



Meeting Minutes

Heritage Trolley & Streetcar Subcommittee

James Graebner, chair

*APTA Rail Conference
New York, NY 2006*

Revised July 20, 2006	Under the Security and Photography section, mention of the NJT policy was made by David Peter Alan not David Warner
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The APTA Streetcar and Heritage Trolley Subcommittee met in New York, NY during APTA's Rail Conference June 14, 2006. An agenda for the meeting is attached.

Chairman Graebner called the meeting to order at 2:00pm and he had the attendees introduce themselves.

Meeting minutes from the Philadelphia meeting were distributed and later approved.

The chair requested a slight revision in the agenda order to permit Jeff Booth to update the Subcommittee on small starts.

Work Group Reports

Small Starts

Jeff Booth provided an update on the FTA Small Starts Program making note of three activities.

- 1) House appropriation bill out last week. Subcommittee has some hostility for the connection between land use and economic development. Senate bill (appropriations committee) by September to begin markup. There has been expression of support.
- 2) Thirty days to submit comments by the Policy and Planning Committee.
- 3) To fully implement, FTA needs to issue a notice for rule making.

Jeff pointed out the importance of participating in the process and offering comments to affect positive change for streetcar and heritage trolley small starts funding.

Photography and Security

Tom Hickey, chair of this working group reported that efforts over the next two weeks will craft an outline for a photography policy. Tom also made note that Burlington Northern is encouraging rail fan photography as they believe this helps provide added surveillance.

David Peter Alan, chair of the Lackawanna Coalition noted that NJ had proposed a strict policy

James Graebner, chair Tom Hickey, vice-chair Tim Borchers, secretary Martin Schroeder, APTA

against photography but was met with stiff resistance and subsequently dropped the policy.

Web Site

Jim Schantz demonstrated the Streetcar and Heritage Trolley web site noting the page on capital costs and benefits analysis. The source for statistics is Reconnecting America and Jeff Booth. Jim also noted the Rail Transit Online periodical by Julian Wolinski on the topic of capital investment. Lyndon Henry also made mention of the Light Rail Now web page that has other details from several sources. Other sources mentioned included Public Transportation Newsletter and Light Rail Progress Professionals newsletter.

Vehicle Standards

John Smatlak, leader of the Heritage Trolley Vehicle Standards effort provided an overview of the currently released APTA Standard for Vintage / Heritage Trolley Vehicle Equipment. The standard has been released for one year at this point and APTA has issued a survey to agencies and transit owners to assess use and adoption of the standard. Tim Borchers of the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) has implemented the standard on its new system, the first streetcar in Florida since 1940. The standard applied to Birney cars was found flexible and useful. Questionnaires are to be returned to John Smatlak or Martin Schroeder.

Track Standards Initiative

Jim Graebner introduced the track standards initiative supporting the need for updated track standards. Mark Wolbrun noted that AREMA's Passenger Transit Division is slowly moving into passenger applications but to date AREMA is primarily freight oriented. To help develop an urban streetcar track standard, APTA and AREMA are working out an MOU to combine resources together with the TRB Streetcar Circular Subcommittee and APTA's Track and Noise / Vibration Technical Forum. Chapter 12 of the AREMA Manual of Recommended Practices addresses track specifications. John Smatlak noted a TRB TCRP Report No. 71 that compares the AREMA standard to rail transit needs. Jim Graebner noted that Larry Lovejoy and Russ Jackson of the TRB Subcommittee are looking at curve radii, submitting a draft report at the APTA Light Rail Conference in St. Louis this year. Cam Beach pointed out that throughout history curve radii have been as small as 10M, but cautioned such a precedent suggesting that allowing small radius curves be left as an option upon the approval of the Chief Engineer for example.

OCS Standards Initiative

On the topic of OCS standardization, John Smatlak noted that the Traction Power Standard (General Order 95) OCS Subcommittee is doing some excellent work that may compliment our current effort. A Mr. Paul White was noted as the point of contact. Cam Beach is leading the effort on OCS standardization similar to the role John Smatlak has played for the Heritage Trolley Standard.

