corridors**”, is scheduled for 4:00PM to 5:30PM on Wednesday, February 6, 2014. Room C107 (The Georgia World Congress Center). Note: There was still fairly good attendance with about 60 in the audience for most of this session.

#### New Business

USDOT ITS JPO Strategic Plan Inputs: See summary under old business. According to Paul Pisano, the preliminary initial draft of this plan has nary a mention of road weather, but there is still time for inputs. The Mobile Observations Subcommittee draft was used as the strawman for discussion and was supported by those present and as mentioned earlier, two additional items were suggested.

April 2014 AMS Washington Forum (AWF): Jim Koermer is the primary organizer for another transportation session at this year's AWF that will be held in Washington, DC, from 1-3 April 2014. The transportation session will be held on the morning of 3 April. The tentative list of participants on this panel will be: Paul Pisano as the Moderator; Ken Leonard (USDOT ITS JPO) to discuss their 5-year Strategic Plan; Bob Moran (Weather Telematics, Inc.) to provide an overview on potential data and size of database of connected vehicles based on his company's experience; and Andy Stern from the NWS to outline what the NWS is doing now and planning for the future in road weather. To fill out the panel, we are trying to get an executive or legislative branch staffer involved in transportation.

The next teleconference meeting will be held in mid to late April. A Doodle poll will be conducted in early April.

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**Open Discussion** - None