

**Transportation Research Board
Transportation Safety Management Committee ANB 10
Emergency Services Safety Subcommittee ANB 10(5)**

Mid-year Meeting
November 7, 2008 11:00
Keck Center, National Academies, 500 5th Street NW, Washington DC

MINUTES

Welcome.....Dr. Rick Pain

Dr. Pain welcomed the Subcommittee members and Summit attendees to the National Academies and provided a brief summary of the Transportation Research Board’s research focus and operations. He recommended a visit to the TRB Internet site for those wishing to understand its organization and processes: www.trb.org

This EMSS Subcommittee is one of several under the Transportation Safety Management Committee (ANB10). TRB committees solicit, evaluate and forward research statements to TRB for dissemination to potential research funding organizations.

I. Introduction.....Dr. Nadine Levick

Dr. Levick opened by thanking the Transportation Research Board for providing a scientific evidence-based home for ambulance transport safety.

Today’s meeting is intended as an opportunity for all interested parties to meet one-another and build bridges for communication and joint activity.

Dr. Levick acknowledged the leadership and vision of Dr. Pain in recognizing the importance of ambulance transport safety to the nation’s roadway network, and supporting the development of this subcommittee.

Dr. Levick also thanked Eileen Frazer, CAMTS for her vision and the amazing level of time and energy she has dedicated to organizing the Subcommittee and today’s Summit on a very tight timeline.

II. Ambulance Transport Safety Summit.....Dr. Nadine Levick

This afternoon, the first annual Ambulance Transport Safety Summit will address three questions across a set of five topics.

The topics are: Data, Vehicle Operations, Vehicles, Human Factors and Ergonomics, and Standards. Our Research Agenda will be drawn from these topics.

The issues are: What Do We Know? What Don't We Know? What Do We Need to Know?

A Brief Report for the Summit will be posted to the TRB Internet site in about one month and then a more detailed TRB Research Circular will follow.

III. Forthcoming Subcommittee Meeting and Seminar at TRB 2009 Annual Meeting

The ANB 10(5) EMS Safety Subcommittee meeting for Winter 2009 is scheduled on Tuesday, January 13 at the TRB Annual Meeting, a 105-minute meeting and panel session with call-in via Webinar, as per 2008 January meeting.

The Subcommittee is also sponsoring one scientific presentation session, of 105 minutes the following morning, Wednesday 14. The panel of speakers will address interdisciplinary aspects of EMS Transport Safety, research directions and operational knowledge transfer issues

IV. SAFETEA-LU Legislation.....Dr. Pain, Dr. Levick

Federal transportation safety programs and funds are enabled by six-year transportation bills. The current bill, which expires September 30, 2009 is the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act – a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), encoded in 23 US Code. The act and summary information can be found on the Federal Highway Administration Internet site:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/index.htm>

EMS and Strategic Highway Safety Plans. SAFETEA-LU was the first transportation bill to identify EMS as a priority area, in addition to the old '3-E's' of Engineering, Enforcement and Education. Each state must address EMS in its Strategic Highway Safety Plan, and EMS may be included in state transportation research.

The national model Strategic Highway Safety Plan can be found in the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Internet site: <http://safety.transportation.org/plan.aspx>. The NCHRP Project 17-18 under which this plan was developed also developed a series of Report 500 Implementation Guides, including one for Rural EMS, that can also be found on the AASHTO site:

<http://safety.transportation.org/guides.aspx>

Each state Transportation department takes the lead in developing the state's individual SHSP. The Federal Highway Administration oversees state SHSP development and requires broad interdisciplinary input into the planning process. These plans are matters of public record and the meetings should be subject to open meeting requirements.

Reauthorization. Planning for the 2009-2015 Highway Bill has already begun, but will be complicated because of the change of Administration. It is likely that there will be no new bill for the next year or two, and the provisions of SAFETEA-LU will be continued under a series of Continuing Resolutions.

Congressional hearings have already begun, but no formal Administration package has been developed for Congress; instead a series of White Papers have been prepared to assist the incoming Obama Administration to create its transportation package. So, NOW is the time for organizations, including those interested in Ambulance Transport Safety, to prepare their positions on transportation safety issues for Congress.

Organizations such as AASHTO, the Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA) and the National Safety Council have already developed Reauthorization position statements that promote their interests. The Federal Highway Administration's informal "Highway Safety Ventures Partnership" has been meeting since January '08.

TRB cannot lobby Congress. However, the individuals and organizations here today can produce position statements for Congress or may work through the organizations that have a history of working with Congress on highway safety matters. But time is of the essence.

V. Research Agenda.....Dr. Pain, Dr. Levick

The TRB has a formal, multi-step process for producing and disseminating Research Statements. TRB committees solicit and evaluate ideas for Research Statements and forward a set of formal Research Statements to TRB for dissemination to potential research funding organizations.

One funding opportunity is the National Cooperative Research Program (NCHRP), funded by state DOTs with State Planning & Research (SPR) funds administered by FHWA. The states contribute ca \$30 million per year and TRB solicits research ideas for these funds. A committee consisting of AASHTO committee members and state representatives selects the projects to be funded; TRB administers the selected projects and may publish research results.

This year's funding process is well underway, so this subcommittee's Research Statements won't be eligible for funding until the next round.

The most recent Transportation Safety Management Committee (ANB10) Research Statements may be found at:

[http://rns.trb.org/advanced_project.asp?date_params=&f1=k%3A%3AKeywords+\(Title+or+Description\)&i=&lower_date=1900&n=ANB10%2C+Transportation+Safety+ManagementddlType&orgType=S&sb=&sc=xx%3A%3AAll+Categories&selOrgs=c](http://rns.trb.org/advanced_project.asp?date_params=&f1=k%3A%3AKeywords+(Title+or+Description)&i=&lower_date=1900&n=ANB10%2C+Transportation+Safety+ManagementddlType&orgType=S&sb=&sc=xx%3A%3AAll+Categories&selOrgs=c)

[&so=a%3A%3AAscending&status=&t1=&txtOrgs=ANB10%2C+Transportation+Safety+Management&upper_date=2099](#)

TRB does not have budget to assist with travel costs, but can arrange meeting space and support for groups developing Research Agendas.

TRB also makes the following resources available:

1. Transportation Information Research Service (a database of research citations, abstracts, etc)
2. Research in Progress (a list of current research)
3. Research Needs Database (compendium of Research Statements)

Dr. Pain recommends that the group begin by developing a set of Research Statements that it then fleshes out and prioritizes into a Research Agenda. TRB can publicize these.

VI. Next Year's Summit.....Dr. Levick

The ANB10(5) Emergency Services Safety Subcommittee mid-year meeting and Ambulance Transport Safety Summit is set for October 29, 2009 at the Keck Center of the National Academies.

VII. Other Business.....Entire Group

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is revising its "EMS Agenda for the Future." A white paper will be distributed within a year. This is not a research agenda, so should not overlap with the function of this committee.

Adjourn