Minutes
Research Advisory Committee,
Region 4 Meeting
Thursday, April 20, 2017 3:00 p.m. (MT)
WebEx Teleconference

Roll Call

Present	Name	Organization
x	Keith Platte	AASHTO
	Natassja Linzau	TRB
	Carolyn Morehouse	Alaska DOT
	Anne Ellis	Arizona DOT
x	Dianne Kresich	Arizona DOT
	Jim Appleton	California DOT
x	Pete Zaniewski	California DOT
x	Joe Horton – Chair	California DOT
	Aziz Khan	Colorado DOT
	Amanullah Mommandi	Colorado DOT
	Mary Huie	FHWA
	Wayne Kawahara	Hawaii DOT
x	Ned Parrish	Idaho TD
x	Sue Sillick	Montana DOT
	Mostafa Jamshidi	Nebraska DOR
x	Ken Chambers – Vice Chair	Nevada DOT
x	Randall Soderquist	New Mexico DOT
	David Hadwiger	New Mexico DOT
	Ray Chavez	New Mexico DOT
	Ron Horner	North Dakota DOT
	Clayton Schumaker	North Dakota DOT
x	Ron Curb	Oklahoma DOT
x	Teresa Stephens - Secretary	Oklahoma DOT
x	David Ooten	Oklahoma DOT
x	Michael Bufalino	Oregon DOT
	Darin Hodges	South Dakota DOT
x	Dave Huft	South Dakota DOT
	Sonya Badgley	Texas DOT
	Patti Dathe	Texas DOT
	Joe Adams	Texas DOT
x	Rocio Perez	Texas DOT
	Kevin Pete	Texas DOT
x	Wade Odell	Texas DOT
x	Cameron Kergaye	Utah DOT
x	David Stevens	Utah DOT
x	Rhonda Brooks	Washington DOT
x	Tim McDowell	Wyoming DOT
x	Enid White	Wyoming DOT

Reviewers for minutes

Thank you, Rhonda and Rocio!

Discuss RAC Leadership Call (Ken Chambers)

Agenda from meeting is attached...Minutes to the meeting will be sent out as an addendum later. Chris Hedges comments will be included.

Highlights included

- Discussion regarding where in the new organization structure the TKN Task Force being handled at AASHTO
- FHWA HQ will be visiting local FHWA offices.
- Inquiry regarding how RAC regional members may assist the SCOR representatives
- SCOR event planned in early August to refine ideas and changes regarding implementation and innovation focus; a strategic plan will be developed
- The connection between RAC and SCOR may be further defined
- TRB will be celebrating its 100 years anniversary in January 2020
- Airline volume increase was noted
- Suggestion to invite Dale Peabody to this regional RAC call in order to stay engaged with SCOR/RAC changes
- Inquiry regarding if AASHTO region geography will be affected
- Enhancements were made to websites such as HVR, AASHTO, etc. to increase communication
- Concern seems evident about the role of RAC regarding the Special Committee for Research and Innovation, particularly how appointments will be made.

HVR Voting - First Round

Many thanks to Utah's Cameron and David for facilitating the ballot process.

One vote per state.

The Top 8 projects will be considered for the next round.

Top four for RAC 4

The Region Chair will also identify the next two safety projects from each region for inclusion in the Safety Supplemental Brochure.

They will then identify the next most popular HVR topic and similarly the next two projects on that topic from each region will be included in that topic's Supplemental Brochure for the year. This topic is not yet determined.

RAC 4 initial ballot submittal due on April 26th.

Natassja Linzau is now TRB assistance

Welcome Natassja and thank you for your help you've already supplied.

TRB Mid-Year Meeting (Any comments?)

Please refer to email message from Joe Crabtree for details...attached...

Discussion topic – Technology Transfer

California – Using Technology Transfer for drones (UAVs), commercial vehicle, and automated vehicle locator (AVL). Also, using Technology Transfer to transform the view of the Research Office to not only research, but as service provider. The Caltrans Research Office facilitated a meeting with the Maintenance and Equipment Division to explain state of practice regarding snowplows. This showed how to incorporate technology with maintenance efforts. Keith Platte asked how this concept came about…Joe Horton responded with a shift in perspective from performing research to using research readily available and providing a service to answer questions in the agency.

Washington – Utilizing internet technology to share resources and information to the entire agency through a recently released concept called Webinar Wednesday. The research office chooses to take a proactive vs static approach by presenting information to the state DOT workforce. The PI and SME presented to ~190 employees mid-morning on a Wednesday. First topic was median filter drains and how funds were saved. These events are intended to be held once per quarter. A survey was issued and positive comments were received. Keith Platte inquired about how this was promoted. Response was complex in that high level clearance to share email with entire staff requires leadership's approval. But, the invitations will be approached differently next time, potentially through the internal website.