Reconnecting America Book on Streetcars

Jim Graebner introduced the effort by Reconnecting America to publish a book on streetcars. Writing is being provided by consultants and interested parties who contribute \$20k. Through a series of talks with Gloria Ohland of Reconnecting American and APTA, the APTA Streetcar and Heritage Trolley Subcommittee will have the opportunity to write two sections of the book including the history of streetcars and streetcar operations. APTA will also have editorial rights to the book. APTA believes this effort to be of major interest and use to those in our industry and

will be contributing the \$20k to participate. A Mr. Jeff Wood at Reconnecting America will serve as the contact point.

All those from the committee interested in participating please contact either Jim Graebner or Martin Schroeder at APTA as soon as possible. First drafts of the book are expected this fall.

Other Topics

Study Tour

Dave Dobbs commented on his experience with streetcar systems in Europe and in particular, trains in Poland and Germany and the great variety of operating conditions seen. Dave suggested that a study tour be arranged to look closely at track and OCS. Bill Millar supported the effort. Martin Schroeder will make an outreach within the community to gauge interest. It was further suggested that Herb Pence be asked to help organize the effort.

Rail Conference Session Planning

Jim Graebner asked the group to give thought to the next Rail Conference and the participation of the Streetcar and Heritage Trolley Subcommittee. APTA is planning a Conference Planning Meeting August 7-8 at APTA headquarters so ideas on sessions are needed then. All interested in attending the meeting at APTA are encouraged.

Special Guest

Bill Millar, APTA's president made a special effort to join the subcommittee and talk about APTA's support of streetcars and heritage trolley systems in light of ongoing efforts to craft a small starts policy at FTA. Bill also talked about the opportunity to contribute to the book on streetcars being lead by Reconnecting America. Bill made mention of the APTA \$20k contribution to this effort and encouraged members to participate. The committee expressed its appreciation for Bill's attendance.

There being no further discussion, and without objection, Jim Graebner closed the meeting at 3:35pm.

Actions

- 1) Members are reminded to return Heritage Trolley Standard survey forms to Martin Schroeder or John Smatlak.
- 2) Tom Hickey to provide outline for photography guideline.
- 3) Members asked to comment on the FTA small starts program.
- 4) Members asked to contribute to Reconnecting America book on streetcars.
- 5) APTA to complete MOU with AREMA on track standards by mid-July.
- 6) Cam Beach to provide further details on plan for developing OCS standard.
- 7) Members asked to comment on interest in a track and OCS study tour to Europe.
- 8) Members asked to provide input for Rail Conference Planning meeting at APTA August 7-8 in Washington, DC.
- 9) Martin Schroeder to gauge interest in European study tour.

Respectfully submitted:

Martin P. Schroeder, M.S.M.E., P.E.

APTA Sr. Program Manager and Staff Advisor



**American Public Transportation Association
 Heritage Trolley and Streetcar Subcommittee**

James Graebner, chair

Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday June 14, 2006

2:00pm-3:30pm

APTA 2006 Rail Conference
 Hilton Boardroom, 4th Floor
 Hilton New York
 New York, NY

AGENDA

5 min	1. Call to Order / Introductions / Announcements	Jim Graebner, Chair
5 min	2. Meeting Minutes / Philadelphia	Martin Schroeder
20 min	3. Working Group Reports a. Vehicle Standards Update b. Web Site & Technology Sharing c. Photography and Security Update d. Small Starts and FTA Update	John Smatlak Jim Schantz Tom Hickey TBD
45 min	4. Track Standards Initiatives (AREMA, TCRP, APTA) a. Streetcar and Heritage Trolley Needs b. Track Noise and Vibration TF Needs c. Consolidated Position d. Consideration of AREMA e. TCRP Problem Statement	Jim Graebner / Cam Beach TBD Jim Graebner Martin Schroeder
10 min	5. Conference Update a. 2006 Rail Conference b. 2007 Rail Conference	Jim Graebner
5 min	10. Review of Action Items / Next Meeting	Jim Graebner