BOARD MINUTES
ABA Fall Board Meeting
September 26-27, 2016
Mackinac Island, MI

Members in Attendance

D. Anderson    R. Eyre    C. Morris
C. Anzuoni     A. Fiorini  D. Moser
E. Berardi, Jr. T. Fischer P. Pantuso
B. Blankenship B. Foley   S. Parr-Brooks
H. Blunt       F. Henry   J. Percy, Jr.
L. Burtwistle  B. Henten  K. Sanders
M. Butts       J. Jalbert C. Shepler
M. Coffman     T. JeBran  L. Spruill
M. Colborne    C. Lentzsch S. Woelfel
B. Cole        G. Mackay  C. Young, Jr.
D. DeVivo      J. Meier
W. Dickinson   J. Miller
D. Eaton       R. Moore

Members Not in Attendance

C. Beckwith    S. Haddad  P. Picknelly
D. Cornell     S. Lee     P. Raygorodskaya
E. Fickett     TJ Morgan  A. Spence
A. Glickman    T. Morgan  F. Tedesco

Guests & Speakers

A. Berardi     M. Power   K. Webb
B. Borwege     K. Scopetti M. Young
C. Cushman     W. Shepler P. Ziska
M. Grundman    M. Trageser
P. Lloyd       F. Tremblay

Staff

E. Braendel    M. Manousoff R. Schweitzer
L. Brewer      P. Pantuso
M. Hinton      S. Rohde
Opening Remarks

ABA Chairman John Meier welcomed the board to the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, MI, recognized several guests in attendance, and thanked ABA Board Member Chris Shepler and Executive Vice President and Managing Director of the Grand Hotel Ken Hayward for their assistance in arranging the meeting. Mr. Meier played a video commemorating Peter Pantuso’s 20th anniversary at ABA, which was followed by remarks from Mr. Pantuso. Mr. Shepler and Mr. Hayward addressed the board and discussed their companies’ operations.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the May 5-6, 2016 ABA Spring Board Meeting at the Washington Marriott Georgetown in Washington, DC.

The motion was seconded and carried.

President’s Report

ABA President & CEO Peter Pantuso covered the following subjects during his report:

- ABA staff is at full capacity with four new hires: Ashley Bowen (Membership Coordinator), Melanie Hinton (Director of Communications & Media Relations), Jon Degner (Legislative and Communications Associate; Political Action Committee Manager), Zoe Deloglos (Special Projects Coordinator, to assist with the Foundation). ABA is also exploring hiring someone with bus expertise part-time.

- Overview of the budget: we are on target this year and should net $160,000 at the end of the year, not including investments. No significant new expenses were incurred this year. ABA will continue to retain its outside government affairs consultants.

- ABA had a very good Marketplace and the net profit was higher than anticipated.

- ABA has re-branded Marketplace as “ABA’s Annual Meeting & Marketplace” and is showing potential attendees that there is much more to the meeting than the marketplace aspect.

- ABA’s Annual Meeting and Marketplace will be in Cleveland in 2017, Charlotte in 2018, and Louisville in 2019. The Louisville convention center will be completely re-built.

- ABA’s bid specs moving forward will be much more favorable to the host cities.
• ABA has been exploring ways to attract younger and unique buyers, and the impact of technology on the industry.

• Membership growth is strong, and the target set for 2016 is 500 new members. 300 members have been added so far, compared to 330 in total in 2015. ABA has started a new “plus” program that is focused on management companies and hotel groups. 170 new members are part of the “plus” program.

• The Government Affairs and Policy team continues to do outstanding work and operate very cohesively, and has been very active on the Hill and with regulatory issues.

• BusPAC money is being used very strategically.

• ABA remains under attack by DOT on issues such as lease and interchange, issues in California, and other pending regulations. ABA has been very successful in fighting initiatives that are detrimental to the industry.

• ABA’s new Director of Communications & Media Relations Melanie Hinton has been very involved in all aspects of the association and the ABA Foundation.

