

New North Transportation Alliance (NNTA)
 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
 Wednesday, January 13, 2016 8:00 a.m.
 USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
 Meeting Location: Museum of Science and Industry, Tampa, FL
 DRAFT

Attendance

Vicki Ahrens	MOSI
Christine Epps	CUTR
Kebreab Ghebremichael	USF Office of Sustainability
Sara Hendricks	NNTA Co-Director, CUTR
Jonathan Kelly	Busch Gardens and Adventure Island
Nina Mabileau	City of Tampa
Anthony Matonti	TBARTA
Charles Stephenson	City of Temple Terrace
Charles White	Hillsborough County
Philip Winters	CUTR
Dr. Fredric Zerla	University Square Civic Association
John Scotello	MOSI

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 am. Raymond Mensah, Chairperson of the NNTA was unable to attend. Ms. Sara Hendricks presided as Chairperson in his absence. Ms. Hendricks welcomed attendees and asked for self-introductions of NNTA members and visitors. Ms. Hendricks thanked our hostess, Ms. Vicki Ahrens for hosting the NNTA meeting at MOSI.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion and second to approve minutes from the November 13, 2015 NNTA meeting. The board approved the meeting minutes as submitted.

Presentation: Autonomous Vehicles (AV)

John Scotello, Director of Exhibits, Museum of Science and Industry, Tampa, Florida

Mr. John Scotello, Director of Exhibits, MOSI provided information concerning the Autonomous Vehicles (AV) presently residing at MOSI. Mr. Scotello explained that MOSI has demonstrated the AV for a long time and therefore MOSI has a great deal of experience and data with AV use and user interaction.

Mr. Scotello shared that prevalent discussions at the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) Conference included nomenclature of the vehicles and the acceptability of the

mode of transportation. The name “autonomous” is felt to be too difficult, “automatic” is confusing, but “driverless” seems to be easier to understand. While some feel millennials won’t use mass transit, Mr. Scotello and others feel millennials will use driverless vehicles because they are more likely to share everything, including transportation.

The AV at MOSI is designed for heavy pedestrian areas rather than surface streets. It is made by Meridian and is all electric. It has 2 engines and 3 computers that each require a password for operation. It has 4-wheel, independent steering and travels on a virtual track with a 2 cm variation. The AV is very cost-effective, costing \$.04 per ride. Instead of seats, visitors enter the AV and lean against a rail. MOSI wants to make it pleasant for guests, approachable, forward-thinking and sci-fi fun! The next version of the AV for MOSI will be solar-powered, enclosed, and have air conditioning.

Some advantages of the AV include a transportation option for persons who are disabled and do not drive and it promotes safer driving conditions. The AV can “see” obstacles and pedestrians and will stop. The AV uses point-cloud mapping, which creates a map of the path and knows if there is an obstacle and is accurate up to 2 centimeters.

MOSI has only encountered two issues: one passenger was nervous and the operator stopped the vehicle to let the rider disembark, and operator error parking the AV.

Users often ask how much the AV costs. Mr. Scotello said it may be around \$250,000. Also, many ask if the riders can “drink & drive.” Mr. Scotello explained that Florida law states a vehicle must have a licensed operator, but that the operator doesn’t need to physically be in the vehicle.

The board asked how an AV may make ethical decisions, such as the best time to swerve to avoid hitting a person. Mr. Scotello explained that lawmakers are currently working on such issues.

The board noted that the AV would be very useful as a first-mile, last-mile transit option, large campuses such as USF, and sporting events with large parking needs.

New Business/System Updates

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 am. Board members were escorted to the parking area to view and experience a demonstration of the Meridian Autonomous Vehicle.