

MEETING NOTES

RAC Leadership Teleconference
Thursday, February 11, 2016
1:30 – 3:30 pm, EDT

In attendance: Dale Peabody (Chair), Allison Hardt, Chris Jenks, Elisha Wright-Kehner, Rick Kreider, Cynthia Jones, Cameron Kergaye, Tim Klein Jim McDonnell, John Moulden, Keith Platte, Cindy Smith, Bill Stone,

Decisions and action items are underscored.

1. Roll Call

2. Additions to agenda

None

3. Notes from previous meeting

A MOTION (Kreider/Jones) to approve the meeting minutes APPROVED.

4. AASHTO Report/ SHRP2 Implementation Activities- Jim McDonnell

Steering Committee for Comprehensive Committees Review (CCR) Update:

The review of the organizational structure of AASHTO committees is on-going. Input was solicited on several draft scenarios and 30 responses have been received to date. That information will be used to develop recommendations for modification to the existing committee structure. The CCR is targeting the Spring Meeting to discuss recommendations however, there will still be an opportunity to provide input. A decision has not been made on who will receive the request for comments yet. In terms of a timeline, outreach on potential changes will occur over the summer with a final decision by the AASHTO Annual Meeting in Boston this November. Because there was interest in scenarios related to SCOR/RAC, Jim stated that a more robust discussion on this topic could occur during next month's call.

AASHTO Washington Briefing:

The Washington Briefing will take place February 24th – 26th in Washington DC. This event brings together transportation leaders and policy makers and provides a forum to discuss critical issues and policy challenges directly with Members of Congress and the Federal Executive branch. AASHTO's Reauthorization Steering Committee will also meet during the Briefing to discuss implementation of the FAST Act and any issues or concerns that need clarification or may overlap with Map-21. On February 5th Jim requested input from RAC leadership. If you have any concerns or need clarification about anything in the FAST Act related to research, please send it to Jim no later than February 23rd (originally requested in an email from Jim on February 5th).

Cynthia Jones asked if there was any update on publication distribution procedures. Jim was not aware of any and said he would check with Erin Grady, Director of Publications Production.

TRB/SCOR Report – Chris Jenks

SCOR:

- SCOR will meet March 17th – 18th to select Fiscal Year 17 projects. Program funding will be several million more than last year due to the FAST Act and funding carried over from FY16.
- Three of four SCOR vacancies have been filled. Tanisha Hall, Tennessee DOT, Roger Healy, Alaska DOT, and Cameron Kergaye, Utah DOT, are new SCOR members. TRB is working to fill the remaining vacancy.

NCHRP Publications Since the Last Call:

- NCHRP Report 817 (pre-publication, non-edited version*): *Performance of WMA Technologies: Stage I—Moisture Susceptibility Validation* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173821.aspx>)
- NCHRP Report 818 (pre-publication, non-edited version*): *Comparing the Volumetric and Mechanical Properties of Laboratory and Field Specimens of Asphalt Concrete* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173797.aspx>)
- NCHRP Synthesis 483: *Training and Certification of Highway Maintenance Workers* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173819.aspx>)
- NCHRP Synthesis 484: *Influence of Geotechnical Investigation and Subsurface Conditions on Claims, Change Orders, and Overruns* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173907.aspx>)
- NCHRP Synthesis 485: *Converting Paved Roads to Unpaved* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173716.aspx>)
- NCHRP Synthesis 486: *State Practices for Local Road Safety* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173789.aspx>)
- NCHRP Research Results Digest 397: *Independent Cost Estimates for Design and Construction of Transit Facilities in Rural and Small Urban Areas* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173714.aspx>)
- NCHRP Research Results Digest 398: *Continuing Project to Synthesize Information on Highway Practices* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173793.aspx>)
- NCHRP Legal Research Digest 68: *Liability of Design-Builders for Design, Construction, and Acquisition Claims* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173607.aspx>)
- NCHRP Web-Only Document 218: *Field Evaluation of Reflected Noise from a Single Noise Barrier—Phase 1* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173858.aspx>)
- NCHRP Web-Only Document 219: *Hamburg Wheel-Track Test Equipment Requirements and Improvements to AASHTO T 324* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173895.aspx>)
- NCHRP Web-Only Document 220: *Estimating the Life-Cycle Cost of Intersection Designs* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173928.aspx>)
- IDEA Highway Project 165: *Battery-Less Wireless Weigh-in-Motion Sensor* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173641.aspx>)
- IDEA Highway Project 168: *Prototype Development: Automated and Continuous Aggregate Sampling and Laser Targeting System* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173643.aspx>)
- IDEA Highway Project 169: *An Inexpensive Vision-Based Approach for the Autonomous Detection, Localization, and Quantification of Pavement Defects* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173687.aspx>)
- IDEA Highway Project 170: *Development and Implementation of the Asphalt Embrittlement Analyzer* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173642.aspx>)

