



The RAC Region 1 teleconference was held on Thursday 4/6/17

The following individuals participated:

Flavia Pereira	Connecticut DOT
Stephanie Dock	District of Columbia DOT
Curtis Bradley	Massachusetts DOT
Dale Peabody	Maine DOT
Allison Hardt	Maryland DOT
Hua Xiang	Maryland DOT
Ann Scholz	New Hampshire DOT
Beth Klemann	New Hampshire DOT
Camille Crichton-Sumners	New Jersey DOT
Wes Yang	New York State DOT
Lisa Tarson	Pennsylvania DOT
Emily Parkany	Vermont DOT
Cameron Kergaye	Utah DOT

Minutes from the 3/2/17 call were approved.

Old Business:

No minutes were available from the last RAC leadership call, but Ann noted that the UTC competition is on hold for now with no update on the regions to be re-competed.

The USDOT RD&T 5-year strategic plan is now available online. If anyone has a chance to read and see what is important for the states, please share with the group.

Region 1 will need someone to step into the vice chair role this summer, with the expectation that it will turn into the Chair role in 2 years. Start thinking about volunteering if you have not served before.

RAC Task Forces/Announcements:

Administration: starting the process of designing the “Your Role in RAC” session, now in its 4th year. This is a Q&A session, a discussion between the RAC members with the audience both asking and answering the questions. If you have suggestions for topics, please send to Allison.

Website working group is looking for feedback on where they should focus on – things to be refreshed, updated, or revised. Send to Allison or Beth.

Updated State DOT factsheets on website are coming along. PA, MA, and DE are the only updates missing from our region. PA and MA are working on theirs, so we are very close to having everyone.

Coordination and Collaboration: no update, there has not been a call

Program Management & Quality: 38 responses were received on the survey they did and the task force will be using the results to update their strategic plan from 2012. IP and Copyright were the lowest ranked items and so will be monitored but not an active topic. Quality and timeliness of deliverables was the top ranked item and PM&Q is looking to potentially address this topic at the summer meeting.

Value of Research: There was a Synthesis topic submitted on updating the report on research performance measures. High value research is a top item for this group and will be discussed further down the agenda.



Transportation Knowledge Networks: Has not officially been dissolved, but also has not met lately. Will be discussed next week at next leadership meeting.

Topic Presentation

Cameron Kergaye of Utah DOT gave a presentation on Innovation Implementation that he gave at TRB as part of a session arranged by Jack Jernigan of TFHRC. A PDF of the presentation is posted on RPPM.

Cameron started with a brief overview of the agency, and that research is embedded throughout – “innovating” is in the agency’s mission statement. Some of the innovation really got jump started with the need to reconstruct I-15 before the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Due to short lead time, they could not do traditional design-bid-build. They got SEP-15 status to do Design-Build. The starting innovation was in contracting, but they got a lot of other innovations along the way, and they have gotten a lot of research around this too. Some examples are:

- HOT lanes they added when they realized the new HOV lanes would have capacity. There is a research effort with BYU to use a carousel method to figure out how everything is performing.
- Use of geofoam for bridge abutments
- CM-GC, which they have continued to use since. This saves UDOT money and comes up with good ideas.

Cameron also noted other innovations that are now in use for intersection design (continuous flow, diverging diamond, thru-turns) and accelerated bridge construction that have been tested and are now in common use in Utah. The projects have not all been for roads, either – there have been a number of multimodal projects and partnerships. Cameron also pointed to a few other research projects in the works that will hopefully change how the agency works (wrong way driving signs, recessed LED markers, aerial LiDAR) and two more projects that were very implementation-focused in their original conception – a bicycle and pedestrian counting guidebook and a new concrete design for infrastructure repair.

Capturing and Communicating Innovation: You cannot generate innovation in a bubble, but instead need to work with many different partners across modes. UDOT is trying to establish an innovation working group to try to capture the different groups working with innovation around the DOT. Research does have other committees, but there was not a good way to share ideas across the groups. They have also developed an annual “Innovation and Efficiencies Report” brochure that captures the things they are trying to do to support innovation. Some of the innovations they have highlighted are not “research” per se, but this flyer attempts to share good ideas around the agency.

They have also been working on measuring the benefits of innovation. They use a fairly simple equation and focus on projects within the last 2 years since staff turnover starts to affect memory of the project after that.

UDOT works to reap the benefits of agency participation in national organizations by tracking who is involved and supporting them in bringing back and implementing good ideas. Interestingly, they seek to keep members on committees with particular relevance to UDOT through succession planning and mentoring. Ideas for innovation often come from elsewhere too – an example of this is the book discussions they hold with someone in leadership. This is based on something MN does.

At the end of the presentation, Camille mentioned that she took Cameron’s presentation from TRB with her leadership and she’s been invited to speak to senior leadership next month on some of these same ideas.

New Business

High Value Research selection

Officially ends tomorrow after technical difficulties. We are still missing a few states, but better than last year.



Ann will send a ballot out with projects from our region. Each member will rank their top 4 (none of which are their own submittals), then also identify your top 2 for safety and the top 2 for the other high priority topics value of research wants to identify.

2017 Summer meeting session topic on best practices

Meeting organizers are looking for a Region 1 participant to speak to this topic – we need a volunteer! They want to talk about best practices for

- Contracting processes (consultant and university)
- Scoping of contracts / research projects
- Timeliness and quality of deliverables
- Implementation processes for said deliverables

Contact Tyson if you have questions.

Other Discussion

When will we see the selected NCHRP projects and the results of the ballots?

- RAC typically receives the proposed NCHRP program around 3 to 4 weeks after the March SCOR deliberations. A program summary and solicitation for panel members is received.

Who is involved in their STICs? How do research people contribute to those conversations, and their role in EDC or SHRP2?

- DC and NH head theirs, though DC noted theirs is not a very active STIC currently.
- PA it started in Research, but has been passed to the Bureau of Innovation; Lisa is only involved in the quarterly meetings, not the TAGs or the committees.
- Suggestion of doing a RAC survey on this. Emily and Ann may work on that.

Adjournment - Next meeting:

May 4, 2017 1:30 pm