• The ABA Foundation held a productive meeting earlier in the day, and is working closely with Cone Communications and John Dunham & Associates on developing new communications, branding, and research initiatives.

• ABA remains very active at state bus association meetings and meetings of the travel and tourism industry.

• ABA wrote off GroupConnect last year, which remains a useful tool in its new format that the association is working to promote among operators. ABA will attend a meeting in November during the OMCA meeting to determine how to move the project forward or make a significant change to it. Taking a piece of the transaction is likely the best opportunity to raise revenue.

• The Motorcoach Marketing Council had a board meeting several weeks ago and has been doing a great job at getting their message and customizable materials out.

**Counsel’s Report**

ABA General Counsel Rick Schweitzer reminded the attendees that the meeting would be conducted under the ABA antitrust guidelines and reviewed the prohibited topics therein.

Mr. Schweitzer gave the board an update on California Senate Bill 247 that was introduced as a result of a FedEx truck crashing into a charter bus. Legislation was developed to address a
perception that safety enhancements to the coach may have mitigated the effects of the crash, based on several NTSB recommendations. The Bill would have required the California Highway Patrol to develop regulations only for charter buses designed to carry over 39 passengers. These regulations would have required a second emergency door, windows that remain open during emergencies, emergency lighting fixtures that turn on after impact, and emergency signage. Bus manufacturers and California Bus Association operators met with the proponents of the legislation and were reasonably successful in getting them to back down on several these items. ABA was asked to assist on the federal level with federal pre-emption. ABA provided a pre-emption analysis to the bill’s sponsor and had a successful meeting with the NHTSA chief counsel and FMCSA staff in August. NHTSA agreed with the pre-emption analysis and the need for uniform federal standards in this area. The bill has been revised and has been sent to the governor on August 31st. The bill was signed into law on September 27, 2016. It only requires emergency lighting that lights up in the event of a collision, for buses manufactured after July 1st, 2020. If NHTSA decides to regulate in this area, that provision would be pre-empted to the extent that it is not identical with what NHTSA comes up with. The bill also requires a pre-trip passenger safety announcement or video on emergency exits and the use of seatbelts. ABA considers this a win.

Tour & Travel Council Report

Bryan Cole provided the Tour & Travel Council report.

- The council held a lively in-person meeting earlier in the day.
- SYTA held an annual conference in Orlando in August, featuring a panel discussion led by Peter Pantuso on changes occurring regarding electronic logging, what they mean for the future, and how operators can address their itineraries.
  - ABA will host a webinar for tour operators to bring them up to speed on the issue.
- Driver shortages and the effect on the industry were discussed.
- State and local connectivity issues were discussed as well as the tourism factors involved when there is a crisis (such as boycotting) that affect the bus and travel industries more than others.

Government Affairs and Policy Report

ABA Vice President of Government Affairs and Policy Suzanne Rohde gave an update on the upcoming presidential and congressional elections, provided an overview of the ABA policy summit meeting held in July, and reviewed a multitude of legislative and regulatory issues highlighting key victories for ABA. The two significant victories she mentioned concerned the
legislation from the California State Legislature and the FMCSA final rule on lease and interchange of passenger vehicles. Below is a more detailed summary of her report:

- **California legislation** – amended to delete preempted provisions concerning bus design, as noted in the counsel’s report
- **Lease & interchange rule**
  - In March, the compliance date was delayed from January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2018.
  - On August 31, FMCSA announced that they would reconsider the rule, and that reconsideration would be limited to the four areas that ABA brought up specifically:
    - Use of the word “charter”
    - Locations of markings
    - 24 hour notification requirement
    - Expanding the 48 hour delay to prepare a lease when passengers are not on board
  - FMCSA believes that the rule will be revised before January 1, 2018.
  - Language was added to the House and Senate 2017 transportation appropriations bill reports, putting pressure on FMCSA to revise the rule.
  - Roundtable meeting will be held October 31 as initial step to revise the rule.
- **FAST Act Update**
  - Tolling and HOV provision – ABA is working with Federal Highway to establish guidance so states are aware of the provision and adhere to it. Federal Highway has identified roughly 200 facilities that would be subject to the guidance that will be issued.
  - U.S. DOT is assembling the National Advisory Committee on Travel and Tourism Infrastructure, and ABA nominated Peter Pantuso for membership. Expecting to here results of the nominations in late October.
  - CSA Reform – the FAST Act required FMCSA to commission the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) to do a study on the efficacy of the CSA program and make recommendations. The NAS has held two open meetings on the topic and a third meeting is scheduled for December. By law, the study is to be completed by mid-2017.
- **FY 2017 Appropriations** – ABA language on Lease & Interchange rule was added to both the House and Senate transportation appropriations bill reports. Language was also added to the House bill to withhold FMCSA funding to proceed with the Safety Fitness Determination rulemaking. The Senate Homeland Security appropriations bill includes $3 million for the intercity bus security grant program; however, no funds are included in the House bill, and GAP continues to advocate for inclusion of the $3 million in a final appropriations measure.
o Appropriations bills – the House and Senate have both moved all 12 appropriations bills, but none have been signed into law.

o Congress passed a short-term Continuing Resolution to fund the Government through December 9th, and expects to complete during a lame duck session either a comprehensive omnibus package, several “mini-bus” bills, or another long-term CR, to fund the Government into the start of the new Congress.

- Aviation Reauthorization – ABA’s goals are to improve airport access and to look for opportunities to expand the essential air service program to a broader transportation program.

- Regulatory Update
  o Entry-level driver training final rule proposal is currently at the Office of Management and Budget and is expected to be out soon.
  o ANPRM on sleep apnea – FMCSA’s Medical Review Board (MRB) met in August and has revised their recommendations. ABA advocacy helped to gain flexibility in the MRB’s revised recommendations.
  o OSHA final rule – requires electronic reporting for injury and illness. Retaliation provisions have already gone into effect.
  o Department of Labor final rule on overtime pay – this rule affects compensation for administrative workers and professionals; not drivers. It is currently under legal challenge.
  o Department of Justice – issued a notice for comment on a partial settlement of the Volkswagen issue.
  o Notice about an FMCSA crash preventability program – ABA is opposed to the proposal and filed comments in September. The standard of evidence to challenge a crash is excessively high, and the list of the types of accidents that could be challenged is narrow, DataQ process inefficient.
  o Treasury/IRS NPRM on valuation discounts – concerns estate and gift tax planning, significant impact on family business succession plans – consult your financial advisor. ABA will file comments in opposition.
  o EPA final rule on greenhouse gas expected to be finalized; the impact on ABA members is unclear, will affect OEMs initially.
  o FMCSA notice on pre-trip safety information – Agency updated its guidance for voluntary action, to include proper seatbelt usage.
  o Joint NHTSA/FMCSA NPRM on speed limiters – open for comment, ABA will initially request an extension of time, in unison with trucking interests, and will prepare comments in opposition for submission either for the initial deadline or an extended one.
  o FMCSA published a final rule dealing with windshield mounted technologies – FMCSA is permanently allowing exceptions to mount items in areas that were
previously prohibited, and a list of the types of technologies that can be used has been refined.

- Overview of the ABA July Policy Summit and issues ABA will pursue in the next Congress, Bus Industry Safety Council (BISC), BISC West, and Bus Maintenance and Repair Council (BusMARC) meetings and an outlook to winter meetings.
- Additional discussion was had on research needs that could also be used by Government Affairs and Policy staff.

**ABA Foundation Report**

ABA Foundation Chairman Doug Anderson provided the ABA Foundation (ABAF) report.