- NCHRP Project 20-24(89): *Role and Value of Transportation for State DOTs* (website) (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173820.aspx>)
- NCHRP 2015 Annual Report (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173686.aspx>)
- TCRP Report 182: *Linking Transit Agencies and Land Use Decision Making: Guidebook for Transit Agencies* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173473.aspx>)
- TCRP Report 184: *Maintenance Technician Staffing Levels for Modern Public Transit Fleets* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173927.aspx>)
- TCRP Research Results Digest 111: *Synthesis of Information Related to Transit Problems* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173709.aspx>)
- Transit IDEA Report 74: *Apparatus for Gap Management* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173792.aspx>)
- TCRP Annual Report of Progress 2015 (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173556.aspx>)
- *New IDEAS for Transit: Transit IDEA Program Annual Report* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173712.aspx>)
- ACRP Report 148: *LED Airfield Lighting System Operation and Maintenance* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173717.aspx>)
- ACRP Report 149: *Improving Ground Support Equipment Operational Data for Airport Emissions Modeling* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173715.aspx>)
- ACRP Research Results Digest 23: *Synthesis of Information Related to Airport Practices* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173831.aspx>)
- ACRP Research Results Digest 24: *Recommended Community Noise Model Enhancements to Improve Prediction of Helicopter Activity Impacts* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173719.aspx>)
- CRP CD 178: *Airport Terminal Building Energy Use Intensity (ATB-EUI) Benchmarking Tool* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173795.aspx>)
- 2015 ACRP Annual Report of Progress (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173790.aspx>)
- NCRRP Report 3: *Comparison of Passenger Rail Energy Consumption with Competing Modes* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173718.aspx>)
- NCRRP Web-Only Document 1: *Technical Document and User Guide for the Multi-Modal Passenger Simulation Model for Comparing Passenger Rail Energy Consumption with Competing Modes* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173744.aspx>) (Supplements Report 3)
- NCRRP Report 4 (pre-publication, non-edited version*): *Intercity Passenger Rail in the Context of Dynamic Travel Markets* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173822.aspx>)
- NCRRP Report 5 (pre-publication, non-edited version*): *Developing Multi-State Institutions to Implement Intercity Passenger Rail Programs* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173823.aspx>)
- NCRRP LRD 3: *Issues that Emerge When Public Entities Acquire a Real Property Interest in Rail Lines* (URL Available Soon)
- NCFRP Report 36: *Enhancing Sleep Efficiency on Vessels in the Tug/Towboat/Barge Industry* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173857.aspx>)
- *TRB's Innovations Deserving Exploratory Analysis (IDEA) Programs Brochure* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/170277.aspx>)

*TRB is experimenting with pre-publication of selected reports in order to provide the results of the research to users more quickly. Once formal editing/publication occurs, the pre-publication will be replaced with the final published version.

Cynthia Jones asked if a state can have more than one TRB State Representative. For example, Maryland and Minnesota have two. Chris said he thought states were limited to one but he will look into it and get back to everyone.

Cynthia Jones asked if STRAP membership needed to be updated. Dale said he recognized that membership was outdated and that he recently emailed Ann Brach about it.

Cynthia also noted that she has resigned as Vice Chair of the Ahead of the Curve Task Force. Chris Jenks thanked her for her help.

