

**MINUTES**  
**Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC)**  
**Winter Membership Meeting**  
**January 11, 2009**  
**The Keck Center, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.**

**1. Call to Order:** President Randy Machemehl convened the meeting at 10:07a.m., with the following individuals in attendance:

Teresa Adams	Hau Hagedorn	Neville Parker
Steve Alberts	Leo Hanifin	Mike Paszkiewicz
Aojo Amekudzi	Cynthia Hirtzel	Ken Peck
Ines Aviles-Spadoni	Jill Hough	Joe Petrolino
Trudy Bahr	J. Leroy Hucksey	Martin Pietrucha
Robert Bertini	Beth Hoy	Bob Plymale
Jason Bittner	Pushkin Kachroo	Steve Richards
Downey Brill	Thomas Kern	Herb Richardson
Jack Buffington	Robin Kline	Larry Rilett
David Clarke	David Kuewn	Deborah Rosen
Billy Connor	Roger Lindgren	Connie Smith-Holbint
Joseph Conohlin	Jay Lindly	Dawn Spanhake
Mike Demetsky	Diana Long	Despina Stavrinos
Karen DenBraven	John MacArthur	Amy Stearns
Rod Diridon	Randy Machemehl	Bobb Stokes
Denise Dunn	Pat Martinico	Peter Sweatman
David Eby	John Mason	Denver Tolliver
Sherry Ehemes (for Edd Hauser)	Jessica Mehr	Curt Tompkins
Arde Faghri	Ed Mierzejewski	Melissa Tooley
Andrew Farkas	Heather Nachtmann	Joel Volinski
Mahmud Farooque	Shashi Nambisan	David Weber
Russ Fine	Phil Nash	Brian Wolshon
Al Griffin	Henry Nejako	Kevin Womack
Gen Guiliano	Tom O'Brien	John Wu
	Felix Okojie	Judy Yahoodik

**2. Minutes Approval:** The minutes from the Summer 2008 Meeting San Jose, Calif., were approved. Bob Plymale moved to approve the minutes with no changes. All in favor, none opposed.

**3. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Gen Giuliano gave the report on the CUTC budget through 2008. Attention was called to the revenue/expenditures, indicating that CUTC has come out approximately even. Changes to the budget include an increased management fee for ARTBA. Regarding dues revenue, \$17,000 in dues need to yet come in (\$20,000 have been collected). Move to approve to by Diridon, seconded by Adams. Motion passed.

**4. Standing Committee Reports:**

**a. Finance:** (Steve Albert) Reiterated the \$17,000 in outstanding dues. Proposed a two-year membership as a pilot project to allow for some leniency in dues collection. An informal vote was cast with the majority in favor. This will compliment the accounting system.

**b. Federally Supported Centers:** (Teresa Adams) No report at this time.

**c. Membership:** (Steve Albert) Two new members have submitted applications and have been approved (Auburn and University of Oregon) by the Executive Committee (ExCom). Oregon (all in favor); Auburn (all in favor)—vote to the general membership.

**d. Nominating Committee Report & Elections:** Report will be rendered during the June 2009 meeting.

**5. CUTC Position on Reauthorization:** A recommendation from the Executive Committee was circulated (see attachment). There was discussion at the San Jose meeting regarding CUTC's position on reauthorization. The CUTC statement is that it favors an increased funding that is proportional to the overall reauthorization increase. President Machemehl informed the membership of the Executive Committee discussions about whether or not to form a separate, non-profit corporation for reauthorization and authorizing that corporation to seek professional assistance, with the purpose of providing current information to the CUTC membership, so that the membership can take appropriate action during the upcoming reauthorization cycle (vote was 9-1).

**Comments by Members of the Executive Committee:**

**John Collura:** It is important that CUTC communicate actively on such a significant piece of legislation. It is important to stay informed, in order to keep the UTC program intact and prosperous.

**Gen Giuliano:** The UTC program has grown and provided opportunities for universities that would never have been able to get involved in transportation have been allowed the opportunity through the program. There is no other group whose primary purpose is research and education, and there needs to be a voice for university research and education and there is no other group that can do it as effectively.