- Strategies with John Dunham & Associates (research) and Cone Communications (marketing) continue to be developed.
- YTD Current revenue is $168,000 and expenses are $161,000.
- $5 million in investments/reserves.
- The Board of Governors is very engaged. The board has been expanded for 2016 and will likely be expanded again in 2017.
- Administration of the Foundation has been assigned to Matt Manousoff with assistance from Zoe Deloglos.
- Staff are currently brainstorming new initiatives such as tiered annual giving.
- Cone Communications is working on an ABA Foundation awareness survey as well as messaging for the Investing In Our Industry (research) and Fund a Future (scholarship) campaigns.
- Cone Communications recently completed a baseline media audit. Messages will be reviewed and refined in advance of ABA’s Annual Meeting and Marketplace 2017.
- ABAF research will begin to be tied into government affairs efforts.
- Current and potential research projects include:
  - Motorcoach Census
  - Economic impact studies
  - Hours of service/pay systems
  - FLSA driver compensation
  - Entered discussions on safety-related research
- The ABA Foundation Board of Governors voted to streamline the messaging for the annual auction by having 100% of funds received from Marketplace, including the auction donations, to be allocated towards the scholarship program.
- The Board of Governors voted to double 17 of the 21 scholarships from $2,500 to $5,000 each. The $10,000 scholarship will be decreased to $5,000.
• An inconclusive discussion was had regarding potentially changing the Marketplace Gives Back program because it competes with ABAF fundraising.
• ABA Vice President of Government Affairs and Policy spoke on the importance of conducting industry research to defend and justify ABA policy positions, particularly regarding safety.

**BusPAC Committee Report**

Suzanne Rohde delivered the BusPAC report.

• The 2016 fundraising goal was set at an ambitious level of $100,000 for 2016.
• We have currently received $66,739 this year, with an additional pledge of $5,000 outstanding.
• As of the Board meeting, we spent $66,000 on 60 events.
• Staff has been testing different mediums of communication to see which are most effective.
• Staff has been cleaning up records, reviewing old data, and targeting lapsed donors.
• The goal for the ABA Board is 100% participation by eligible board members. We are currently at 75%.
  • Several board members have increased their contributions over last year
  • Several board members have yet to contribute
• Many ABA staff members have contributed this year as well, with ongoing contributions carrying through to the end of the year.
• New initiatives:
  • Re-designed brochure
  • Welcome package
  • BusPAC Brief quarterly newsletter
  • Made improvements to the website, including the ability to both opt-in and contribute from the same page

**Environmental Committee Report**

Peter Pantuso presented the Environmental Committee report in TJ Morgan’s absence.

• ABA will arrange a conference call with the committee the Green Spirit Award and will work with the University of Vermont on a webinar targeting drivers to not idle needlessly.
Finance and Budget Report

ABA CFO Eric Braendel provided the Finance and Budget report.

- ABA is finalizing a deal with its subtenant to provide them additional space in our office and hopes to complete a new five-year lease beginning in January 2017.
- ABA’s 2016 revenue through Aug 31 is $5,527,000, a decrease of $64,000 over the same period last year.
- Membership revenue is higher than last year, Marketplace income is roughly the same, and publications revenue is lower due to a decrease in advertising income from the ABA Insider and Equip. ABA anticipates falling short of the budgeted publications revenue by $150,000 by the end of the year, however some expenses will also be less.
- Total expenses through August 31 were $4,402,000, an increase of $175,000 over 2015. Increased expenses are due to budgeted lobbying and legal fees within the GAP department. Membership and General & Administration salaries and fringe expenses are higher than the prior year, but were also budgeted for.
- ABA anticipates a net income of $150,000 by the end of the year.
- The budget for 2017 revenue is $6,467,000, a $65,000 decrease over the prior year. Expected revenue for dues is increased, but is more than offset by the decrease in revenue for publications and ad sales. Revenue is not budgeted for Equip magazine and Top 100 because they have been discontinued.
- Total budgeted expenses for 2017 are $6,253,000, $100,000 lower than 2016, due to canceling Equip and Top 100.
- ABA has merged the retirement plans offered to its employees to reduce the plan administrative fees, and has switched plan administrators to Empower Retirement.

