



Roundabout Committee

Date: February 15, 2022

Location: Online Meeting (Host: Texas A&M Transportation Institute)

Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order

2) Welcome and Introductions

Number of meeting attendees: 30

3) TRC Activity Updates (Jay VonAhsen, Kimley-Horn)

a) Year 2022 Norman Hogue Roundabout Award process

Jay mentioned that we held an Awards Subcommittee meeting recently and discussed updates to the 2022 Roundabout Award process. The award is dedicated to Norman Hogue, our roundabout colleague and friend to several committee members and a former Roundabout Committee chairperson whom passed away suddenly in Fall 2018. The Award Subcommittee approved the 2022 Norman Hogue Roundabout Award form, which is located at www.TexasRoundabouts.com. Jay provided the award form to the TexITE Awards Committee; for the call process with submittals due by May 15, 2022.

Jay thanked our Award Subcommittee members (Federico Mendoza, Jennifer Butcher, and Stephen Ratke) for their assistance and support towards the Norman Hogue Roundabout Award process. Jay and the TexITE Roundabout Committee ask members to reach out to Texas agencies with roundabouts (that have been in operation for at least one calendar year) and encourage agencies to submit their roundabouts for the Roundabout of the Year Award.

b) Roundabout Education brochure

Jay mentioned that the TexITE Roundabout Committee continues to coordinate with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS); with updating the roundabout driving navigation material on the Texas Driver's Handbook. The Education Subcommittee (Jay, Wade Odell, Sam Fries, and Robert Caskey) submitted our recommendations to the DPS in August 2021. The DPS responded that they are reviewing the recommendations.

Jay also said that he will meet with the Education Subcommittee soon; to discuss development of roundabout education materials that can be provided to agencies for their public outreach. The educational materials are useful if an agency does not have their own documents or need navigation materials to support documents they downloaded from FHWA and other resources. Jay mentioned that the subcommittee's goal to provide the roundabout education materials to the TexITE Roundabout Committee for review and consensus and by the fall committee meeting.

4) TRC Website Updates (Minh Le, TTI)

a) Resource Page and Local Roundabout Photos

Minh discussed that we made updates to our committee's website: www.TexasRoundabouts.com. Minh thanked Abram VanElswyk (with TxDOT Waco) for the website updates. Abram restructured the Resources page to list document links by agency type. Minh also mentioned the Peer Reviewers page (contains public agency personnel whom can assist with roundabout questions) and asks if there are agency members whom want to be listed on the Reviewers page.

Minh mentioned the Photo Galleries page, where Texas agencies have provided photos of their roundabouts. He stated that the photos were added over one year ago and asks agencies if they can provide new or recent photos of their roundabouts to the TexITE Roundabouts Committee. The photos will be added to our galleries page and included in the photo highlight rotation on the website front page. Agencies are welcome to send photos to Minh Le at m-le@tti.tamu.edu.

5) TRB AKD80 Committee (Roundabouts) Updates (Wade Odell, TxDOT)

a) 6th International Roundabout Conference, Monterey, CA (May 15-18, 2022)

Wade provided his report from the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) AKD80 Committee, whom met on Wednesday January 12 at the TRB Annual Meeting. The AKD80 Committee co-sponsored an Intersection Design workshop on Sunday at the TRB Meeting. Wade also stated that the next TRB Annual Meeting will be held between January 8-12, 2023. The AKD80 Committee moved the Roundabout Video Theater to next year's meeting. The TRB AKD80 Committee is requesting webinar suggestions at <https://webinar.mytrb.org/webinars/suggestawebinar>.

Wade mentioned that Frank Broen presented on two ongoing projects: NCHRP 08-124 (involves corridor management impacts) and NCHRP 25-47 (involves access management benefits). Brian Ray also discussed the NCHRP 03-130 project, which involves the new roundabout manual development estimated to be complete in September 2022. Wade next mentioned that the 6th International Symposium on Highway Geometric Design in Amsterdam, The Netherlands is anticipated to be held in late June 2022.

