

ITE LED SPECIFICATION COMMITTEE TO MEET DURING TRB WEEK

The ITE Light-Emitting Diode Specification Committee will meet during Transportation Research Board (TRB) Week on Sunday, January 9, 2005 in Park Tower Suite 8228 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC, USA, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If you will be attending, please advise James Cheeks at ITE Headquarters; jcheeks@ite.org.

ITE HIGHWAY/RAIL GRADE CROSSING COMBINED COMMITTEES TO MEET DURING TRB WEEK

The ITE Highway/Rail Grade Crossing Combined Committees will meet during TRB Week on Monday, January 10, 2005 in Park Tower Suite 8222 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC, USA, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you will be attending, please advise James Cheeks at ITE Headquarters; jcheeks@ite.org.

ITS STANDARDS OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND TRAINING COURSES: CALL FOR LOCATIONS

The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Standards Outreach, Education and Training Program has developed specific requirements for training venues for 2005. If your agency is in need of free ITS standards training, please contact James Cheeks or Aliyah Horton at ITE Headquarters; jcheeks@ite.org or ahorton@ite.org.

KEYS TO SUCCESS IN INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

*Sunday, January 9, 2005
8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

“Keys to Success in Incident Management” is the theme for the January Specialty Conference on Traffic Incident Management, sponsored by the TRB Freeway Operations Committee and the ITE Traffic Incident Management Committee. Speakers from diverse backgrounds with real world insights into key

elements for successful incident management will highlight the program. Topics covered by speakers in interactive sessions will include what was learned from major planned events, quick clearance of incidents and an update on what’s new in incident management.

Experts will speak about incident management that took place during the U.S. Republican and Democratic conventions and the Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece. Quick clearance and proactive traffic management will be covered by speakers in three different programs. An update on new topics in incident management will include speakers on the National Coalition on Incident Management, Chapter 61 of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* and several recent innovations.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: MANAGED AND PRICED LANES WORKSHOP

The summary of results from the Managed and Priced Lanes Workshop that took place in November 2003 is available to interested parties at ops.fhwa.dot.gov/Travel/traffic/managed_lanes/index.htm. Questions regarding this document should be directed to Jon Obenberger at FHWA; 202-366-2221 or jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROPOSED RULE ALLOWING TRAIN HORN “QUIET ZONES”

The effective date of the proposed rule from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) allowing communities to establish train horn “quiet zones” was moved to April 1, 2005 from the previously published date of December 18, 2004, according to the Federal Register.

“We are firmly committed to providing communities nationwide with a fair, flexible, and workable rule that will address concerns over noise created by train horns,” said FRA Acting Administrator Betty Monroe. “We are especially sensitive to the concerns of communities

with pre-existing whistle bans who want to maintain the quality of life to which they have become accustomed.”

The Interim Final Rule on Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings was issued late last year. It requires trains to sound their horns on approach to and while traveling across public highway-rail crossings. However, the train horn can be silenced within a quiet zone, provided safety measures are in place at the affected crossings.

Because the interim final rule generated significant interest from communities across the United States, FRA extended the public comment period by two months. Approximately 1,400 comments were submitted for review.

FRA had planned to issue the final rule last month, but the analysis and consideration required for each comment made that schedule difficult. The final rule now will be issued in January and becomes effective on April 1, 2005.

The comments received can be grouped into several broad categories, including but not limited to: states and railroads seeking a greater role in the quiet zone development process; communities seeking recognition of existing partial whistle bans; and communities seeking recognition of whistle bans created after October 1996. More information about the interim final rule is available at www.fra.dot.gov.

AASHTO RELEASES FIFTH EDITION OF GREEN BOOK

The fifth edition of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials’ (AASHTO) *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets* contains the latest design practices in universal use as the standard for highway geometric design and has been updated to reflect the latest research on superelevation and side friction factors as presented in the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 439.

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New exhibits in Chapter 3 will help designers quickly and accurately determine the side friction factor used for horizontal curve design; the superelevation rates for various curve radii; and the minimum radii with normal crown for each of the five maximum superelevation rates. These features are carried over from the fourth edition:

- Uses dual units (metric and U.S. customary) throughout;
- Larger format provides easy-to-read text and graphics;
- Is available on CD-ROM (single-user version);
- Complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Discusses the new AASHTO Bicycle Guide and soon-to-be-released AASHTO Pedestrian Guide; and
- Incorporates research from NCHRP Reports 375, 383, 400, 420 and 439.

INTERIM APPROVALS

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has issued interim approval for the optional use of STOP/SLOW Automated Flagger Assistance Devices under certain specific conditions in temporary traffic control zones to reduce flagger exposure to highway user traffic.

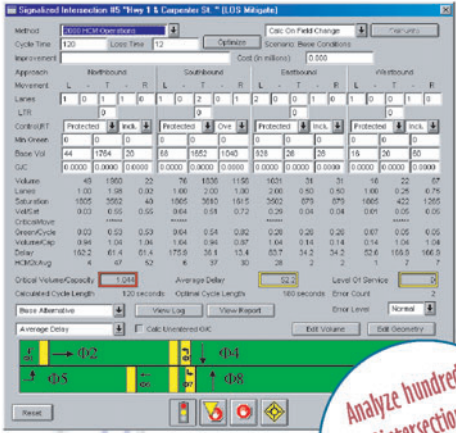
FHWA also has issued interim approval for the optional use of Clearview font for positive contrast legends on guide signs. Visit the FHWA Web site at mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-interim_approvals.htm for additional information.

TRPS STATE OF THE PRACTICE: VOLUNTEERS (COMMITTEE MEMBERS) NEEDED

The Traffic Engineering Council has added a new committee and needs individuals who are interested in traffic responsive plan selection (TRPS) operation mode. The objective of the com-

mittee is to produce an informational report that will summarize the state of the practice in TRPS control. TRPS control is available in all traffic signal controllers to provide optimal control of coordinated signals. However, very few engineers use it due to the complexity of its setup process. The purpose of this project is to collect and share knowledge about TRPS control among engineering professionals.

To obtain comprehensive input, the Traffic Engineering Council would like to involve people from different backgrounds and geographical areas who have had experience with TRPS operation mode. The function of a member of the committee would be to provide input to the chair and review the draft materials that are produced. If you are interested in being a member, contact Montasir Abbas; m-abbas@tamu.edu or 979-845-9907. ■



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