

2009 National Conference Semi-Annual Business Meeting/Reception

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

57 in Attendance (per sign-in sheet)

I. Welcome

Noel Comeaux, TPD Chair, called the meeting to order, and presented two meeting agendas as options. Agenda #1 was the standard meeting agenda focused on committee reports. Agenda #2 was an alternative version focused on discussing the relationship between TPD and APA National. Attendees voted for Agenda #2.

II. Budget

Todd Ashby, TPD Treasurer, reported that we are currently within our budget projections for the year.

III. Election Results

Noel Comeaux announced TPD's leadership slate for 2009-2011:

- Noel Comeaux remains as Chair
- Brett Caldwell, new Vice-Chair
- Todd Ashby remains as Treasurer
- David Fields remains as Secretary

The Division recognized Hilary Perkins for her service on the board as Vice-Chair for the past two years and Secretary for the preceding two years.

IV. Student Awards

Professor Black presented the first and second place TPD awards for TPD's student paper competition. Lilly Shoup, University of Maryland, was awarded first place for her paper, *Ridership and Development Density: Evidence from Washington, D.C.* Fay Cleaveland, University of Minnesota, was awarded second place for her paper, *Complete Streets: A New Political Tool for Non-Motorized*. Each recipient was present and accepted their awards, providing a brief summary of their papers.

V. APA Policy

Jason Jordan spoke about current activities in policy for APA, including taking questions. He emphasized that his office is dedicated to supporting the divisions in their policy initiatives. Jason will schedule a conference call post-conference with Mitzi Barker and TPD leadership to move forward on upcoming national transportation policy issues that APA will track.

VI. FHWA Presentation – HERS-ST

Tashia Clemons and Christopher Chang, FHWA representatives, presented an informational session about Highway Economic Requirements System–State Version & Highway Performance Monitoring System. The presentation will be posted to the TPD website with these meeting minutes.

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VII. TPD 2nd FY 2009 Business Meeting

Five conferences were proposed for the site of the Fall 2009/Winter 2010 TPD Business Meeting:

- Rail~volution in Boston; October 2009
- Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington, DC; January 2010
- Institute of Transportation Engineers (data and location unknown)
- American Public Transit Association (data and location unknown)
- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (data and location unknown)

After multiple votes, the result was a tie between Railvolution and Transportation Research Board. The issue was tabled and the TPD Executive Committee will consider locations based on timeframe, location, and historical and anticipated demand. However, it is expected that TPD will still hold at least a reception at TRB.

VIII. Coordination between TPD and APA National

- Noel Comeaux reported that while TPD has repeatedly offered to serve as a legislative/policy resource for APA National, APA National has not utilized the division in this capacity. This has been disappointing to the Executive Board, since TPD is the largest technical division, transportation is a currently critical issue across the country, and the Federal transportation reauthorization act is the clear Congressional focus in the upcoming year. Noel asked members to discuss, "Where do you want TPD to go, or how do you want us to proceed forward?"
 - It was suggested by a meeting attendee that APA could dissolve TPD and reform another division related to transportation. Noel agreed, citing APA's bylaws.
- David Fields presented the Division Council's recent review of TPD activities, with TPD's responses (see attachment to meeting notes). The Division Council evaluated most of TPD's required actions as "incomplete".
 - Bob Leiter, Chair of the Intergovernmental Division, and co-Chair of APA's Transportation and Infrastructure Taskforce for its Rebuilding America initiative, noted that he has seen TPD's efforts and level of involvement and plans to work with TPD in his efforts as co-chair of the Transportation Taskforce.
 - Vicky Carrasco, Chair of the Latinos in Planning Division, noted her surprise at the Division Council's review of the TPD's activities due to her personal knowledge and awareness of what TPD does.
 - Whit Blanton, Past Division Chair and Past Division Council Chair, cited TPD's level of involvement over the past two years and was surprised by the poor ratings provided by the Division Council. He believes that the division is clearly "seen" by APA and there must have been some mistake or overlooked report to have prompted the poor ratings. Whit recommended TPD write 2-3 clear policy white papers and publish them/submit them to APA National. These are the types of initiatives that APA appreciates and can use to further the association's efforts.
 - David Fields asked for volunteers to help develop TPD Policy Papers. Several attendees volunteered and will be contacted after the meeting.



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- Assorted member/guest input:
 - Need for better communication channel with APA
 - Multiple comments that the "process is broken" and TPD needs to document all communications and efforts, and define the process that paints a clear picture of the divisions' contribution in the industry that APA cannot overlook.
- Members/guests were thanked for input, invited to attend the next meeting (location to be determined), and meeting adjourned.

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**Attachment
American Planning Association
Annual Division Performance Report Review
Transportation Planning Division
April 2009**

Standards	APA Evaluation		TPD Response
	Yes	No	
1. Summary of Major Accomplishments		√	Submitted
2. Annual Work Plan		√	Submitted
3. Communications		√	Revamped website, new blog and LinkedIn networks, newsletter
4. Conference Sessions		√	2 at Las Vegas, 2 at Minneapolis
5. Annual Meeting		√	APA Las Vegas (Apr. '08), Railvolution (Oct. '08), APA Minneapolis (Apr. '09)
6. Membership/ Outreach		√	Membership survey; see Communications
7. Elections	In process		Completed
8. Financial Reports		√	Submitted
9. Bylaws (changes)			Completed
10. Division Council Meeting		√	Attended
11. Governance			No Response
12. Policy Issues			Attempted to participate with APA, but outreach rejected