

TRANSPORTATION AND ITS ROLE IN TOWARD SHAPING SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES

Friday 24 October 2003 (8.30 – 12.00 a.m.)

SESSION AGENDA & INTRODUCTORY REPORT

Session Agenda

1. Opening

Mr. John R. FREEMAN, Jr. (Session Chairperson, ITE/USA)

2. Presentations

a) Context Sensitive Transportation Solutions

Mr. John R. FREEMAN, Jr. (Session Chairperson, ITE/USA)

b) Serving the Needs of All Transportation Systems Users

Mr. Peter M. W. ELSENAAR
(PIARC C13 Committee Chairperson/THE NETHERLANDS)

c) Reducing fatalities and injuries on rural and urban streets through operations enhancements

Mr. Hendrik J. STANDER (BSK Group (PTY) LTD./SOUTH AFRICA)
Prof. Christo J. BESTER (University of Stellenbosch/SOUTH AFRICA)

d) Transportation's Contribution toward an Active Public

Mr. Thomas W. BRAHMS (ITE/USA)

3. Summary of the result of PIARC C10 Committee on "Measurement and control of mobility quality, environment, and social acceptability"

Ms. Ysela LLORT (PIARC C10 Committee member/USA)

4. Discussion

Moderator: Mr. John R. FREEMAN, Jr. (Session Chairperson, ITE/USA)

5. Conclusions and closure

Mr. John R. FREEMAN, Jr. (Session Chairperson, ITE/USA)

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A JOINT SESSION OF PIARC AND THE INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS (ITE)

Today professionals are expected to plan, design, operate and maintain transportation systems that provide safe, efficient and environmentally compatible mobility of people and goods. And in addition the solutions must contribute to shaping successful communities. This session will showcase these evolving societal expectations, strategies and products that have been developed to fulfill them. The roundtable that follows the initial presentations will provide an opportunity for the attendees and presenters to better define how these expectations may be met, additional tools to facilitate doing so, and performance measures to determine if our efforts are successful.

In part 1 of the session, each of the following five authors will present a 15-20 minute overview of their paper. Part 2 of the session will consist of posing to the audience a series of provocative questions that were prepared by the speakers. The objective of doing so is to stimulate their participation through sharing their ideas and actual solutions that they have implemented.

1. Context Sensitive Transportation Solutions

Presenter

John R. Freeman
International President
Institute of Transportation Engineers
and
Senior Principal
Kittelson & Associates
Orlando, Florida, USA

Summary

Many transportation facility design standards provide for flexibility of design solutions. Those assigned the task of developing preliminary and final design need to understand that it is important to incorporate community values and goals, aesthetics, and appropriate scale as solutions are developed in a collaborative and interdisciplinary environment. A snapshot of the state of the art of producing context sensitive transportation solutions in the United States along with sample outcomes will be provided in the presentation.

2. Serving the Needs of All Transportation Systems Users

Presenter

Peter M. W. Elsenaar
Chairman
Technical Committee on Road Safety
World Road Association
Tilburg, The Netherlands

Summary

Often planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance of transportation facilities are done separately for each mode. It is not only desirable but imperative that a more holistic approach be taken to considering all user needs for all modes. Transportation professionals need to understand the characteristics, needs, and design parameters for each of the users and modes. They must work toward adequately accommodating each of the users. We do not have the resources to have to return to projects to retrofit or rebuild facilities.

3. Reducing fatalities and injuries on rural and urban streets through operations enhancements

Presenters

Hein J. Stander
BKS (Pty) Ltd
Bellville, South Africa
and
Professor Christo J. Bester
Department of Civil Engineering
University of Stellenbosch
Matieland, South Africa

Summary

South Africa has a poor road safety record that compares badly with both developed and developing countries. In spite of efforts by the authorities, reducing deaths and injuries remains difficult and the 2002 summer holiday season was a particular bad one. As in most places, the single biggest cause of accidents is considered human behaviour, followed by roadside conditions and vehicular deficiencies. A very high percentage of the fatalities (approximately 40%) are pedestrians. It is considered that the way in which the street system is operated, impacts heavily on the unacceptable high number of road deaths and injuries. The purpose of this paper is to investigate operational enhancements of the street network and the effect it could have on road safety.

It is intended to address the following:

1. Provide perspective and background on the road safety problem in South Africa
2. Identify the operational areas that are of importance in road safety
3. Determine the most important areas in terms of their impact on the number and severity of accidents (80/20 principle)
4. Identify the most pressing problems in each of the operational areas
5. Develop proposals for enhancing road safety in each of these areas
6. Make recommendations.

4. Transportation's Contribution toward an Active Public

Presenter

Thomas W. Brahms
Executive Director and CEO
Institute of Transportation Engineers
Washington, District of Columbia, USA

Summary

By planning, designing, implementing, operating and maintaining transportation facilities for all users of all modes of transportation the transportation professional may enhance the quality of the community. By integrating planning for land use and transportation we have the potential of being able to accomplish a higher percentage of trip by other than motor vehicles. Society benefits by being able to gain more exercise that can contribute to less obesity and associated heart disease and diabetes.

Note: at the time of drafting, a contribution from PIARC C10 was in preparation.