



Roundabout Committee

Date: November 13, 2019

Location: Online Meeting (Host: Consor Engineers)

Meeting Minutes

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Welcome and Introductions
Number of meeting attendees: 27
- 3) Roundabout Committee – Data Resource Updates
 - a) **TexasRoundabouts.com content request** (Abram Van Elswyk)

Abram Van Elswyk provided a summary of the <http://texasroundabouts.com/> website (the Roundabout Committee website). He discussed the informational sections of the website: for roundabout educational materials for “Drivers,” guidelines and standards for roundabout “Designers,” roundabout information from public agencies for “Developers” and private interests, and a list of peer “Reviewers” from public agencies. Abram requested if Roundabout Committee members and roundabout practitioners can provide roundabout information content for our website.

If you have roundabout driving information, design standards, guidelines, and other roundabout information resources, you are welcome to contact Minh Le (Data Resources Chairperson) and Abram Van Elswyk (Committee Webmaster) at their email addresses listed below. Also if you have (or know of) new roundabout locations in Texas, the TexITE Roundabout Committee coordinates with Dunaway Associates with presenting roundabout locations on the Mapper section of the website. Please send your roundabout location information to Minh Le and Jason Vaughn.

- Minh Le, Texas A&M Transportation Institute: m-le@tti.tamu.edu
- Abram Van Elswyk, TxDOT: abram.vanelswyk@txdot.gov

- b) **Roundabout Committee Facebook page status** (Sam Delmotte)

Sam Delmotte discussed the new updates to the TexITE Roundabout Committee’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TexITERoundaboutCommittee/>). She mentioned that the Roundabout Committee has posted previous meeting information, shared photos of Texas roundabout locations, and National Roundabout Week updates. Sam has recently updated the Facebook page banners and images, and requests if Roundabout Committee members and roundabout practitioners can share their roundabout pictures, information, and stories through our Facebook page. You are welcome to contact Sam (Committee Facebook Manager) at: Sam Delmotte, Kimley-Horn and Associates: sam.delmotte@kimley-horn.com.

- 4) Roundabout Committee – News and Tasks
 - a) **Norman Hogue Roundabout Project of the Year Award** (Jason Vaughn)

Jason Vaughn mentioned the Norman Hogue Roundabout Project of the Year Award and that TexITE and the Roundabout Committee completed the first year process. The Roundabout Project of the Year Award was presented at the ITE Conference in Austin in July 2019 and to the TxDOT Austin District for their I-35 Southbound at 51st Street roundabout. Jason mentioned that the award was named in honor of Norman Hogue, who was an active ITE member whom promoted roundabouts and roundabout education, a founding member of the TexITE Roundabout Committee, and whom passed away in October 2018.

Jason mentioned that the Roundabout Committee will start the second year award process soon. Our Roundabout Award Subcommittee will review the award process and coordinates updates with the TexITE Award Committee. The Award Subcommittee members are: Jennifer Butcher (Pacheco Koch), Stephen Ratke (FHWA), and Federico Mendoza (BGE). The TexITE Awards Committee will send the award submittal request in early Spring 2020, and award submittals are due by May 15.

b) **Update Roundabout Section of the Texas DPS Driver's Manual** (Jason Vaughn)

Jason Vaughn stated that the TexITE Roundabout Committee is developing a new initiative for improving roundabout educational information with state driver educational resources. During the Committee's Action Item process, team members contacted the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) about determining the process to update the roundabout information section of the Texas Driver's Manual. This action item is now being organized into the Roundabout Education Subcommittee, whom will develop a new draft roundabout section and coordinate with the DPS to provide this section update to the Driver's Manual. The Roundabout Education Subcommittee will also look into roundabout information updates for other driver education resources. The subcommittee members include Wade Odell (TxDOT), Sam Delmotte and Jay Von Ahsen (Kimley-Horn).

c) **TxDOT Research Project: Roundabouts and Innovative Designs at High-Speed Intersections** (Marcus Brewer)

Marcus Brewer (Texas A&M Transportation Institute – TTI) presented their TxDOT-sponsored research project that will develop design guideline recommendations for roundabouts located on rural, high-speed roadways. Marcus stated that the research project is in the early stages of identifying these roundabout locations and determining the design guidelines for developing these roundabouts and other innovative intersection methods.

