



Memorandum

To: Board of Directors

From: Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director
Rich Deal Principal Engineer

Meeting Date: February 28, 2018

Subject: **Transportation Research Board and NCUTCD**

On January 7 - 11, 2018, Todd Muck and Rich Deal attended the annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) in Washington D.C. The conference had over 900 sessions and meetings, plus vendor exhibits showcasing advances in transportation. Rich and Todd focused on sessions related to roundabouts, complete streets, safety, mobility, and advancements in engineering design. Specific sessions of interest included:

- Bikeshare Users and System Design
- Roundabout Safety, Design and Operations
- Lessons learned from Roundabout Implementation
- Bike Safety design
- Highway safety
- Planning for future autonomous and connected vehicles
- Pedestrian Safety Lighting
- Wildlife Crossings and Animal Detection Systems
- Roundabout Geometry and Gap Acceptance

At the Roundabout Video Theater, various roundabout designs were presented and discussed. Omni-Means presented the recently completed Holman Hwy 68 Roundabout project. Rich moderated a posted session on roundabout topics and attended the annual TRB Roundabout Committee meeting.

The benefits of attending the conference included seeing and discussing in depth design and safety solutions for improving roundabout performance and minimizing conflicts between bikes and vehicles. The most valuable session was the roundabout subcommittee meeting where crash data was presented on three high volume, multi lane roundabouts in Ohio and the discussions among practitioners for crash reduction treatments and alternative designs. These presentations and discussions related directly to the Hwy 68 Scenic Hwy Roundabout Improvement project.

Rich Deal attended the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control devices (NCUTCD) of Federal Highways Administration in Washington, DC January 3 to 5, 2018. Rich serves as an associate member sponsored by American Public Works Association and member of the Markings Technical Committee with other state and local transportation agencies. The technical committees and council sessions focused on proposed changes to each chapter of the MUTCD. The next version of the manual is anticipated to be 2020 which will include these changes and edits from FHWA. The Research Committee presented a legal viewpoint on crosswalk liability that emphasized consistent crosswalk signing and markings. Of note was a statement by FHWA cancelling the previous interim approval of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB), which showed strong research results in improving pedestrian safety at crosswalks. Several RRFB's have been installed by local agencies in Monterey County. They will be allowed to retain their RRFB's until they have surpassed their useful life. Rich was also appointed to the Colored Bus Lane Task Force and the Lane Drop / Passing Lane Task Force.