

Minutes

Region 2 Breakfast Meetings AASHTO-RAC Summer Meeting July 26-27, 2011

Attendees

Jeff Brown, ALDOT (Chair)	Mark Morvant, LDOTD
Michelle Owens, ALDOT	Skip Paul, LDOTD
Jessie Jones, Arkansas HTD	Cindy Smith, Mississippi DOT (MSDOT)
Darryll Dockstader, FDOT	James Watkins, Mississippi DOT
David Jared, GDOT (Vice-Chair)	Moy Biswas, NCDOT
J.T. Rabun, GDOT	Mike Sanders, SCDOT
Jamie Byrd, Kentucky Transp. Cabinet	Don Williams, West Virginia DOT
Joe Crabtree, Kentucky Transp. Center	

1. *Introductions of Attendees*

Ms. Jessie Jones (AHTD) attended for Elisha Wright-Kehner. Jeff also introduced Ms. Michelle Owens, who joined his staff recently.

2. *Region II Vice-Chair installation*

Upon Mike Perfater's retirement, the Region II Vice-Chair position became vacant. Skip and Moy received nominations and distributed a ballot to Region II (David Jared, GDOT, and James Watkins, MSDOT). A quorum of votes was received, and David was elected as the new Vice-Chair.

3. *"State of Your Research Program"*

Each state provided a brief update on the status of their program. A summary of the news items, as taken from the Region 2 report on July 28, is below.

- All attending states reported stable programs with positive improvements.
- Most improvements were in the project development process.
- Four states held successful Peer Exchanges (AL, GA, NC, SC, WV).
- Research manuals were developed or revised in three states (GA, MS, WV).

4. Region II Dinner

The dinner is to be held at Tuscano's in Salt Lake City.

5. *Southeastern Transportation Consortium Update* (Mark Morvant, Skip Paul)

- The STC website is live (<http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/stc/>).
- A database of participating states' research projects has been created.

- The Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) study funding STC is to be extended for another three years (\$5K annual contribution/state).
- The STC annual meeting is to be held October 25-27, 2011 to focus on RFQ's for regional synthesis studies. Location is TBD, but tentatively Baton Rouge, LA. Input is needed on agenda. States should review project database, indicating which projects are complete and advising Mark which ones are missing.
- A separate TPF study on high RAP content, developed by STC, is to be posted soon, and participants are needed. Cost per state is tentatively \$27,500/year for three years.

6. *NCHRP Balloting Process*

- Skip Paul explained the process.
- Skip and Jeff Brown, along with two CEO's from Region II (see Item #9 below), represent the region on AASHTO's Standing Committee on Research (SCOR), which makes final selection of NCHRP projects to be funded each year. Region II states may contact Skip and Jeff directly to request prioritization of particular NCHRP problem statements in the selection process.
- Solicitations for FY 2013 problem statements are out. Submittals are due Sept. 15, 2011.

7. *RAC Task Force Participation*

All Region II RAC members are encouraged to participate in at least one of the standing RAC Task Forces listed below (chairs in parentheses):

- Administration (Skip Paul, Steve Pepin)
- Coordination & Collaboration (Sue Sillick, Nancy Chinlund)
- Program Management (Michael Bonini, David Jared)
- Value of Research (contact: Dale Peabody)
- Transportation Knowledge Networks (Leni Oman)

8. *Input for Region II Report*

The Region II report may be found on the meeting website at <http://research.transportation.org/Pages/2011NationalRACMeeting.aspx> (see Thursday, July 28, RAC Regional and Task Force Reports).

9. *Miscellaneous Items*

- *SCOR Opening, Region II.* With Dr. Gary Allen's retirement from VDOT, there is an opening in Region II representation on SCOR. This opening is for a chief administrative officer, chief highway engineer, or other department-level administrative official. Please contact Sandra Larson, Iowa DOT and RAC Chair, for details.
- *Arkansas HTD Membership.* Elisha Wright-Kehner was appointed as Research Engineer for Arkansas HTD, since Chris Hanning has left AHTD.

- *Virginia DOT Membership.* As above, Dr. Gary Allen and Mike Perfater retired from Virginia Technology and Innovation Research Center (VTIRC), and Dr. Jose Gomez was appointed as the new VTIRC director. (Note: Dr. Gomez, Michael Brown, and Cathy McGhee were appointed as Virginia's new RAC members following the summer meeting.)
- *Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA).* John Moulden and Jack Jernigan (FHWA) provided an update on FFATA. The Act does apply to SP&R, Research funding (awards of \$25K or greater). FHWA's Chief Financial Officer is to follow up with FHWA division offices re: details.
- *USDOT RD&T Strategic Plan.* This is pending, and comments are appreciated from the states. Regional comments may also be appropriate (TBD).
- *High Value Research.* A brochure of the top 16 selections is to be distributed in the near future. Sandra Larson suggested that states begin thinking about possible nominations for the next summer meeting.
- *2013 TRB/RAC Summer Meeting.* Region II is to host the 2013 Summer Meeting. Possible locations include Savannah, GA, and Baton Rouge, LA. This will tentatively be discussed at our next regional conference call.