Meeting Minutes
IEEE OCS Subcommittee for Rail Transit
Joint Rail Conference and Valley Transit Authority
March 23rd & 24th 2015
San Jose, California, USA

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Peter M. Bartek, Honorary Secretary

Monday, March 23, 2015
8:30 AM: OCS committee members convened the meeting at San Jose State University, Music Building, Room 250, One Washington Square; San Jose, CA 95192, USA. The meeting was held in conjunction with Joint Rail Conference (JRC).

Committee Chair, Paul White, NTSB Corporation, hereafter “Chair”; opened the meeting with review of the schedule, safety briefing for the building, and discussion of sponsored events – lunch, dinner and social events. An invitation to sponsor breaks, a meal or other social gathering was extended to the membership for those in a position to host the committee. Interested members should contact the Chair.

Attendees introduced themselves. Attendance numbers for the meeting:

Monday, March 23, 2015  41 signed attendees
Tuesday, March 24, 2015  23 signed attendees

Committee Chair introduced fellow committee member Ramesh Dhingra, Valley Transit Association (www.vta.org). Mr. Dhingra welcomed the committee to San Jose and presented an update of operations and planned expansion of VTA in the southern San Francisco Bay Area. Highlights were:

1. 30+ year old system covering 46 miles, powered by 31 (1.5 MW) substations.
   a. Presentation will be placed on the website.
2. General growth in the service area combined with peak demand during special events has prompted investment in system expansion to include Tasman Drive “pocket track” for staging spare passenger cars during non-peak system demand.
3. Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) will expand to San Jose by 2017.
4. Mountain View double track project is well underway in support of the new NFL stadium to host the 2016 Super Bowl event.
   a. This project is being designed with redundant electrical systems to minimize risk of downtime.
Committee Business:

Meeting minutes from the October 16, 2014 in Houston were submitted to the committee for approval. A motion for adoption was made by Moises Ramos, HNTB Corporation and seconded by Suresh Shrimavle or Valley Metro. The minutes were adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Future meetings:

1. Without objection the committee agreed to continue meeting three times during 2015, in keeping with current practice.
2. An objective with these meetings is to hold one independent of other transit associations, while planning the other two meetings in conjunction with our sister IEEE subcommittee on transit, substation standards; and one in conjunction with another transit event – either the Joint Rail Conference, hereafter (JRC) or some other related association meeting / conference.
3. Eric Parsons of AFL / Dossert moved that the next meeting will be in conjunction with the Energy Technology for Sustainable Railway Transportation Conference: A Celebration of the Tenth International Hydrail Conference, scheduled for Sunday, June 21 through Wednesday, June 24, 2015 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The motion was adopted.
   a. OCS will tentatively meet Wednesday, June 24 and Thursday, June 25.
   b. It was stated the University of North Carolina – Charlotte is hosting / co-hosting the conference.
   c. Eric mentioned the North Carolina Transportation Museum is a possibility.
   d. The Chair mentioned he may ask the Charlotte Transit Agency to host as well.
   e. Mark Godsey, Siemens Industry, Mobility Division agreed to research contacts in the Charlotte area.
4. An alternative meeting association was discussed. The (JRC) is scheduled the same week of June to meet in Salt Lake City. The majority of committee members present voted to meet in Charlotte.
5. The Chair reported on the previously proposed idea of holding a meeting in Europe. Few members committed to a fall meeting in Europe, though the idea was well received by the transit and supply sectors in various European countries. Five members voiced interest in attending and this is not sufficient to proceed. The idea was tabled and may be raised again as a private / committee endeavor for those interested.
   a. It was proposed a European meeting in conjunction with Inter-Trans 2016 may prompt sufficient interest amount the committee membership. Steve Norton, Los Angeles Metro and Vice-Chair of the Sub-committee reported having attended several Inter-Trans exhibitions and endorsed this proposal.

The Chair reported on maintenance of the sub-committee’s web-site. There was a call for anyone with experience who is interested in assisting or leading this task, to contact
the Chair. Later in the meeting Eric Parsons offered assistance to the Chair on web site maintenance.

**Working Group (WG) Status:**

**Standard P-1627 – Lightning Arrestors** – WG Chair Dev Paul, AECOM, Oakland, CA will lead a conclusion of the standard to ballot status prior to the next regular meeting.

