

**AASHTO Research Advisory Committee (RAC)
Region 2 Teleconference – Meeting Notes
September 8, 2015 – 11:00 AM EDT**

Participants:

Elisha Wright-Kehner – Arkansas DOT – Region 2 Chair
David Jared – Georgia DOT
James Watkins – Mississippi DOT
Joe Crabtree – Kentucky Transportation Center
Darryll Dockstader – Florida DOT
Merrill Zwanka – South Carolina DOT
Jason Siwula – Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Michelle Owens – Alabama DOT
Tyson Rupnow – Louisiana DOTD

Opening Business:

The minutes from the July 27 meeting in Portland, Oregon were reviewed and approved with minor revisions. (Joe Crabtree made those revisions and emailed the corrected/approved minutes to everyone on the afternoon of 9/8/15.)

Elisha noted that we (RAC 2) are responsible for planning the agenda for the RAC meeting in January at the TRB Annual Meeting.

Task Force Updates:

David Jared reported for the Program Management and Quality (PM&Q) Task Force

- The Research Implementation Facilitators group is currently “looking for a home.” Should that group merge with RAC, does it belong under TRB, or does it fit somewhere else?
 - There was some excellent discussion of this.
 - David is waiting to hear back from Binh on this.

Jason Siwula provided an update on the Value of Research Task Force

- Jason will chair a working group on performance measures. He asked for volunteers to serve on this working group.
 - Elisha and Michelle expressed interest in serving.

STC Update:

Tyson Rupnow provided an update on the activities of the Southeastern Transportation Consortium

- For the project on the Value of Research, West Virginia University is the selected contractor. We are getting final comments from the proposal review committee.

- The schedule for that project will impact the scheduling of the next STC meeting.
- LTRC will provide us with updates on the deliverables for the earlier projects.

Membership News:

David noted that the research program in Tennessee is currently in a state of transition. Stephanie Vincent, who was managing the program, left TDOT, and Tanisha Hall, her division director, is planning to restaff TDOT's research group.

SHRP2 News:

Elisha noted that Arkansas got two products for Round 6. Round 7 will be in Q1 of 2016.

UTC News:

Joe sent out an email to the RAC2 membership (just prior to the teleconference) with a link to a USDOT website with examples of newsletters from selected UTCs. (This was an action item from the July 27 RAC2 meeting.)

Other Business:

David noted that Georgia has a peer exchange scheduled for September 22-24. They will look at program-level implementation. They do an annual implementation report; David will provide this to anyone who is interested in seeing it. (So many people expressed interest in this that David decided to just send a link to the entire RAC2 distribution list.)

Jason noted that Kentucky is planning to host the national RAC Summer Meeting in 2017. At the next RAC2 meeting, he will ask for volunteers to serve on a planning committee. David noted that we have a lot of experience within the group: Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Arkansas have all hosted previous meetings.

It was noted that Skip Paul will be retiring sometime between October 30 and December 15.

Elisha noted that the next regional teleconference will be on December 8, 2015 at 11:00 AM EST. She asked members to please let her know if they have any items for the agenda.

Elisha will ask for help in putting together the agenda for the RAC winter meeting, which will be on Sunday Evening during the TRB Annual Meeting. The RAC2 regional meeting will probably be on Monday (as it was last year).

There being no further business, the teleconference was adjourned.