A motion was made to adopt the 2017 budget.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Governance Committee Report

Governance Committee Chairman Tom JeBran provided the Governance Committee report.

- Three board members are leaving the board
  - Frank Henry
  - Butch Beckwith
  - Brad Henton
- The slate of nominees was presented to the board:
Daryl Johnson, J&J Tours
Bill Torres, DC Trails
Julia Conway, Big Bus Tours
Ben Blunt, Concord Coach Lines
Scott Henry, Martz Trailways
François Tremblay, Prevost
MCI will appoint someone to represent them by November

- Stephanie Lee is term-limited on the Executive Committee. The committee has nominated Chris Shepler to succeed her.
- Re-nominations to the Executive Committee:
  - Gene Berardi
  - Steve Haddad
  - Jim Jalbert
  - Craig Lentzsch
  - Ron Moore
  - Peter Pantuso
- ABA Foundation Board of Governors changes:
  - Members with expiring terms that would like to be re-nominated
    - Bryan Cole
    - Sara Hamlin
    - Tara Hippensteel
  - New nominees
    - Ron Bast, GoRiteway
    - Jeff Goldwasser, LaFrance Industries
    - Colleen (Miller) Laird, Blue Man Group
    - Scott Riccio, NorthEast Trailways/NorthEast Charter & Tour Company
    - Francis Tedesco, Academy Bus
    - John Percy, Niagara Convention and Visitors Corporation
- During the Governance Committee call, it was suggested that the Tour and Travel representative’s term on the Executive Committee be increased from one two-year term to three two-year terms.
  - This recommendation will be passed on to the Bylaws Committee for discussion

**Time & Place Committee Report**

Gene Berardi provided the Time & Place Committee Report

- 2017 ABA Annual Meeting & Marketplace – Cleveland, OH
- 2018 ABA Annual Meeting & Marketplace – Charlotte, NC
- 2019 ABA Annual Meeting & Marketplace – Louisville, KY

- 2017 Board Meetings
  - Winter – Cleveland, OH
  - Spring – Washington, DC
  - Fall – Antwerp, Belgium

- 2018 Board Meetings
  - Winter – Charlotte, NC
  - Spring – Washington, DC
  - Fall – potentially on the west coast

- There will not be an ABA Foundation Board of Governors meeting in Belgium. There may be a separate Foundation meeting within the US in 2017.

**Strategic Safety Committee Report**

Peter Pantuso discussed Strategic Safety Committee issues in Alan Glickman’s absence. A full Strategic Safety Committee report was provided as part of the board meeting materials.

- The 2016 Bus Industry Safety Council meetings were very successful this year.
  - ABA held a BISC Summer Meeting as well as a BISC West Meeting
  - Surveys show that attendees were pleased with the meetings
- 2017 BISC expenses were $80,000, and revenue was $35,000.
- The committee held a conference call several weeks prior to the board meeting.
- The idea was put forward to use the Strategic Safety Committee and BISC to better analyze bus accidents. This idea was challenged by several board members and will be discussed further in the future.
- CDL testing in states was a topical issue in the spring and remains a concern and focus for the committee.
- A group out of Louisiana is working with BISC members to develop a curriculum for an Entry Level Driver Training program being developed by DOT. The program should be completed by January and presented at the Winter Board Meeting.
- The full report is attached

**2017 Marketplace Update**

Marketplace Chairman Brad Henton provided the Marketplace Update.
• ABA’s Annual Meeting and Marketplace 2017 will take place from January 14-17 in Cleveland, OH
• The city of Cleveland is fully engaged, and is very excited to showcase a revitalized Cleveland to the motorcoach industry
• Appointment requests are underway
• 11 sightseeing tours available
• 7 FAM tours available
• Registration is on par with previous years
• Expanded online registration opportunities
• Several improvements have been made to the app, and a “download day” will take place in advance of the event.
• Additional educational opportunities will be available
• Sponsorships are strong. Many sponsors have returned, and there currently four new sponsors.
• The first Marketplace Advisory Committee meeting will take place a week after the board meeting. Options for the Marketplace Gives Back program will be presented to the committee to then bring back to ABA leadership.
• Several board members have asked how they can help, and Brad provided some suggestions:
  o Adopting the new branding
  o Download the app
  o Volunteer

**Marketplace Strategic Planning Committee Report**

Lynn Brewer provided the Marketplace Strategic Planning Committee report in Chairman Steve Haddad’s absence.

