

AASHTO-Research Advisory Committee – Funding Task Force
Conference call minutes (draft)

Date: June 1, 2010
Time: 11:00 am (EDT)

Participants

Kim Ferroni, Pennsylvania DOT
Tim McDowell, Wyoming DOT
Rod Montney, Kansas DOT
Leni Oman, Washington State DOT
Jim Sime, Connecticut DOT
Daniel Yeh, Wisconsin DOT (chair and scribe)

1. Member introduction

Each member introduced themselves and their number of years with the task force.

2. General business

Oman motioned to approve the December 17 conference call minutes, seconded by Montney. Motion carried. The next scheduled meeting of the group is at the RAC Annual Meeting on July 26 in Kansas City.

* **Action item** – Montney will check with the Annual Meeting conference planning team to see if a conference call option will be available for those not attending the meeting.

3. Review of task force mission

The members agreed that the current task force mission is still valid. Some of the mission may be on hold given the pending stall in the federal reauthorization process.

4. Establish timeline and issues for current work plan

The group discussed how to set up a work plan for the next 18 months through the end of 2011.

McDowell noted that the reauthorization package might be considered in 2011 with potential for approved legislation by fall of 2011.

AASHTO SCOR & RAC have already forwarded some reauthorization recommendations to Congress. For the task force, some immediate issues may be to develop additional information on research funding issues to fully support and clarify the recommendations.

* **Action item** – Oman will provide information to the group on the recommendations.

With the potential influx of new AASHTO board members and SCOR members expected in early 2011, the task force could compile briefing papers on “research funding 101.”

Oman suggested the task force could examine how UTCs are seeking to use SPR as match. This could be done as a joint venture with the new RAC / CUTC liaison group. The task force could

help formulate the funding questions and data inquiries that the liaison group could then review and discuss with the UTCs.

The group discussed the potential to review issues related to the use of SPR funds for AASHTO operations programs. This may be under the auspices of SCOH at AASHTO.

The task force talked about options to examine and categorize financial data on research programs across the states. Potential benefits would be better visibility of state research programs, identification of potential needs on a national basis, opportunities for pooled funds, clarification of match opportunities and better overall state-by-state program management. This could also serve as a gap analysis for state research programs.

Finally, the task force talked about the potential to examine indicators of research activity in other sectors and comparison of funding across sectors.

The task force talked about potential priorities for a work plan. The “101” effort had the highest priority along with framing the data gathering effort. The issues involving the UTCs may also play a key role in reauthorization discussions.

* **Action items** – Oman will provide a list of all task mission statements to the group. Yeh will compile the items discussed into a draft work plan for continued review by the task force.

5. Other issues

The participants thought that meetings or conference calls every two months would work for the group.

* **Action items** – Yeh will make appropriate updates to the task force Web site on the AASHTO page and set future conference call dates.