

**AASHTO RAC Region 4 Monthly Teleconference
May 19, 2016**

Participants:

Present	Name	Organization
	Carolyn Morehouse	Alaska DOT
	Jean Nehme	Arizona DOT
	Alicia Urban	Arizona DOT
	Anne Ellis	Arizona DOT
	Jim Appleton	California DOT
Yes	Pete Zaniewski	California DOT
Yes	Joe Horton – Vice Chair	California DOT
	Aziz Khan	Colorado DOT
	Amanullah Mommandi	Colorado DOT
	Wayne Kawahara	Hawaii DOT
	Ned Parrish	Idaho TD
Yes	Sue Sillick	Montana DOT
	Mostafa Jamshidi	Nebraska DOR
Yes	Ken Chambers - Secretary	Nevada DOT
	Randall Soderquist	New Mexico DOT
	Amy Estelle	New Mexico DOT
	Ron Horner	North Dakota DOT
Yes	Gary Hook	Oklahoma DOT
Yes	Teresa Stephens	Oklahoma DOT
	Bryan Cooper	Oklahoma DOT
Yes	Michael Bufalino	Oregon DOT
	Dave Huft	South Dakota DOT
	Dana Glover	Texas DOT
	Rocio Perez	Texas DOT
Yes	Wade Odell	Texas DOT
Yes	Cameron Kergaye - Chair	Utah DOT
Yes	David Stevens	Utah DOT
	Leni Oman	Washington DOT
	Rhonda Brooks	Washington DOT
	Tim M ^c Dowell	Wyoming DOT

Others in attendance were: Kevin Pete, TxDOT.

Welcome and New Introductions – Cameron Kergaye reminded us the minutes from the April 21 teleconference are posted on the AASHTO SCOR/RAC web page at: <http://research.transportation.org/Pages/Region-4-Meeting-Notes.aspx>. Pete Zaniewski and Wade Odell volunteered to review the minutes before distribution.

High Value Research Voting – David Stevens -

Voting complete, official notification was sent by Bill Stone. David reviewed the process: two rounds; all submissions were in the first round. Two clear winners advanced, and a second round was conducted at a clear break point. Options happened to avoid duplication from a single state. We sent good projects forward to the nation, and learned a lot about other states' good projects.

RAC4 Secretary Position – Joe Horton

Joe has contacted two interested members, and will be making follow-up calls before making the final announcement in the next day or two.

TRB/RAC Meeting; Providence, RI, in July – Cameron Kergaye

Please register and get hotel reservations so the rooms are set aside. If you can't make it, you can cancel, but it will be a high-demand season so we should reserve our rooms.

Sue Sillick volunteered to organize a Region dinner for Wednesday night. Joe Horton volunteered to assist by sampling any likely spots as he visits before the meeting.

Ahead of the Curve on Sunday: there could be late openings and though it is getting late with respect to travel reservations, Cameron will notify us if the opportunity arises. (Non-state reps may be eligible for reimbursement for the extra day's expenses.)

RAC Leadership Call Highlights – Cameron Kergaye

- Draft minutes are available, and Cameron will share
- Jim McDonnell – comprehensive committee Review – AASHTO. More discussions over the summer, and final recommendations from the board in November. We may hear more in July
- FAST Act– discussions of concerns about earmarks, questions related to research and funding cuts
- Round 7 SHRP2 product reviews going on now
- Jim McDonnell will be replaced by Keith Platte as our liaison to AASHTO. Keith will be at the meeting this summer.
- Chris Jenks is out of the office temporarily; send correspondence to Chris Hedges.
- NCHRP project panel nominations were due last week, synthesis panel solicitation about a week later; they are looking to streamlining that.
- OSTR – Tim Klein
 - UTC proposals were due May 13
 - Smart City Challenge – The finalists are Austin, Columbus, Denver, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Portland and San Francisco. Secretary Foxx visiting finalists; final selection mid-June;
 - There is a new [Technology Transfer Primer](#) that includes integration with research process
 - A new SPR coordinator is being selected and will be named this summer
 - Peggy Knight has been selected for a SCOR seat
 - Coordination and Collaboration task force: five activities have been identified – please consider serving on a Task Force, and this one is accepting volunteers.

Research Marketing – round robin, led by Sue Sillick

Sue shared a presentation of seven keys that Montana DOT has identified. Montana's research program shares all information on their web page, which is heavily utilized.

Proposal Process and Requirements – round robin, led by Sue Sillick

Ken – NV – problem statements are collected and ranked, and the higher-ranking problem statements are announced for proposal. Proposals are open competitive, and recently one university complained that proposals, while the grading system is clearly identified, are not ranked with consideration to the content of the problem statement.

Wade – TX – similar situation (faster, cheaper receives award) in that a panel does rating (first blind, then with facilities and biographies and ranks are combined) and selects best overall proposal.

Cameron – UT –they typically give the work to the submitter of the problem statement. This is considered sole-source procurement, and considered the submitter's intellectual property, and selection is based on importance and implementation potential. They conduct workshops for submitter to present and discuss problem statements for technical groups.

Sue – MT – reviewed program and process (experimental and research projects): their awards are not guaranteed to submitter; panel selects (consider public vs. private submitters and announce appropriately). Private/nonprofit: RFP process, so no guarantees to submitter. Champion presents scope of work to the review committee before proposal. Sue's presentation contained details about their process that represent many strengths.

Q: "Experimental" projects: RFP?

A: Yes: typical construction-style process, evaluated internally.

Next month's topic will be "researcher selection."

Round Table - Open Discussion

Q: has everyone been contacted for TRB visit?

A: CA: set up months ago for August 2-4

NV: not contacted yet.

UT: contacted February. Consider contacting James Bryant

TX: visit scheduled for early December to coincide with an Every Day Counts seminar and peer review.

Teresa Stephens asked if any states were considering a peer exchange that Oklahoma may participate in before they host one of their own? States expected to hold peer exchanges in the relatively near future include: CA, UT, TX, and MT.

Q: How do you select a theme (e.g., Implementation) for a peer exchange? Themes maybe be participant-driven.

A: Noting in stone as far as a process. The theme can be identified as participants commit.

Consider using the pooled fund project hosted by Oregon for administration of peer exchanges. Exchanges are 100% SPR-eligible, so the Oregon pooled-fund project makes the administration of peer exchanges much easier for approval and execution, including travel reimbursement.

Round Table - Open Discussion - continued

David Stevens reminded us that [TPF-5\(064\), Western Alliance for Quality Transportation Construction \(WAQTC\)](#), is beginning a new life under [solicitation #1430](#). Utah will continue as the lead state for the next five-year iteration. If you are interested in participating or learning more, contact David at (801) 589-8340 or david.stevens@utah.gov

Q: Has there been any further discussion on the Region 4 pooled fund project:

A: Pete Zaniewski confirmed that 5 or 6 topics/ideas were collected and he had arranged a draft agenda and will resend. We may consider placing it on the agenda next month. Cameron commented that the Southeast Transportation Consortium continues to use their pooled fund project effectively.

Our next conference call is scheduled for **Thursday, June 17th** (10:00 Hawaii Time, 11:00 Alaska Time, 12:00 Pacific Time, 1:00 Mountain Time, and 2:00 Central Time).

Please e-mail potential agenda items to Cameron at ckergaye@utah.gov .