• One of the committee’s most important goals is making sure that the event is more than just appointments.
• The re-branding process has begun, beginning with officially changing the name of the event to “ABA’s Annual Meeting and Marketplace”.
• Cleveland has a brand new, underground convention center and beautiful, newly-renovated hotels nearby.
• There are several exciting evening events including the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
• The Marketplace Advisory Committee has a lot of new members, and some from underrepresented regions such as Canada and the west coast.
• A strategic planning meeting was held in May.
• Lynn pointed out that ABA used to raise a lot of money for Marketplace Gives Back because events were held to help promote the charity. When ABA stopped holding these events, it became more difficult to raise money for charity, unless the charity has a retail component.

Meetings, Education, and Membership Report

Lynn Brewer provided the Meetings, Education, and Membership report.

• Tour operator growth is strong, with 27 new motorcoach and tour operator companies registered to take appointments at ABA’s Annual Meeting & Marketplace.
• NTA will hold two conventions next year.
• ABA has been reaching out to millennials and other buyers and has seen younger people attend ABA’s Annual Meeting & Marketplace each year.
• ABA has made several improvements to its app:
  o The app is the only app in the industry that shows attendees their appointment schedule
  o Members can look at their past appointment schedules
  o ABA will hold a “Download Day” in December to encourage attendees to download the app
  o 25% of attendees used the app last year, and ABA is hopeful that this will increase to 50% this year
• ABA’s Annual Meeting and Marketplace is the only meeting in the industry that provides free Wi-Fi.
• ABA has been re-thinking the way it sells and packages sponsorships, with a large new sponsorship package having been purchased by Cleveland-based insurance company National Interstate.
• Education Bites (mini education sessions) have been expanded from 4-5 throughout the entire meeting to 6 per day.
• Marketplace speakers will either do education bites or webinars before/during the events.
• Keynote speaker for Marketplace – ABA is currently in discussions with potential speakers to give the show a “wow” factor.
• The annual meeting will be moved to after the executive committee meeting on Saturday.
• Mike Butts provided an update on the gender identity issue in Charlotte in advance of Marketplace 2018.
  o Other conferences have not seen the decline in attendance that was anticipated
  o The issue is in the hands of the courts
  o Could potentially be repealed after the election
• ABA’s member renewal rate is 88% compared to an 82% industry average.
ABA has seen fewer travel industry members decide against renewing this year compared to the past, and has been working on initiatives to add value to retain this segment.

ABA’s membership goal in 2016 is 500 new members.
  - 337 new members have joined in 2016 as of the board meeting
  - ABA has been working with consultants and other groups to grow membership

**Radar Issues**

- The following issues were discussed:
  - Undertaking a new strategic planning exercise
    - The last strategic plan was created in 2011
    - The industry has changed significantly in the last five years, and it is anticipated that the industry will change even more rapidly in the future, so it may be worthwhile to conduct another strategic planning exercise.
    - ABA should potentially hire a consultant to study the industry
  - Getting younger industry professionals involved in ABA through offering additional opportunities at board meetings and/or Marketplace.
  - The potential for autonomous buses in the future
  - Online booking

**The Board went into closed session.**

**The meeting was adjourned.**
STRATEGIC SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT TO THE ABA BOARD

By: Alan Glickman – Chairman Strategic Safety Committee

Date: September 2016

Stephen Evans, our current BISC Chairman has provided his Chairman’s report to the ABA Board. A copy of his report is in your board material.