**Standard P-1791 - OCS Terminology** – WG Chair Chris Pagni, Impulse NC reports the next step is to edit the glossary of terms with IEEE, then submit the standard to ballot. No timeline was provided.

**Potential Standard – Live Line Maintenance** – WG Chair Ray Davis, STV Incorporated reported by email that his group was working on the PAR paperwork submittal, with no timeline provided.

**Standard P-1833 – Design Criteria** – WG Co-Chair Moises Ramos, NHTB Corporation reported the objective of wrapping up the standard for ballot submittal during this meeting.

**Standard P-1896 – Contact Wire Identification** – OCS Subcommittee Chair reported the ballot failed to pass the first ballot with 72% affirmation, short of the 75% required for passage. He will re-ballot in the near future and solicit greater participation to gain approval.

**Standard P-2406 – Disconnect Switch** – Co-Chair Chris Tyrrell, NMC Powersmith Inc. reported his group is ready for ballot.

**Standards for Revision:**

Revision to P-1630: The Chair reported Steve Gross of Union Metal will chair a working group to develop revisions to P-1630 – Overhead Supporting Structures that include standards for torqueing anchor bolts, including the use of lock nuts. Steve is looking for volunteers to assist with the standard revision.

**New Project Authorization Request (PAR) proposals:**

**Pantograph Standard:** The Chair will ask Jeff Sisson and Ron Bennell to review and renew the existing Pantograph Standard.

**Testing & Commissioning Standard:** Moises Ramos, HNTB Corporation asked the committee if a standard for testing and commissioning a newly installed overhead contact system (OCS) installation or expansion would benefit the industry. There was a consensus among the members that this would be very worthwhile. Those interested should contact Moises at moramos@hntb.com.

Dinner plans were reviewed, with MAC Products hosting dinner at the Fairmont Hotel at 7:00 PM. A cash bar will be open at 6:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned for the day.

The OCS group met at the hotel for “Cocktails and Conversation” and then dinner. After the dinner, which was sponsored by MAC Products, Marv Miletsky of MAC and Khang...
Chen of Kummler+Matter gave a presentation on OCS and third rail ice removal and a presentation on a constant tension spring tension device that is being used to replace balance weights on many railways in Europe.

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

8:30 AM: The Chair called the meeting to order and circulated the attendance roster for signing. Mr. Arun Vohra, President of MINI LLC, 7710 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817 was introduced to present the virtues of preventive maintenance (cleaning) of 3rd rail insulators for outdoor and indoor installations.

Over time ferrous and other conductive contaminants (dust) collect on insulators and risk ignition or explosion, resulting in property damage, risk of injury, or in the worst cases death from resulting fire. Untold travel delays are caused daily from unscheduled downtime resulting from poor insulator maintenance. The presenter also expressed the view porcelain insulators are superior to composite.

Eric Parsons of AFL / Dossert stated all composite materials are available with various coatings that allow them to come closer to porcelain in performance.

Arun is asking the Committee to make a recommendation or provide a guideline (not a standard) on cleaning of insulators. The committee is requested to submit any input or thoughts to the Chair.

During conversation it was noted there may be an IEC standard on cleaning and maintenance of 3rd rail insulators. System operators are incentivized by penalty of fine for delays in public transit presumably caused from preventable unscheduled downtime.

Moises Ramos pointed out that there is an existing IEEE procedure for cleaning insulators for T & D systems.

Chair recommendations:

1. Determine if existing IEEE cleaning standard applies to OCS.
2. John Ceciliani of Trimet reported that Trimet (Portland, OR) pressure washes the third rail annually; with great success in preventing contaminant related downtime.
3. Steve Norton of LA Metro reported they once pressure washed as does Trimet, but now reacts to related breakdowns due to maintenance budget constraint.
4. Moises Ramos suggested including a cleaning standard in the design criteria standard when the next revision takes place. A follow-up to this will need to be assigned.

After the presentation and subsequent discussion the working groups continued meeting on their respective standard development.

The meeting was adjourned around noon, with an open invitation for those staying to convene for a self-guided tour of the local VTA (San Jose) light rail, and for dinner later in the day.
Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting of IEEE OCS Subcommittee for Rail Transit will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina in conjunction with Energy Technology for Sustainable Railway Transportation Conference: A Celebration of the Tenth International Hydrail Conference, to be Wednesday, June 24 and Thursday, June 25. Additional information will be provided in the near future. Eric Parsons will be assisting with this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Williams
Recording Secretary