South Dakota – Embarking on a high mileage bus tour through Wyoming and Utah with focused stops in Cheyenne and Salt Lake City. Twelve hot topics have been identified with planned presentations and discussion sessions associated with each focus area. Trip is funded with a STIC grant for Division directors, staff engineers and technicians identified through their leadership, classification and geographic location. Keith Platte commented that FHWA is favoring the regional perspective for the STIC. Wyoming and Utah RAC members commented that they are looking forward to the exchange.

New Mexico – mentioned that FHWA and executive management have differing opinions on equipment and operations falling under the tech transfer umbrella. Randall Soderquist will introduce this question to RAC Region 4 through a survey.

Wrap-up and next meeting

The current listsrv is attached. Please review and send changes to Natassja by the next meeting. Here is her contact information…

Natassja Linzau
Web Developer
TRB | Cooperative Research Programs
Keck 451
500 Fifth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202)334-2336 | nlinzau@nas.edu

Next scheduled meeting June 15, 2017.

RAC Leadership Teleconference
Thursday, April 13, 2017
1:30 – 3:30 pm, EDT

Phone number: (866) 668-0721; Conference code is: 6935252314#

For customer service needs, please call 800.374.2441

1. Roll Call

2. Additions to agenda

3. Notes from previous meeting

4. AASHTO Report – Keith Platte

5. TRB/SCOR Report – Chris Hedges

6. OSTR Report – Tim Klein

7. FHWA Report – John Moulden

8. Region Chairs/Vice-Chairs Issues

9. Summer 2017 meeting, RAC 2 – Elisha Wright-Kehner, Joe Crabtree, Jason Siwula

10. Task Force Updates – David

    Administration – Allison Hardt
    Coordination and Collaboration – Cameron Kergaye
    Program Management and Quality – Joe Horton
    Value of Research – Bill Stone
    TKN –

11. Adjourn

Next Conference Call: Thursday, May 11, 2017

AASHTO Standing Committee on Research and Innovation

— Direction for 2017 —

Objectives

1. Provide a coordinated direction from the AASHTO Board of Directors about how research funding will be allocated and spent, while at the same time not discouraging jurisdictions from developing innovative ideas for new research.

   This is in accordance with the goals of the realigned AASHTO Committee structure.

2. Define processes and procedures to assure research translates into national policy at the committee level and results in the field at the state level.

Deliverables

The AASHTO Standing Committee on Research and Innovation will provide the following:

1. A process for selecting research projects which aligns with the policy direction provided by the AASHTO Board of Directors. Soliciting of innovations and research ideas will be tied to this process. This item will be delivered at the early summer workshop by the Standing Committee on Research and Innovation.

2. Processes and procedures for translating research into national policies and results at the state level. These items will be delivered at the early summer workshop by the Standing Committee on Research and Innovation.

3. A detailed presentation to the AASHTO Board of Directors with associated talking points for the annual meeting in September. The presentation will be developed during the summer by AASHTO staff.

(see proposed schedule on following page)

Proposed Schedule	Date	Responsibility
1. Research Meeting in Washington, D.C. • Set direction for committee • Select workshop date	March 20 - 22, 2017	
2. Select Workshop Facilitator	Spring, 2017	AASHTO Staff
3. Workshop: • Develop deliverables #1 and #2 as described on previous page	Early summer, 2017	Standing Committee on Research and Innovation Members
4. Develop Presentation	Throughout Summer	AASHTO Staff
5. Presentation to AASHTO Board of Directors at AASHTO Annual Meeting	September 25 - 28, 2017	Brian W. Ness, Chair

Recommended Regional "Sweet Sixteen" and Supplemental Brochures Selection Process

This guidance was put together to help standardize the Sweet Sixteen selection process with the understanding that each region will be able to modify the guidelines to meet their needs. Each Region shall review and vote on their regional Sweet Sixteen submittals starting April 1 through April 30.

The selection of the supplemental brochures will be based on the High Value Research (HVR) regional votes on safety projects and the selected additional topic for that year.

Research Advisory Council (RAC) region chairs must submit their final ballots to the Value of Research Task force for the Sweet Sixteen projects and overall ranking of supplemental brochure projects no later than May 15. This will allow the Sweet Sixteen recipient states ample time to decide on attending and to prepare their presentations for the RAC / TRB State Representatives Annual Meeting typically held in July. It will also provide time to develop the Supplemental Brochures that highlight the safety and another research topic.

Recommended steps in the voting process:

Step 1: After HVR submittal deadline (March 1), RAC regional chairs will coordinate their regional voting process for Sweet Sixteen projects, the safety supplemental brochure, and the additional supplemental brochure, the topic of which will be selected annually. Prior to the voting period, the Value of Research Task will identify the additional supplemental brochure topic based on the most popular (by number of submittals) category of projects. Each Region will be asked to provide four Sweet Sixteen projects, two additional safety projects, and two additional projects on the selected additional topic for inclusion in the supplemental brochures.

Step 2: The RAC region chair compiles the HVR projects for their region from the HVR website (http://www.highvalueresearch.org) and facilitates the voting for their top four HVR projects and both supplemental brochures.