The report covers the recent summer BISC meeting, the first BISC West meeting held in July at California Bus Association in Ontario, California, along with a preview of the upcoming BISC winter meeting at Marketplace in Cleveland, January 2017. Steven’s report highlights bus fire prevention which BISC addresses at every other BISC session in addition to the hot safety topics motorcoach operators are facing.

We are pleased with the success of the first BISC West session and look forward to continuing BISC presence for our west coast operators and for operators who may not be ABA members. There is the possibility of California Bus Association operators, who are not ABA members, joining BISC and eventually ABA. California Bus has invited BISC to host a second safety session in 2017.

We are looking forward to the BISC winter meeting which will highlight technology as it relates to motorcoach safety. The summer meeting will be June 14-15, 2017 back in Baltimore.

Remember, all BISC minutes including the minutes of our two general sessions, the BISC Executive Committee, and all BISC committee meeting sessions are on our ABA website.

These minutes will provide you and your safety staffs with timely, valuable, safety and regulatory information that may not be found elsewhere.
BISC BUDGET:

Projected revenue is expected to come in at approximately $45,000 for the year; $5,000 under budget.

Expenses should approximate $80,000 which is substantially under budget due to savings on travel and meeting costs.

Net investment made by ABA should approximate $35,000 which is positive to budget by approximately $35,000 considering that we budget a $70,000 net cost to ABA to operate BISC. The year to year variances in revenue is due to changes in sponsorship dollars.

Vendor sponsorship is a big piece of the BISC’s revenue. We continue to look for sponsors. Let me, Brandon, or Alan know if you have potential sponsors or if you want us to target someone you feel may be interested in being a sponsor.

At the recent SSC teleconference two weeks ago we briefly discussed a possible role for ABA to play that relates to serious crashes. Discussion centered around the type of accidents that would be of interest along with the type of vehicle. We are looking to the Board to give us direction on both fronts… the type of serious accident and whether we should limit the commercial vehicles to be included to just include O.T.R motorcoaches, line, charter, or if we include transits, small vehicles, vans etc.

(Ask for Discussion?)

We discussed the possibilities of deploying the ABA foundation for research on bus accidents, possibly partnering with the appropriate DOT agency. Doug Anderson raised the idea of asking DOT to provide accident statistics to assist the foundation in its research, if the foundation will be addressing bus accidents.

Following the SSC call, Buddy Young emailed a few of his thoughts that I want to mention. He stated that all serious motorcoach crashes should be reviewed for “lessons learned”.

On the topic of CDL testing, Buddy suggested one of the items that keeps coming up is breaking up the CDL testing process into blocks or sections, where an applicant will initially be tested on all blocks or sections. If an applicant fails a block or section, they would only be retested on that particular section. This will provide better time utilization of the limited number of testers and relieve the burden of being retested on the sections that were passed by the applicant.
Buddy also raised the concern that full time career drivers are embracing new technologies; however, part-time, non-career drivers who may not adequately know or remember how to use the new technologies effectively may possibly be at risk for driving distractions.

I again encourage you to send your key safety people to BISC. If you wonder why Buddy Young and Ron Moore have been attending since the beginning, it is because both believe in the value they get, the associations they make, the audiences they have with our Regulators, and their being on the cutting edge of critical regulatory and legislative activity.

Alan has asked me to mention that, if you would like, he will personally meet with new members you send to BISC and ensure they get the proper orientation and inclusion so they are comfortable and engaged.

At BISC, we don’t lose members, we continue to grow. We are not suggesting you support the BISC financially, we are simply suggesting that you will get more than your monies worth by joining BISC.

Thank BISC sponsors

Title      Sponsor      ABC Companies

Additional and important sponsors:

- Lancer Insurance
- Prevost
- Bridgestone/Firestone
- National Interstate
- NIC Technologies
- Pacific Western Transportation
- JJ Keller
- Saucon Technologies
- TSX

I want to thank Brandon for his leadership and hard work along with Stephen Evans our retiring BISC Chairman.