

The RAC Region I teleconference was held on Thursday 02/04/16. The following individuals participated.

Allison Hardt	Maryland DOT
Curtis Bradley (Vice Chair)	Mass DOT
Dale Peabody	Maine DOT
Brad Overture	Conn DOT
Beth Klemann	New Hampshire DOT
Mike Sock	RI DOT
Lisa Tarson	PennDOT
Gary Frederick	NYS DOT
Chris Jolly (Secretary)	FHWA- Vermont

Minutes from 12/03/15 call were approved.

Old Business:

- a. RAC Leadership call notes from the last call are posted on the RPPM site. The SCOR fall meeting was held on 12/8/15. Discussion topics included national emphasis of freight issues, \$2 million available for NCHRP projects and the new FAST Act Highway Bill. Next SCOR meeting is scheduled for 3/17 and 18. It was noted that there was a very good session at TRB that USDOT conducted on public access of records. Applications for the SMART City Challenge are due 2/5- \$40 million has been allocated.

RAC Task Forces/Announcements:

Administration- During the RAC winter meeting an agenda was developed for the “Best Practices” session for the annual summer meeting in Providence. The Task Force will be soliciting topics for the annual meeting. Requesting feedback on the RAC SCOR web site. Sent out a recent survey on the RAC winter meeting held at TRB. Would like feedback.

Coordination and Collaboration- A brochure was developed about the RPPM website and distributed at TRB. Looking to promote the use of the RPPM site.

Program Management and Quality- No updates.

Value of Research- There was a recent solicitation for High Value research projects. Looking to receive at **least 1** proposal from each state within RAC 1. It was noted that there were some initial problems with uploading the proposals to the RPM site but those were quickly resolved.

Transportation Knowledge Networks- Most recent meeting was cancelled. No updates.

Dale noted that there is \$300,000 available from NCHRP to help Task Force's complete projects. Also Chris Hedges is looking for more participation from RAC members in the Task Force panels- more to come.

Topic Presentation:

Gary Frederick provided an overview of the peer exchange that NYSDOT conducted last September. It was a very successful peer review focusing on key functions and skills needed for successful research program management, contract administration, fiscal management, project management, staffing and training. Various states and partners participated including NJ., MA., PA., FHWA, USDOT along with other NY state agencies. There are a lot of similarities and common issues/concerns amongst the various states. One of the major goals of the review was to determine and document how to have a successful research program. It is expected that a final report will be released shortly once the final review is completed.

National RAC meeting 2016- Providence, RI:

Progress continues to be made on updating the agenda and sessions. Potential Sponsors have been identified and information sent to meeting planners. Web site is very close to being live. Agenda has been updated. Discussion on IT equipment. It was agreed that a specific list of equipment and who will bring it needs to be developed. Need to identify who will be coordinating each session. It was noted that the Task forces may be taking the lead. Next planning call is scheduled for 2/18. Will work on agenda and who will be leading the sessions.

New Business:

- a. High value research submittals due 3/31
- b. Looking for a volunteer for the next "Topic Presentation" on the 3/3 call. Let Ann or Curtis know.
- c. Next Leadership call scheduled for 2/11. Let Curtis know of any issues. Curtis will give update about Annual meeting on the call.
- d. Vermont peer exchange is scheduled for next week.
- e. NH will be hosting a peer exchange in the fall. It was noted that there is an existing pooled funded project to help organize a peer exchange.

NEXT CALL 3/3/16