5. OSTR Report – Tim Klein

UTC Competition (FAST Act):

- *Federal Register* Notice published February 2 – (http://www.rita.dot.gov/publications/federal_register/2016/html/rita_2016_02_02.html)
- Working hard to get Secretarial decisions on the research themes and a few other details, and hope to have the Grant Solicitation out “soon”, and certainly no later than April 1. They expect to beat this date by quite a bit.
- The universities will have 75 days to submit their proposals.

Smart City Challenge – (<https://www.transportation.gov/smartcity>)

- 78 partnerships have submitted proposals (due February 4; <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/overwhelming-response-cities-across-country-us-department-transportation-smart-city>)
- Expect to announce five planning grants (\$100k) mid-March
- Final selection (up to \$40M) in June.

BTS 2016 Webinar Schedule:

- Behind the Numbers: Exploring Transportation Statistics, a new series of quarterly webinar sessions providing insight into transportation statistics and information
- First webinar – February 23: Transportation’s role in the U.S. economy
- <http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/webinars>

6. FHWA Report – John Moulden

Naturalistic Driving Study:

FHWA will conduct a series of webinars related to the Naturalistic Driving Study. A notice about the webinars will be emailed out on Tuesday, February 23rd. The first will take place on April 5th and will include an overview of the NDS data and the new NDS pooled fund study. The second webinar will be held on May 17th and will provide examples of how the NDS data is being used for safety.

7. Region Chairs/Vice-Chairs Issues

Region 1 – Dale Peabody

The last call was held on February 4th. Region 1 members were encouraged to submit high value research projects. The focus for the region is on planning the 2016 AASHTO RAC/TRB State Reps meeting in Providence, RI (updated provided in #8).

Region 2 – Elisha Wright-Kehner

The Southeast Transportation Consortium will meet in June. The region has begun planning the 2017 AASHTO RAC/TRB State Reps meeting. Region 2 is excited about David Jared's appointment to Vice Chair of RAC.

Region 3 – Cynthia Jones

Reminder: Please complete the RAC Winter meeting survey. Cynthia emailed the link on February 3rd. 28 responses have been received so far but more would be helpful. Region 3 will be planning the agenda the meeting next January.

Region 4 – Cameron Kergaye

Region 4 started a new process of reviewing and discussing NCHRP problem statements from a regional perspective. They have found this to be helpful. Cameron thanked Region 1 for helping one of their new members attend a peer exchange to gain experience. The region is taking a back to basics approach to their meetings. They are discussing various program management areas instead of just focusing on a few hot topics.

8. Summer 2016 meeting, Providence, RI –Dale Peabody

Given costs in the Providence are and the food minimum in the hotel contract, it looks like the off-site event will need to be held at the hotel this year. The website is just about ready to go so Dale hopes to send out an official announcement to RAC in a week or so. A list of potential sponsor has also been developed. The AASHTO Meeting planners will send out a solicitation to them as soon as the website goes live. Dale went through the current draft of the agenda on that call. Jim McDonnell said that the AASHTO National Transportation Product Evaluation Program would like 15 minutes on the summer meeting agenda to discuss NTPEP and how it can be helpful to RAC. Ann Ellis was the suggested speaker. Dale suggested that Jim send an email to Ann Scholz and Curtis Bradley requesting that the Planning Committee discuss the request. The next planning meeting will be held on February 18th.

9. Summer 2017 meeting, RAC 2 – Elisha Wright-Kehner

Louisville, Kentucky was selected as the location for the meeting. The Planning Committee is beginning to look at venues.

10. Task Force Updates – Dale Peabody

Administration – Allison Hardt

Allison reiterated Cynthia's reminder to complete the RAC Winter Meeting Survey. The feedback will be used to plan next year's meeting. The survey can be completed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016WinterRAC>.

With Natassja leaving TRB Roy Mesler is assisting with Website Working Group including updates and changes to the SCOR/RAC website.

It's time again for states to review the research Fact Sheets and update them if necessary.

The Fact Sheets can be viewed at

<http://research.transportation.org/Pages/StateDOTResearchUnitFactSheets.aspx>.

Allison will email the Task Force Chairs and request that they ask the RAC members in their region to review what's currently posted. Updated Fact Sheets can be sent to Allison Hardt – ahardt@sha.state.md.us and Roy Mesler - RMesler@nas.edu.

