

PART 2 PRESENTATIONS: BACKGROUND ISSUES

A. Opening Remarks

By: William W. Hunter, University of North Carolina

On behalf of the Roadside Safety Features Committee of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), a cosponsor of this workshop, it is with pleasure that I welcome you to this meeting, especially those of you who are here from far-away places. The Roadside Safety Features Committee has been an active participant in this arena through efforts of its International Research Subcommittee, presently cochaired by Hayes Ross of the Texas Transportation Institute and Thomas Turbell of the National Swedish Road and Traffic Research Institute. Thomas Turbell is also the Swedish representative to the current European meetings dealing with international harmonization.

Our committee is also well represented in the update

of NCHRP Report 230, *Recommended Procedures for the Safety Performance Evaluation of Highway Appurtenances*. This document could turn out to be important for international harmonization.

It is literally true that the world has shrunk when you think of the relative ease with which we travel and rapidly communicate. This shrinking also has a bearing on why it is important that we have a meeting concerned with international harmonization issues that relate to roadside safety hardware. Not only are we close in time and space, but even in regard to vehicle types and designs, and roadside hardware designs. There is much we can learn from each other and apply to our separate, and yet corporate problems.