APTA

AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

MINUTES for the JOINT MEETING

of the

LIGHT RAIL TECHNICAL FORUM Winston Simmonds, Chair

and the

STREETCAR & HERITAGE TROLLEY SUBCOMMITTEE James Graebner, Chair

Los Angeles, CA Sunday, April 19, 2009 10:00 – 11:00 AM

1. Welcome / Introductions

Called to order at 10:05AM, with 45 in attendance (see sign-in sheets). Winston Simmonds and James Graebner jointly presided.

2. Meeting Purpose

Martin Schroeder of APTA explained that this was a meeting of these two similar groups for the purpose of discussing projects and ideas of mutual interest, including how they might plan together for future conferences. Both are engaged in developing standards with AREMA and IEEE. Jack Boorse added that there is an overlap of these two groups with TRB's Subcommittee on Light Rail Circulators Systems, which he chairs, that also facilitates the sharing of information.

4. Light Rail Technical Forum Activities

Mr. Simmonds briefed the attendees on the activities of the Light Rail Tech Forum. In its last meeting at the APTA Annual Conference in San Diego the group developed a work plan for the year, but mainly focused on planning for this conference. The next venue is the Rail Conference in Chicago in June. Two sessions are planned there: one will be an update on LRT projects, featuring two mature systems and two new starts, and the other will address the topic of state of good repair. High platform intercar barriers were also discussed. The group is trying to develop a standard but each location has its unique institutional issues. For example, just last week the CPUC gave the LACMTA a variance for its prototype installation on the Gold Line at Union Station, whereas Pittsburgh needs to send its planned solution to the Department of Justice for approval. Pittsburgh also performed a risk mitigation analysis as part of its process. The group was shown an intercar barrier solution employed on a platform in Lyon, France.

5. Streetcar & Heritage Trolley Subcommittee Activities

Mr. Graebner briefed the group on the activities in his subcommittee, providing an update on its standards initiatives. The vehicle standard is in place, and is being modified as needed. Track standards development is also advancing, while work on OCS standards is moving more slowly. Stray current standards need to be tackled next, and it is intended to do this work through the TRB. The subcommittee will meet next at the Rail Conference in Chicago and again at the APTA Annual Conference in Orlando. A trip to Kenosha is planned for the Saturday before the Rail Conference. It

will feature movies of Kenosha, an overview of the PCC rebuild and a visit to the intermodal station there. The group still needs to decide where to meet for the winter meeting.

6. New Topics

The floor was opened for ideas for topics that these groups should address moving forward. Those mentioned include:

Stray current mitigation
Alternative power sources
Energy storage (onboard and wayside)
Access to in-street utilities
Utility-free zones
Hours of service standards
Joint operation of streetcars on LRT tracks
European streetcar standards
Homologation of products in Europe

There was also much discussion about streetcar length. The respective groups decided to each take up this issue and discuss separately.

8. Wrap-up/Misc Discussion/Adjourn

The meeting concluded with discussion about furthering the relationship between the two groups. Some miscellaneous questions proposed were: Are streetcars <u>seen</u> as 'light' light rail? Is there a need to provide the FRA with an understanding of what light rail is? Mr. Schroeder mentioned that APTA is re-convening the 'Shared Use' group given the issues arising at several agencies contemplating or implementing passenger service where there is some freight activity. There will be a 'pre-session' on this topic on Sunday of the Rail Conference as well as on the Thursday after the conference.

John Smatlack announced that a tour of the Gomaco battery-powered streetcar at the Americana at Brand mall in Glendale has been arranged for this afternoon, followed by a visit to the facilities of TIG/m, the supplier of the battery-powered double-decker trolley at The Grove mall. Both of these malls were built by the same developer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM.

Respectfully Submitted: Thomas B. Furmaniak, P.E., Secretary

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Sign-up sheets