**Bob Plymale:** Based on the knowledge that key decisions will be made for reauthorization at a time when the membership will least expect it. The membership will need someone involved that can quickly act in their best interests, so that the program is not left out or cut. CUTC needs an advocate.

**Rod Diridon:** The next reauthorization cycle will be the toughest seen in many years and will undoubtedly be a multi-year reauthorization. The Executive Committee wants to protect the current structure and is asking to reactivate the effort that began in the 1990s. It is important to have someone "in the backroom" that will protect CUTC's interest in the event of a threat.

**Dan Turner:** The UTC has the opportunity to make a lot of impact. The decision to disperse funding will take place in conference committees, not on the floor. CUTC needs to have a united voice. Congress will look less favorably on funding transportation during a recession if the stimulus money is sent to infrastructure. UTCs are great bargaining tools. There are 120 universities that work on transportation and it is important that the congressional staffer hears the same thing from the same university, over and over again. CUTC needs one voice to Congress, or it will get lost. CUTC will have direct impact on the bill, if it has the latest information.

**Robert Buzz Paaswell:** The objective of a center is to keep the program strong, because it is, collectively, the strength of the program that brings value of transportation to the U.S. DOT. There should be a collective voice about the value of university centers.

**Motion:** Reactivate a private, non-profit corporation and seek legislative help. (Motion made by Diridon and seconded by Plymale).

**Open Discussion:** Money will be a function of how many centers are willing and able to participate and how much the legislative assistance will need. Last cycle began at a contribution of \$5000 each (about 20 centers), but there are far more centers today than there were in the past. Further discussion of finances will be made amongst those who can contribute to the corporation. Collura and Paaswell will be the leaders of the new organization.

There will be a whitepaper developed for members to use for grassroots efforts.

**The “Nay” Vote:** (Melissa Tooley speaking for Doc) The dissenting voice on the Executive Committee vote the day before had nothing to do with the necessity of having a voice in Congress. The reservation is that it should be done separately from CUTC. Many support their membership to CUTC through federal funds. If CUTC becomes too closely tied to a lobbying organization, there may be legitimate cause to have a problem with using federal funds for CUTC membership. The distinction between the two organizations needs to be very clear. Money will have to come from a non-federal source. (Based on this reservation, all the Executive Committee wants is a yes/no vote from the membership to pursue the idea—and then move away from CUTC.) CUTC will not be able to dictate the agenda of the advocacy organization. Directors of the advocacy organization will have to sever their relationship as CUTC director. John Mason (501c6—allowing to advocate in a political lobby) suggested inviting those have interest in participating so that they can advocate for the body at large. CUTC cannot vote on an entity that will become separate from CUTC. Andrew Farkas asked why does CUTC need to take a formal position on something that a small number of UTCs will decide to do on their own for advocacy? Why does there need to be a formal vote?

**Formal motion withdrawn by Ron Diridon.**

**Joe Petrolino:** Pointed out that during the last meeting, the vote on reauthorization was done after the meeting was formally ended. Philosophically, many may support the directive, but may not be able to participate. Those who can't participate may feel like second-class citizens.

**Peter Sweaton:** Many UTC centers have already developed reauthorization principles, and it is important that CUTC have a united voice.

**Bob Plymale:** It is important for new centers to understand the gravity of the situation. It is important that a 501c6 is established. **Motion to move back to the regular meeting made by Plymale.**

**Move for a straw vote.** Majority are in favor of the idea of a separate advocacy group to promote CUTC's reauthorization position.

## **6. Agency/Organization Reports:**

### **a. U.S. DOT Modal Administration:**

**FTA:** Working hard on reauthorization and that research is reflected. In the short time, they are examining the stimulus package.

**FHWA:** Solicitation for new partners.

**b. TRB Update:** Pleased with the relationship with CUTC.

**c. Other:**

**ITS America:** Gratifying to hear the conversation about reauthorization and the voice of the UTCs are important in the perspective. Dialogue about the importance of knowledge-transfer-sharing.

## **7. Ad Hoc Committees:**

**a. Awards:** (Neville Parker) Full report will appear on website. There were 45 applications and 34 reviewers that were a part of the process. The first announcement for the 2009 competition will go out in March.

