



**AMS ITS/Surface Transportation Committee
Teleconference Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 6 November 2013
1:00 – 1:50 PM EST**

Meeting participants and role:

Name	Organization	Membership	Status
Jim Koermer	Plymouth State Univ.	Member, Chair	Present
Elliot Abrams	AccuWeather	Member	Absent
Mark Askelson	Univ. of North Dakota	Member	Present
Brenda Boyce	Booz-Allen-Hamilton	Member	Absent
Paul Bridge	Vaisala, Inc.	Member	Absent
Mike Chapman	NCAR	Member	Present
Steve Conger	AvaTerra Services, Iteris	Member	Present
Jeremy Duensing	Schneider Electric	Member	Present
Tina Greenfield	Iowa DOT	Member	Present
Fred Klein	Noblis, Inc.	Member	Absent
Curtis Marshall	National Weather Service	Member	Absent
Kathy Osborne	Meridian Environ. Tech.	Member	Present
Leigh Sturges	Narwhal Met, LLC	Member	Present
Curtis Walker	U. of Nebraska Lincoln	Student Member	Present
Art Handman	ITS America	Ex Officio	Present
Wilf Nixon	TRB	Ex Officio	Absent
Paul Pisano	FHWA	Ex Officio	Present
Daniel Melendez	OFCM designee (STC)	Ex Officio	Absent

Approval of Past Minutes and Agenda

The draft minutes of the 21 August 2013 AMS ITS/STC Teleconference Meeting were approved as written.

The previously distributed agenda for this meeting was also approved.

Routine Updates

USDOT Update from Paul Pisano: Paul highlighted the following:

- USDOT/FHWA weather related programs are going well.
 - The main project underway is on integrated mobile observations, where MI, MN, and NV DOTs are working with NCAR
 - Another project deals with looking into the weather data environment and the QC and use of road weather data. This is related to the Vehicle Data Translator (VDT) project with NCAR. The VDT can be licensed by interested parties at no cost.
 - There is also a Weather Traffic Management project with the UT and WY DOTs.

- Funding for FY14 will not be as high as in the past because of the loss of the set aside.
- Paul is looking to fund work on connected vehicles, but was seeking addition suggestions on areas of emphasis from the AMS ITS/ST Committee.
- USDOT is working with NWS for participation in the fall stakeholder meeting, but NWS has been delayed because of the recent furloughs, but progress is being made.
- Paul has been asked to become a member of a new AMS committee with a focus on data sharing.
- Paul reported that Brenda Boyce went to the October 2013 ITS World Congress Meeting in Tokyo and that there were about six weather-related sessions.
- For the September 2014 ITS World Congress meeting in Detroit, the USDOT is planning to present several demonstrations of their supported projects.

Mobile Observations Subcommittee Update: Brenda Boyce was not available to participate in the teleconference, but Leigh Sturges, who is on the Subcommittee, reported that there was little new to report at this time, but that an upcoming meeting of the group is pending.

TRB Update: Paul Pisano again noted that Wilf Nixon's term as Chair of the Weather Committee is ending this year and that there have been no decisions on a the next Chair of that Committee. Paul will try to provide inputs to the TRB.

ITS America Update by Art Handman: Art provided the following updates:

- The ITS America Coordination Committee is looking at new forums to get away from the silo effect and this may result in structural changes.
- He cited the attached announcement from ITS Joint Program Office of some webinars one of which involves Road Weather. It is attached.
- He mentioned the World Congress meeting in September 2014, which actually is a joint ITS World Congress and ITS America Annual Meeting. Paul Pisano indicated there should be opportunities for participation by the road weather community. Mike Chapman provided comments on the focus of these meetings based on his past experiences and will provide suggestions on participants.

Old Business

Action Item Review - Committee Website from Mark Askelson. No change from last time--the AMS is still lagging considerably behind on updating Board and Committee websites. Mark is still waiting until they get to our Committee's site, so that he can incorporate changes.

BAMS Journal Article by Curtis Walker: Curtis Walker reported that progress has been slow because of the busy schedules of the people (Askelson, Koermer, Sturges, and Walker). However, the goal is to have a fairly complete draft available before the AMS Annual Meeting, so that it can be discussed by the entire Committee in February.

USDOT ITS Strategic Plan Inputs: Paul Pisano and Jim Koermer reported on their views of the USDOT information gathering webinar for strategic plan inputs, but that there was still an opportunity to provide inputs to him, if done ASAP, since he had a short deadline to provide information on potential programs.

New Business

- 1) Report on the AMS Summer Community Meeting: Paul Pisano reported on two sessions (for details see http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/2013summercommunitymeeting_agenda.pdf and <https://ams.confex.com/ams/2013AMSSCM/webprogram/meeting.html#Wednesday1>) that took place at the meeting led by Brenda Boyce and him. The session titles were as follows:
 - a. Intermodal Surface Transportation – as an example, Paul mentioned one paper on work supported by the USDOT on the impacts of weather on freight delays.
 - b. Impacts of Extreme Weather on the Road – covered topics on connected vehicles, the VDT, and work with NWS.

Paul commented that these transportation sessions always appear to get great interest from the community, but they don't inspire actions to bring more resources for support (i.e. get traction) to this area. For example, Betsy Weatherhead from NWS will be taking the weather-related transportation impact statistics to Capitol Hill, but will it result in any direct benefits to the road weather community?

- 2) Inputs on potential new or continuing AMS ITS/ST members: Jim Koermer reported that Jeremy Duensing is willing to extend a year to 2015 and that Leon Osborne from the University of North Dakota is willing to rejoin the Committee after several years hiatus. Tina Greenfield from the Iowa DOT also offered to extend a year. The Committee would also like Brenda Boyce to stay on the Committee, due to her experience and as Chair of the fledgling Mobile Observations Subcommittee. Leigh Sturges will contact Jeff Williams from the UTDOT to see about his interest in joining the Committee. Jim was still seeking a few additional inputs. (Note after the meeting Kathy Osborne had suggested Ben Hershey from Iteris and Jim contacted him and he is also willing to join the Committee. However, I still would like to get the names of a few other potential members).
- 3) ITS World Congress in Detroit, 7-11 September 2014, Call for Papers: The Call can be accessed at <http://intelligenttransportationsocietyofamerica.cmail2.com/t/d-l-mjljij-dtjtklh-o/> . This item was previously discussed above, but submissions by the weather community can help to form and develop sessions. Mike Chapman said that he would take the lead to frame out a weather session or two for the World Congress.
- 4) Upcoming AMS Conferences: Jim Koermer reported on the two transportation sessions scheduled in conjunction with the next AMS Annual Meeting to be held next February in Atlanta as follows:
 - a. An EIPT Session, entitled “**Road Weather Applications**”, is scheduled for 1:30 PM to 2:30PM on Monday, 3 February 2014.
 - b. An AMS Joint (EIPT & Policy) Session, entitled, “**Observing Weather and Environment along the Nation's Transportation Corridors**”, is now scheduled for 4:00PM to 5:30PM on Wednesday, February 5, 2014.
- 5) Next Meeting: This is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, from 7:00AM-8:30AM in Atlanta, probably at the AMS Headquarters Hotel. A continental breakfast will be served.

Open Discussion

Jeremy Duensing cited an article by authors from the NWS in the October issue of the Bulletin of the AMS, entitled “*Integration of a Road Weather Surface Model into NWS Operations*”, starting on page 1495. It was interesting, since NWS has often been absent in the area of road weather. Most of the Committee had not yet seen the article.

Paul Pisano reminded participants that he needed their inputs ASAP for the USDOT ITS Strategic Plan.