TTI is mainly looking for roundabouts that have a rural or suburban location, with at least one approach having a 45 mph or higher posted speed, and a high demand of large oversize / overweight (OSOW) vehicles. Marcus said that they are requesting any resources used for design guidance of roundabouts and other innovative intersections at high speed locations and accommodates trucks and OSOW vehicles. If you have any rural or suburban roundabouts on high speed facilities in Texas (or around the nation) and / or have related design guidance resources, please contact Marcus Brewer at m-brewer@tti.tamu.edu.

d) **Roundabouts and Community Resiliency** (Gary Schatz)

Gary Schatz discussed his graduate research at Texas A&M University regarding the use of roundabouts for community resiliency efforts. Gary stated that his research documented examples of where temporary roundabouts were useful for an immediate transportation solution. He stated that after a hurricane hit the east coast area, some communities had traffic signals go dark (without power for an extended time). These communities were able to set up temporary turnabouts within signalized intersections, in order to keep the intersections operational. Gary requested if Roundabout Committee members want to volunteer to be peer reviewers for his research. If you are interested, please contact Gary at gary.schatz@tamu.edu.

5) **Roundabout Committee – Upcoming Meetings** (Jason Vaughn)

- a) Winter Online Meeting (late February)
- b) TexITE Spring Conference, Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi (April 15-17, 2020)

Jason Vaughn mentioned that the TexITE Roundabout Committee will hold their next online meeting in late February 2020 (date to be decided). The next in-person committee meeting will be held in Corpus Christi and in April 2020.

c) **Requests from the ITE Roundabout Committee**

Jason Vaughn forwarded information requests from Lindsey Van Parys, President of the ITE Roundabout Committee. Lindsey and the ITE Roundabout Committee have the following requests. If you are interested in one or both requests, please contact Lindsey Van Parys (GHD) at lindsey.vanparys@ghd.com.

- *Presentations on constructing Low Cost Effective Roundabouts for upcoming ITE Roundabout Committee webinar meetings.*
- *Speaker and presentation requests for the Roundabout Sessions at the ITE Annual Meeting in New Orleans for August 2020. The presentation topics include: (1) multi-lane roundabouts, (2) bicycle and pedestrian considerations with roundabouts.*

6) Presentation: Mark McCulloch, Washtenaw County Road Commission, Ann Arbor, Michigan

➤ **“Delivering Big Results with Mini Roundabouts”**

Mark McCulloch provided his presentation on mini-roundabout installations (around Ann Arbor) in Washtenaw County, Michigan. Mark started by challenging practitioners to look at all aspects of an intersection control evaluation and reconstruction project; in other words, “right-sizing” the intersection. Mark and Washtenaw County had determined through their intersection work and analyses that mini-roundabouts provided benefits of lower construction costs, less right-of-way (ROW) impacts, and shorter construction durations.

Washtenaw County were faced with these issues when looking to implement a traditional roundabout project at the Pontiac Trail and Seven Mile all-way stop intersection (northwest of Ann Arbor). The current intersection had large peak traffic delays, and the roundabout construction estimate was about \$900,000. However, the ROW acquisition costs increased to a point that the project was cancelled. So for the next all-way stop conversion project, Mark and Washtenaw County examined the mini-roundabout approach for the Textile at Hitchingham and Textile at Stony Creek intersections. They installed two mini-roundabouts on a corridor with 15,000 ADT, and managed to have minimal ROW impact and significantly reduce delays at the intersections.

Mark and the Road Commission continue to improve their mini-roundabout analyses and implementation when converting the all-way stop control at the Moon and Bemis intersection (south of Ann Arbor). This intersection has 50-55 mph approaches and traffic volumes ranging between 5900 – 6800 vehicles per day on the approaches. There was also a fatality accident at Moon and Bemis before the mini-roundabout was implemented. The mini-roundabout construction involved minimal ROW and utility impacts and had a total cost of about \$400,000; as well as queuing issues were reduced after the mini-roundabout was operational.

Mark stated that most large vehicles are able to navigate the mini-roundabout and recommends a minimum 90-foot inscribed circle diameter for roundabouts with high speed approaches. To help with speed reduction, Washtenaw County added stencil markings on the roundabout approaches. Mark also recommends to verify adequate sight distance for the approaches (and to not provide too much sight distance based on traditional roundabout standards). Also if implementing mini-roundabouts, then should recommend drivers to use their turn signal at the approaches (since there is no central island height requirement). Mark provided a great knowledgeable presentation on implementing mini-roundabouts. If you want to learn more about mini-roundabouts and the Washtenaw County experience, please contact Mark McCulloch at mccullochm@wcroads.org.

7) Adjourn

- a) For comments or questions, contact Jason Vaughn at:
832-692-4078 or jvaughn@sugarlandtx.gov