Wade then discussed the upcoming International Roundabout Conference in Monterey California (May 15-18, 2022). All conference information is located at this TRB website: <https://trb.secure-platform.com/a/page/Roundabouts>. The website has the program overview, and detailed information will be added by late February or early March. The Roundabout Conference will be held in the Monterey Conference Center next to the host hotel – the Portola Hotel. Conference registration is open and lists the early and future registration rates. **The TextITE Roundabout Committee, the ITE Roundabout Standing Committee, and the TRB AKD80 (Roundabouts) Committee encourage all roundabout professionals to register and attend the International Roundabout Conference in Monterey, California. You will get a great opportunity to meet and network with roundabout professionals from around the nation and the world!**

6) ITE Roundabout Standing Committee Updates (Jason Vaughn, City of Sugar Land)

Jason mentioned that he attended the January 11th online meeting for the ITE Roundabout Standing Committee. The ITE Roundabout Committee plans to hold a webinar in late February or March on a roundabout bicycle use and education topics. Once the webinar is announced, Jason will forward the webinar email to TextITE Roundabout Committee members. The ITE Roundabout Committee is looking for a website volunteer (for placing content on the committee webpage at www.ite.org). They are also developing a project for conducting a state roundabout guidance scan, which includes gathering webpage links and resources of roundabout guidance by various State DOT's. The ITE Roundabout Committee will hold their committee meeting at the ITE International Meeting in New Orleans (July 31 – August 3).

Ken Sides (the Chairperson for the ITE Roundabout Standing Committee) discussed the committee's roundabout award process. Last year, the ITE Roundabout Committee held the Innovative Roundabout of Merit Award process and received 33 nominations. The ITE Roundabout Committee will soon have the call for nominations for the Multi-Lane Roundabout of Merit Award, and the committee is also looking for judges for the nomination reviews. If interested, please contact Ken Sides (ksides@samschwartz.com) for more information.

Ken also discussed his article (enclosed with this email) in the Florida Engineering Society Journal, where Ken discusses the energy and environmental benefits of roundabouts. Last, Ken mentioned the recent National Highway Institute (NHI) courses that he taught for TxDOT and thanked Ken Mora (TxDOT) and Jason for providing local Texas roundabout information for the courses.

7) Upcoming Roundabout Meetings (Jason Vaughn, City of Sugar Land)

a) TextITE Spring Meeting, Corpus Christi, TX (May 4-6, 2022)

b) Summer TRC Online Meeting (June or July 2022)

Jason mentioned that our next Roundabout Committee meeting will be held in-person at the TextITE Spring Meeting. The TextITE Meeting will be held at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi for May 4-6. Jason plans to schedule the TextITE Roundabout Committee meeting for either the Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning period. He also said that we are planning on an online meeting in either June or July.

8) Presentation: Amanda Austin, P.E., TxDOT Houston

➤ “Trucks and Roundabouts: Friends not Foes”

Our guest speaker was Amanda Austin, Schematics Supervisor for the TxDOT Houston District. Amanda previously lived in Washington State; where she worked for Reid Middleton and Perteet and was involved in roundabout analysis, design, and evaluation. Amanda and her husband move to Texas about three years ago, and is looking for ways to advance roundabout knowledge through her role at TxDOT. She provided her updated presentation (enclosed with this email) from the 2014 TRB International Roundabout Conference.

Amanda first discussed the challenges that overweight – oversize (OSOW) vehicles have at roundabouts. She mentioned that roundabout design needs to consider all users (including cars, bicycles, pedestrians), the roundabout geometry, and unique / specialized vehicles (like farm equipment, self-propelled modular transports, and wind turbine fans frequent in Texas) when accommodating large trucks at roundabouts.

Amanda mentioned that it is important to reach out to stakeholders early in design. These stakeholders include the state permitting agency for OSOW vehicles and loads, local trucking businesses (like rock quarries, farms, marine ports, manufactured homes, and pre-cast concrete plants), and pilot car companies (whom can provide valuable input on truck transports). Stakeholders can provide helpful information of OSOW vehicle types, dimensions, and number of axles; the travel routes and the turning movements along the route; and the frequency of OSOW vehicles on these routes.

With stakeholder input, Amanda said that you now have one or more check vehicles to use as your design vehicle for the roundabout layout. She mentioned that Autoturn can use custom layouts to model most OSOW vehicles. Next, Amanda recommends that you field test your Autoturn analysis, and the best conditions involve marking a track on gravel or mud. The truck tracks are more visible in gravel or mud after completing the turning analysis. Amanda also stated to check both horizontal and vertical geometrics (including vertical clearance) during field testing.

Amanda stated that roundabouts benefit large trucks by providing slower traffic speeds, yield control, and truck aprons. In conclusion, Amanda provided her key takeaways that roundabouts can accommodate OSOW vehicles: start early with stakeholders (load permits and local trucking businesses) and model and field test the truck maneuvers for a proposed roundabout. Last, Amanda provided the following locations as OSOW success stories: the truck alternate route in Granite Falls, Washington and the Highway 20 roundabout in Skagit County, Washington.

9) Adjourn

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