

RAC Region 2 Conference Call June 9, 2015

Attendees: David Jared (GDOT-Chair), Elisha Wright-Kehner (ASHTD), Cindy Smith (MDOT-Secretary), James Watkins (MDOT), Darryll Dockstader (FDOT), Steve Bolyard, Terry Swygert (SCDOT), Merrill Zwanka (SCDOT), Joe Crabtree (KTC—University of Kentucky), Mustan Kadibhai (NCDOT), Binh Bui (GDOT), Supriya Kamatkar (GDOT), Michelle Owens (ALDOT)

Membership/Leadership News:

Membership: Mark Morvant (LADOTD/LTRC) retired; Tyson Rupnow will be taking his place. Tyson's RAC membership is pending. Welcome also to GDOT's newest RAC members, Supriya Kamatkar and Binh Bui.

Leadership: Leadership of Region 2 will change at the meeting in Portland, Oregon, in July. David will pass the chairmanship to Elisha; Cindy will be Vice Chair; and Jason Siwula will be Secretary. Michelle will also assist with notes as needed.

SCOR Update

State DOT CEOs now have NCHRP ballots for approval, and the due date is 6/22/2015. The projects require 2/3 majority.

Nominations for NCHRP synthesis panelists is 6/12/15, and Jon Williams is the contact at TRB for this. NCHRP project panelist nominations for project panels are due 6/26, and Adrienne Blackwell is the contact for this.

RAC Summer Meeting

Early bird registration cutoff is July 21.

Region Breakout: The regional meeting will be held on Monday, July 27 from 3:00-5:15 pm before the task force meetings to give new attendees opportunity to meet their regional peers early in the conference.

Region Dinner: The dinner will be Wednesday night (July 29). To go to some restaurants in Portland would require use of public transit, and the nearest transit location is 1.5 miles from the hotel. However, there are several good restaurants near the hotel, and the committee chose this option.

Regional Report: Regional reports will be given to the entire RAC group on Thursday morning, July 30. The new officers will give the report, unless the RAC Vice Chair wishes to deliver it.

Task Force News/Membership:

Task force meetings will be held Wednesday, July 29, from 3:00-5:15 pm. There is a vacancy for Region 2 on Program Management & Quality Task Force. Bill Barstis (MDOT) is interested. He is not yet an official RAC member yet, but he should be in the next few months. Participation in task forces is encouraged and is important to SCOR and RAC leadership. One can sign up as a friend rather than a member.

FHWA Update

There will be room on future conference calls for 5-10 minute FHWA updates.

Southeast Transportation Consortium (STC)

No representative from LADOTD/LTRC joined the conference call. The committee discussed the following STC items:

Project RFP: The RFP for the research performance measures (RPM) project has been through TAC review, but has not yet been advertised on LTRC's website. Kirk Zeringue was taking the lead on STC, but we are unsure if Tyson will now be over STC. The GDOT study on performance measures has first-round approval and should be active in 2-3 months.

Next Meeting: The committee decided to defer discussion on this until we can talk with LADOTD/LTRC. David will reach out to Skip, and the committee will discuss further in Portland. Meeting timing usually coincides with synthesis project timelines, so STC can possibly meet in the spring of 2016. Alabama and Kentucky expressed interest in hosting the next STC meeting.

SHRP2 News

Binh gave an update on GDOT's SHRP2 implementation. He spoke with SHRP2 implementation management, who advised that DOTs can apply for earlier round products in Round 6. GDOT has interested champions on the Construction/Materials product.

Elisha asked if anyone received SHRP2 funds for the utilities product from Round 5. Joe said that Kentucky has utilities-related project going on, but will follow up on this.

Regarding good results with SHRP2 products, Elisha mentioned C19 Project Delivery, and David said that R26 (pavement preservation) has given GDOT good results.

UTC Update

Recompetition: Joe attended the CUTC meeting in New Jersey two weeks ago. Since transportation funding consists of MAP-21 extensions, there is no news of any recompetition for UTC funds. There is talk of another extension through end of calendar year with the intent of passing a 6-year reauthorization bill once the extension expires. If this happens,

recompetition may happen sometime in mid- to late 2016.

Conferences: There is UTC conference in the fall for southeast region. There was a conference in March in Birmingham, Alabama. A link to the presentations from that meeting is below:

<http://www.ncitec.msstate.edu/2015-utc/>

Topics at the Birmingham conference included infrastructure, logistics, design, and a range of other topics. Several UTCs attended (STRIDE/University of Florida, Mississippi State, et al.). Upcoming UTC conferences include one in Florida in October, and one next year in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is the regional breakout on July 27 at 3:00 pm in Portland, Oregon.

The meeting was adjourned.