**b. Annual Banquet:** Bob Plymale acknowledge the work done by Alison Premo Black and the ARTBA staff. There were 325-350 attendees at the banquet. The success of banquet was in large part due to the partnership with ARTBA.

**c. Newsletter:** (Steve Albert & Bob Plymale) Focus shifting from banquet to newsletter. Articles will be submitted by ARTBA and AASHTO.

**d. Work Force Summit:** (John Collura, Bob Plymale, Teresa Adams) A representative of each of the three summits spoke briefly about their recent activities.

**Adams:** (University of Wisconsin Madison) In early December, seven state DOTs from within the region, 15 educational institutes, and 6 consulting groups participated in the summit. Full report to be available soon.

**Collura:** The summit was held in May. It largely focused on work force issues as they relate to Massachusetts, but representatives from other New England states were available. One key topic was what funding is available and how it can be leveraged. The product of the summit was a set of recommendation for legislative actions that educational facilities can put in place to train the workforce, promoting professional development, education, and training. The summit offered the opportunity to become engaged with transportation officials.

**Long:** Rahall took a different approach. The Institute spent time collecting data from employers and identifying their specific needs. Many state officials were in attendance. Presentations were made from employers representing each sector. They were able to engage the 156 attendees to develop a series of recommendations. Next step—UTCs should be the ones leading and facilitate the discussion and help to bring people together.

**e. International CUTC:** Rod Diridon—the ICUTC effort began last year, with authorization to seek international members. During the year, members from Sweden and China have come in. There are additional universities in China who are interested in joining. Three universities are interested in understanding more about what CUTC is about, and are preparing their paperwork to be submitted.

## **8. Strategic Partners' Liaisons:**

**a. ARTBA Research & Education Division:** (Andrew Farkas) The CUTC recommendations for reauthorization encourages an increase in all programs regarding transportation. The strongest strategic alliance is with ARTBA. Many CUTC members are actively involved in ARTBA. There will be a meeting on January 12 at 6:45a.m. at the Stone's Throw Restaurant in the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

**b. AASHTO RAC, SCOR:** Steve Albert has been attending the AASHTO standing committee meetings as a way of bettering communications between the two organizations. Albert stressed that communications is a "two-way street." Albert also stressed greater involvement in the National LTAP organization.

c. **APTA:** Enthused about becoming more involved in CUTC programs and transit research. APTA has always been a strong strategic partnership.

#### **9. Transportation Distance Learning Certificate [Copy attached]**

Martin Pietrucha presented (see attachment) on nurturing the future leaders of our profession. A twelve-credit certificate program, modeled on a common university model, with core courses and electives. It is a certificate as opposed to a degree program so that many can get acclimated before heading into graduate studies. Pietrucha provided the list of founding members, board of directors and advisory committee. This group will begin actively marketing the program in the near future. He is hopeful that the program will eventually become self-sustaining, but initially the money will be coming in from Texas A&M and \$1.5 million grant. They are also seeking a permanent home and trying to find more courses and instructors. The first course offering is in Spring 2009. Website: [www.transleader.org](http://www.transleader.org). **[Flyer for the record.]**

**10. Expanded CUTC Support Agreement with ARTBA:** Additional ARTBA staff added to CUTC. Executive Committee has reviewed and approved the workplan presented by ARTBA.

a. **Website:** Will be updated over the course of the year.

b. **Member Survey:** Part of the ARTBA workplan

#### **11. Future Meetings**

- a. 2009 Spring Executive Committee Meeting, May 19-20, Washington, D.C.:
- b. 2009 Annual Summer Conference, June 29-July 2, Amherst, Mass.: July 2 will be a half-day.
- c. 2009 Fall Executive Committee Meeting, October 6-9 (TBD), Charleston, S.C.
- d. 2010 Annual Summer Conference, (Date TBD), TTI, College Station, Texas
- e. 2011 Annual Summer Conference, (Date TBD), Portland, Ore.

#### **12. New Business**

David Weber presented on a new computing resource, TRACC. **[Handout/PP for the record.]** The project received a grant from U.S. DOT, administered by RITA. It became operational in 2008, and is being built as a national DOT supercomputer facility, with significant applications.

**13. Adjournment:** President Randy Machemehl adjourned the meeting at 12:06p.m.