

AASHTO-Research Advisory Committee, Region 2
Minutes
Quarterly Conference Call
June 19, 2014

ATTENDEES

David Jared (GDOT-Chair);Darryll Dockstader (FDOT); Neil Mastin (NCDOT); Skip Paul, Mark Morvant (LDOTD); Mike Pumphrey (WVDOT); James Watkins (MDOT); Mike Sanders, Terry Swygert, Merrill Zwanka (SCDOT); Jeff Brown, Michelle Owens (ALDOT); Joe Crabtree (Univ. of KY); Jason Siwula (KYTC); Stephanie Vincent (TDOT). All states represented except Virginia and Arkansas.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes. The minutes for the March 2014 meeting were reviewed and formally approved.

Membership News. David Jared noted that Jason Siwula is now an official RAC member. David also announced that Elisha Wright-Kehner (ASHTD) will be back at work around July 8-9, per Sarah Tamayo (ASHTD). Cindy Smith (MDOT) is healing well from her surgery and should return to work in another 4-6 weeks.

SCOR Update/Solicitation. There have been positive outcomes as a result of Region 2 requests for project prioritizing during the March SCOR meeting. Many of the projects were approved; however, money ran out and left one Region 2 request on the table. Randy Battey's (ex-Mississippi DOT) position, which is a CEO position on SCOR, is still vacant. There have been some delays with the CEO final approvals of the FY 2015 NCHRP projects selected. A total of 29 states have submitted their ballots; the outstanding states will receive follow-up. David will check to see if anyone from Region 2 has not submitted their ballot. The next SCOR meeting is December 3-4 in Irvine, CA.

FHWA Update. FHWA staff were not able to participate in the call. Turner-Fairbank is reaching out to each FHWA division office to promote "Research 101" training. The idea behind the training is to get the division offices involved, to ensure that all rules and regulations are followed, and that funds are expended appropriately. Federal audits of state research programs may be coming. Louisiana had an audit and is willing to share documentation. Jeff indicated that Alabama is headed into an audit and would appreciate a copy. Skip will forward the documents. There is a new FHWA Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) coordinator, David Pamplin (david.pamplin@dot.gov).

Southeast Transportation Consortium (STC) Update. All Region 2 states are now participating in the STC, with FDOT and SCDOT recently joining. STC budgets have been sent out. If your state's funds have been transferred but are appearing on the Fund's Received Table

as “not received,” please contact Mark. The quarterly report has been posted to the TPF website. To date \$283,000 has been received, while \$327,000 has been committed. The \$283,000 will support four new synthesis studies. To fund additional studies, all \$327,000 needs to be received. STC funds will cover travel to the upcoming STC meeting in West Virginia. Mark is working with Donny and Mike on meal reimbursements. Monday, October 20, is scheduled as a travel day, and on October 21, per diem will be collected to pay for the dinners at Cooper’s Rock near Morgantown, WV. Dinner on Wednesday, October 22, will be at a local restaurant. The biggest meeting obstacle is the flights to Morgantown versus Pittsburgh, which is 120 miles north of Morgantown. It would be about \$600 less per flight to fly into Pittsburgh. If flights can be scheduled into Pittsburgh, a carpool/vanpool can be coordinated to deliver everyone to Morgantown. One person per state will be reimbursed for travel expenses. Please submit agenda ideas to Donny. Two speakers have been scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS

Task Forces. David encouraged Region 2 members to get involved in RAC task forces and to consider taking a lead role in at least one subtask that the Task Forces are managing. He noted that the PM&Q Task Force co-chair position is open.

SHRP2 Updates. Kentucky is applying for SHRP2 assistance.

UTC Updates. Joe advised that for the southeastern UTC based at UT-Knoxville, projects are getting underway. The focus is on comprehensive transportation safety.

New Region 2 Initiatives. David encouraged Region 2 membership to be thinking about new initiatives that Region 2 could tackle together that would also benefit AASHTO-RAC at-large.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at the AASHTO-RAC summer meeting in Madison, WI (Wednesday, July 23, 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. CST). Call-in access will be provided.

ADJOURN