

# ***Human Factors Resources***

*A Sponsor of the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*

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## **Statement of Organization**

### **I. Introduction**

Human Factors Resources is a volunteer association of senior level human factors professionals formed for the specific purposes of sponsoring the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (National Committee), acquiring voting membership on the Council, and providing technical advice and assistance to the Council and Technical Committees. The organization was formed in December 2001 and was approved as a Group III<sup>1</sup> Sponsor in January 2002.

### **II. Background**

Human factors service to the National Committee and its predecessors began in the early 1960s when Slade F. Hulbert, a professor of psychology conducting research on driver behavior at UCLA, began attending meetings of the then named National Joint Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NJC). Dr. Hulbert was the sole human factors specialist to provide technical advice and assistance to the NJC until 1968 when he was joined by Gerson J. Alexander, a human factors analyst at Airborne Instruments Labs in New York. Beginning in 1970, the Human Factors Branch of FHWA, led by Mr. Alexander, provided technical support to the then named National Advisory Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NAC).

In 2000, after more than 20 years association with the current National Committee, the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) withdrew its sponsorship. Throughout 2001, there were intensive discussions and correspondence between and among senior level human factors professionals and HFES, as well as several other organizations, in an attempt to provide continuity of a human factors presence on the National Committee. The situation crystallized in December 2001 when it became apparent that the most feasible course of action was to form an independent ad hoc association to be named Human Factors Resources and to apply to the National Committee for sponsorship. The National Committee's executive board and council unanimously approved the application at its annual meeting January 9 and 10, 2002.

### **III. Membership**

Human Factors Resources (HFR) is a volunteer association of Members who are senior level human factors researchers and practitioners. Included among the Members are a delegate and alternate to the National Committee, and a coordinator of the association's activities. Membership eligibility is limited to those senior level human factors professionals whose principal interests, experience and expertise extends to the field of traffic control devices and traffic operations. Members are independent of and do not represent their employers within HFR

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<sup>1</sup> Group III sponsoring organizations represent the general public and private highway user groups.

or in any of its sponsored activities or at any meetings of the National Committee or its Technical Committees.

The term of membership is three years. Reappointment, if requested by the Member, is automatically approved. When a Member resigns, a new member will be recruited from within the human factors profession in order to maintain HFR at its maximum number. Potential members will be invited to join upon consensus agreement of the Membership.

At the time of its organization, HFR's founding members were:

Gerson J. Alexander, CPE, North Bethesda, Maryland  
Susan T. Chrysler, Ph.D., College Station, Texas  
Robert E. Dewar, Ph.D., Calgary, Alberta  
Mark Freedman, Rockville, Maryland  
Fred R. Hanscom, P.E., Markham, Virginia  
Richard L. Knoblauch, Great Falls, Virginia  
Neil D. Lerner, Ph.D., Rockville, Maryland  
Douglas Mace, State College, Pennsylvania  
Richard F. Pain, Ph.D., Oakton, Virginia  
Alison M. Smiley, Ph.D., Vancouver, British Columbia  
Loren Staplin, Ph.D., Kulpsville, Pennsylvania, and  
Jerry Wachtel, CPE, Berkeley, California

Philip M. Garvey, Ph.D., State College, Pennsylvania was elected to membership in January 2005.

## IV. Organization

HFR provides support to the National Committee in three areas:

### **A. Delegates to Council**

According to the National Committee Bylaws, HFR is entitled to delegate one National Committee Member (Delegate) and one National Committee Associate Member (Alternate). The Delegate, or in his/her absence, the Alternate, will participate as a voting member of the National Committee. Members Fred Hanscom and Neil Lerner currently serve as Delegate and Alternate respectively to the National Committee.

### **B. Technical Committees**

All Members are eligible to serve on Technical Committees if approved by the National Committee Executive Board and the Technical Committee Chairman. There are seven Technical Committees:

- a. Signs, Regulatory and Warning;
- b. Signs, Guide/Motorist Information, currently served by HFR Members Hanscom and Mace,
- c. Signals,
- d. Markings,
- e. Temporary Traffic Control, currently served by HFR Member Alexander;
- f. Railroad and Light Rail/Highway Grade Crossings, currently served by HFR Member Lerner, and
- g. Bicycles

When participating in meetings of the Council, the Delegate or Alternate does not speak on behalf of or represent an official position of HFR, and as such, their positions are not subject to technical oversight<sup>2</sup>. When participating in meetings of the technical committees, HFR Members do not speak on behalf of or represent an official position of HFR, and as such, their positions are not subject to technical oversight.

### **C. Sponsor Review**

With the exceptions noted below, all Members shall serve on the Sponsor Review Committee. Recommendations of the National Committee and its Technical Committees are sent to each Sponsor requesting review, comment, and recommendation prior to being submitted to FHWA for consideration. The Sponsor Review Committee, whose activities are coordinated by the HFR Coordinator, responds to those requests in the name of HFR.

Neither the HFR Coordinator nor the National Committee Delegate shall serve on the Sponsor Review Committee. In the event that the National Committee Alternate participated as the delegate of HFR in the Council Meeting where issues currently before the Sponsor Review Committee were discussed and voted upon, he/she is not eligible to serve on the Sponsor Review Committee in its review and recommendation on those issues. In that instance, and for those issues, the National Committee Delegate will become eligible to serve.

The HFR Coordinator collects and forwards the comments and recommendations made by the Sponsor Review Committee. Because Membership is limited to senior ergonomists who are subject matter experts whose credentials, independence, objectivity and integrity are above reproach, their comments and recommendations as well as votes on all committees are independent, and will not be subject to review and approval. Further, these actions are not intended to preclude Members from sending comments directly to the public docket when Notices are published in the Federal Register by FHWA



Gerson J. Alexander  
HFR Coordinator

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<sup>2</sup> When the Delegate is named Chairman of the Group III delegation, he/she represents Group III and HFR on the National Committee Executive Board. In this role, coordination with the HFR Coordinator is required.