

The RAC Region I teleconference was held on Thursday 3/2/17.

The following individuals participated.

Bradley Overturf	Conn. DOT
Stephanie Dock	District of Columbia
Dale Peabody	Maine DOT
Allison Hardt	Maryland DOT
Hua Xiang	Maryland DOT
Ann Scholz (Chair)	New Hampshire DOT
Robert Stack	NYSDOT
Lisa Tarson	Penn DOT
Mike Sock	RIDOT
Mark Felag	RI DOT
Emily Parkany	VTrans
Keith Platte	AASHTO
Jon Williams	TRB
Chris Jolly (Secretary)	FHWA- Vermont

Minutes from 2/02/17 call were approved.

#### **Old Business:**

Bio. for Emily Parkany, the new Research Program Manager for the Vermont Agency of Transportation was included as an attachment for today's agenda.

No minutes were available from last RAC Leadership call.

#### **RAC Task Forces/Announcements:**

**Administration-** Looking to update the DOT fact sheets posted on the SCOR RAC website. Please update. Please let Allison know if current information is accurate and an update is not necessary. The survey on the RAC winter meeting has been completed. 30 responses-all positive. Will use feedback to plan for next year's meeting. Can still let Allison know if you have any feedback.

**Coordination and Collaboration-** Group will be resuming meetings soon. Unfunded research needs search is a current area of development.

**Program Management and Quality-** 30 responses were received on the survey on future initiatives. Another survey will be issued after the results of the initial survey are evaluated.

**Value of Research-** There is a pre planning call meeting schedule for 3.3.17. A Synthesis topic was submitted on Performance measures. HVR submittals should all be made via website. Had a general discussion with some minor issues States have

experienced in making submittal. Concluded problems may be user error. HVR submittals are due the end of March. Would like at least one submittal from each state. Per Dale, lets dig deep to get submittals in. Had a brief discussion on the Sweet 16 process.

**Transportation Knowledge Networks-** No update. See discussion under “New Business”

**Topic Presentation:** Jon Williams from TRB gave a presentation on the NCHRP Synthesis Studies- NCHRP Special project 20-05. Started off with a general overview of TRB and the services provided and then a detailed discussion on Synthesis studies including funding/submission of topics/selection process. Had a brief discussion on navigating the TRB website to find completed Synthesis Reports.

Jon also gave a shout out to the NCHRP “IDEA” program. Funded at \$1.3 million per year. Looking to fund high risk/high payoff ideas. Bottom line- if someone shows up at a DOT and indicates they have a great idea but the DOT does not want to take a chance – send them to the IDEA program.

Next Topic Presentation will be on Innovation Implementation by Cameron Kergaye of the Utah DOT.

**New Business:**

Had a general discussion on continuation of the AASHTO RAC Transportation Knowledge Network (TKN) Task Force. Background information was included which had pros and cons of continuing with this Task Force. Decision must take into consideration the new AASHTO restructured Agency Administration Managing Committee on Knowledge Management. This topic will be on the agenda for the next Leadership call. Leadership is looking for input from all RAC Regions. Let Ann know if you have any comments on keeping TKN or moving responsibilities to the new Knowledge Management Committee.

Emily is looking for examples of Cooperative Agreements with Universities. Has received a few examples to date which have been very helpful.

**Next Call 4/6/17**