The Task Force continues to work on updating the guidance document for hosting national RAC meetings and is planning the “Your Role in RAC” session for this summer's RAC/TRB State Reps Meeting in Providence.

The first conference call for the new NCHRP 20-111 project, “Support for RAC Task Forces in Response to the SCOR Strategic Plan” project was recently held and the Admin. Task Force was asked to participate on the team providing guidance for two tasks: Transportation Pooled Fund Website and Documenting Deliverables From and Best Practices for DOT Research Peer Exchanges.

Coordination and Collaboration – Cameron Kergaye

The Task Force is currently looking at its membership to determine core members and associated tasks. With regards to NCHRP 20-111, the task force will be involved in the tasks related to the Research Program and Project Management (RPPM) web application and the Research Funding Guide.

C&C is also looking at how to best approach the implementation of ideas learned at the TRB Annual Meeting. States like Utah have documented the ideas that they implemented as a result of the meeting. Would like to collect what other states have done in this area.

Program Management and Quality – David Jared was unable to join the call. The update was provided by email.

Implementation - GDOT will follow up with Diane Gurtner (WisDOT) regarding the meeting of the implementation facilitators group in Providence. That meeting may be duplicative, if this group decides to merge with PM&Q.

Program Tools Subgroup - Met with TRB staff regarding the RPM and TPF website transitions. Transitions and some of the maintenance will fall under NCHRP 20-111, but additional maintenance funds for the TPF site are being sought through the FY 2017 NCHRP.

Intellectual Property Subgroup - A Webinar on NCHRP 799 is forthcoming, but more work on copyright issues is needed. Harder, White, and Jared to follow up with RAC leadership on this.

Personnel - In follow up to TRB Session 199, a deeper investigation into researcher “skill set” question is desired, possibly under NCHRP 20-111.

PM&Q’s next conference call is March 10 at 11 a.m. EST.

Value of Research –Bill Stone

The Sweet 16 poster session went very well at TRB.

The deadline for High Value Research submission is March 31 using the RPM website. There were some issues with the RPM server but it is up and running so RAC members should not have a problem submitting candidate projects. May 15th is the deadline for regional chairs to submit their region’s top four candidates for the Sweet 16.

The Marketing Working Group is working on supplemental brochures. Safety will always have a brochure and the most common topic (pavement this year) will also have a brochure. The LTRC will do the layout. The following 16 projects were selected to be featured:

RAC Region	State	PAVEMENTS
2	NC	Development of IRI Limits and Targets for Network Management and Construction Approval Purposes
3	IN	Hydraulic Fracture Test to Determine Aggregate Freeze-Thaw Durability
3	IL	Mechanistic-Empirical Design, Implementation, and Monitoring for Flexible Pavements
3	WI	Nominal Maximum Aggregate Size for WisDOT Specification
3	IA	Quality Control and Quality Assurance Testing for Joint Density and Segregation of Asphalt Mixtures
3	MN	Simplified Design Table for Concrete Pavements

4	CA	Deployment Support and Caltrans' Implementation of the Sealzall Machine
4	UT	Lessons Learned from a Pavement Marking Warranty Contract
RAC Region	State	SAFETY
2	FL	Comprehensive Study to Reduce Pedestrian Crashes in Florida
2	SC	Operational and Safety Characteristics of Lane Widths
2	NC	Performance Evaluation and Placement Analysis of W-beam Guardrails behind Curbs
3	IA	Rural Safety Mitigation Tool-Box (Synthesis of Iowa Research to Address Rural Safety)
3	MI	Study of High-Tension Cable Barriers on Michigan Roadways
4	ID	Evaluation of IdaShield Sign Safety Benefits at Highway-Rail Crossing in Idaho
4	ID	Methodology for Prioritizing Appropriate Mitigation to Reduce Big Game Animal - Vehicle Collisions on Idaho Highways
4	TX	Roadside Safety Device Crash Testing Program

TKN – Leni Oman

No report.

11. Adjourn

Next Conference Call: Thursday, March 10th, 2016