The recommended process for voting is:

- Each RAC member should rank the projects in order of value, with one (1) being the top candidate project. Please note that RAC members should not rank their own state's projects.
- Each region may set up its own scoring protocol, but may use the following as a guideline.

  o Projects may address areas of expertise that are not common to state DOT research programs.
  o Research managers should be careful not to be naturally biased when rating projects that fall into their own expertise. To help address this concern, research managers may want to seek the advice of others in their agency to review and rate projects.
  o Projects may address topical or business areas that are not represented in all state DOTs. For example, only a portion of state DOTs handle motor vehicle functions, but some DOTs

fund policy or safety-related research that relate to motor vehicle activities. Evaluators should take this into account and review projects based on the merit to the sponsor agency, even if their own agency may not have an application for the research.

- o Evaluators should understand the impacts of projects considering both breadth and depth. For example, one project may have a minor impact across a wide range of applications. Another project might have a major impact in a single or small set of applications. Either project may be considered to have high value.

- The Regional Chair will collate the ballots from their region to create a ranked list of the submitted projects and will submit the list to the Value of Research Task Force.

Step 3: From the collated ballots, the Region Chair will identify the top four projects from their region as Sweet Sixteen projects and submit the list to the Value of Research Task Force. Note that the four HVR projects must come from different states.

STEP 4: The Region Chair will also identify the next two safety projects from each region for inclusion in the Safety Supplemental Brochure.

They will then identify the next most popular HVR topic and similarly the next two projects on that topic from each region will be included in that topic's Supplemental Brochure for the year.

From:	ListServ for AASHTO RAC Committee <AASHTO_RAC@lsw.nas.edu> on behalf of Crabtree, Joseph D <joe.crabtree@UKY.EDU>
Sent:	Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:59 PM
To:	AASHTO_RAC@lsw.nas.edu
Subject:	Re: [AASHTO_RAC] REMINDER: Register Now for the 2017 National RAC and TRB State Representatives Meeting

Colleagues,

I've been notified that the 877 phone number we provided for the Brown Hotel is not a valid number. If you want to make your hotel reservations by phone, you can use any of the following numbers:

888-888-5252
502-583-1234
502-209-7346

If you make your reservation by phone, be sure to request the AASHTO RAC room rate. Of course, you can also make your reservations online, as described in the email below and on the meeting homepage.

Joe

From: ListServ for AASHTO RAC Committee [mailto:AASHTO_RAC@LSW.NAS.EDU] **On Behalf Of** Crabtree, Joseph D
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 10:11 AM
To: AASHTO_RAC@LSW.NAS.EDU
Subject: [AASHTO_RAC] REMINDER: Register Now for the 2017 National RAC and TRB State Representatives Meeting

Fellow RAC Members,

This is a reminder that registration is open for the 2017 RAC and TRB State Representatives Meeting. Please see below for meeting information and a link to the meeting website. The early registration deadline is July 1, and the reduced rate for hotel rooms expires on that same date. On behalf of all of us in Region 2, we look forward to seeing you in Louisville!

Joe

Joe Crabtree, PhD, PE
DIRECTOR
Kentucky Transportation Center
University of Kentucky

joe.crabtree@uky.edu; 859-257-4508

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the Kentucky Transportation Center, and AASHTO are pleased to host the
2017 National RAC and TRB State Representatives Meeting at
The Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky
on July 24-27, 2017.

Conference Homepage:

2017 National RAC and TRB State Representatives Meeting

Registration Information

Early Registration Fee Prior to July 1, 2017
Members: $400
Non-Members: $450
Guest/Spouse: $150

Registration Fee After July 1, 2017
Members: $475
Non-Members: $525
Guest/Spouse: $150

You can register by calling us at 800-432-0719 or register through the button below.

Register Here

Hotel Information

For hotel reservations, contact The Brown Hotel at 888-888-5252. In order to receive the reduced rate of $121, be sure to mention the AASHTO RAC Room Rate.

Reservations can also be made online here:

RAC 2017 Hotel Reservations

Sponsorship Information

A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available.

Platinum Sponsor: $5,000
Gold Sponsor: $3,000
Silver Sponsor: $2,000
Bronze Sponsor: $1,500
Supporting Sponsor: $500

You can sign up for a sponsorship by contacting us at 800-432-0719 or sign up online.

Sponsorship Registration

Exhibit Information

Exhibit booths will be set up in the Louis XVI and J. Graham Brown meeting rooms on the third floor.
View a live floor plan.

Exhibit Registration Fee: $700 Includes 1 conference registration, and 8x8 booth space.

You can register for an exhibit booth by contacting us at 800-432-0719 or you can register online below.

Exhibit Registration

For additional information on the conference visit:
[2017 National RAC and TRB State Representatives Meeting.](#)

Kentucky Transportation Center | 800-432-0719 | www.kyt2.com

STAY CONNECTED:

RAC_REG4 Subscribers as of 04/20/2017

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