

## MEETING NOTES

RAC Leadership Teleconference

Thursday, March 10, 2016

1:30 – 3:30 pm, EDT

In attendance: Dale Peabody (Chair), David Jared (Vice Chair), Joe Crabtree, Allison Hardt, Chris Hedges, Joe Horton, Rick Kreider, Tim Klein, Jim McDonnell, John Moulden, Lucia Olivera, Leni Oman, Keith Platte, Sue Sillick, Ann Scholz, Cindy Smith, Bill Stone, Linda Taylor.

Decisions and action items are underscored.

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Additions to agenda**
3. **Notes from previous meeting**

A MOTION (HARDT/KREIDER) to approve the meeting notes was APPROVED.

#### 4. **AASHTO Report - Jim McDonnell**

The Comprehensive Committee Review steering committee met recently to discuss feedback on three proposed alternative structures. One of the alternatives has emerged as the preferred option, and will be sent to committee chairs on April 11 for review. A status report will be presented at the AASHTO Spring meeting in May, with final recommendations to be presented at the annual meeting in the fall. The proposed option includes a research and technology committee with a broader scope. This committee will have membership from all states. There is no sub-group RAC identified in the plan, but one could be created. Responsibility for NCHRP oversight will be assigned to the R&T Committee. They could in turn assign responsibility to a subgroup.

The reauthorization steering committee met at the Washington Briefing last week. The key item of discussion was on which FHWA research activities would be reduced or eliminated under the FAST Act. AASHTO has offered to provide recommendations to FHWA, and Ms. Olivera indicated they would appreciate the input. John Moulden stated that the R&T Agenda will likely serve as a roadmap for their programs, along with the top issues of the states as identified last year by their Division Offices. Dale Peabody will follow up with AASHTO and FHWA on the possible formation of a sub-group to develop recommendations.

The Standing Committee on Highways as well as NCHRP panels 20-07 and 20-24 will be meeting in May at the AASHTO spring meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. RAC members are encouraged to let Jim know if there are any topics or issues that should be brought to SCOH's attention.

AASHTO is seeking a SCOR nominee from Region 4 in the “senior management category” (CEO, Chief Engineer, or major department head such as planning, environment, or freight). The Chair and members of RAC Region 4 were invited to provide nominations by March 18.

Keith Platte: AASHTO and FHWA have started a process to formalize the relationship between the AASHTO Innovation Initiative (AII) and the Every Day Counts (EDC) program. It is hoped that a memorandum of understanding will be ready in time for review and approval at the SCOH meeting in May.

Keith thanked Bill Stone, the newest member of the Executive Board for its Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council TC3 (an AASHTO web-based training program). AASHTO is looking to broaden the scope of training available to its members. Bill invited input from the RAC members. Chris Hedges suggested to keep the Ahead of the Curve training program in mind as TC3 moves forward.

## **5. TRB/SCOR Report – Chris Hedges**

SCOR will be meeting next week on March 17-18. The key agenda item will be the formulation of the FY2017 NCHRP. In response to concerns expressed about the composition of the three breakout groups, Chris indicated that the groups were organized to have a mixture of newer and more experienced RAC members in each group. SCOR members are free to switch groups if it better meets their needs. The same is true for AASHTO and FHWA staff.

TRB and its parent organization the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, are emphasizing increased diversity in our various activities. Chris indicated that in the next call for NCHRP panel nominations, TRB will likely encourage SCOR and RAC members to identify qualified nominees who are members of currently underrepresented groups (particularly young, female, and minorities).

NCHRP will be distributing material on its IDEA program (Ideas Deserving Exploratory Analysis) at the RAC meeting in Providence. IDEA functions much like a venture capital program for individuals or small teams who have developed new equipment, technologies, or methods that have the potential for benefiting state DOTs. IDEA provides seed money to help them bring their inventions closer to being market-ready. In the past, RAC members noted that they were occasionally approached by individuals looking for funding to develop new products. We want to make sure RAC members are aware of IDEA and know that they can refer these enquiries to the program.

Web Developer Maina Tran is now onboard at TRB and will be taking on the former duties of Natassja Linzau. She will be working closely with RAC members on web-based products such as the SCOR/RAC website, RPPM, and the Pooled Fund website.

Publications since the last call:

- NCHRP Report 821 (pre-publication, non-edited version\*): *Effective Project Scoping Practices to Improve On-Time and On-Budget Delivery of Highway Projects* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173953.aspx>)
- IDEA Highway Project 163: *Development of an Asphalt Pavement Raveling Detection Algorithm Using Emerging 3D Laser Technology and Macrotecture Analysis* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173944.aspx>)
- NCHRP Synthesis 487: *Public Perception of Mileage-Based Use Fees*, (<http://www.trb.org/main/blurbs/173605.aspx>)
- NCHRP IDEA Project 166: *Guidelines for Use of Waste Concrete Fines* (<http://www.trb.org/main/blurbs/173945.aspx>)
- NCHRP Web-Only Document 220: *Estimating the Life-Cycle Cost of Intersection Designs* (<http://www.trb.org/main/blurbs/173928.aspx>)
  
- TCRP Report 183 (pre-publication, non-edited version\*): *A Guidebook on Transit-Supportive Roadway Strategies* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173932.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) Synthesis 119: *Use of Taxis in Public Transportation for People with Disabilities and Older Adults* (<http://www.trb.org/main/blurbs/174025.aspx>)
  
- NCRRP LRD 3: *Issues that Emerge When Public Entities Acquire a Real Property Interest in Rail Lines* (<http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/173929.aspx>)

## 6. OSTR Report – Tim Klein

- **UTC Competition (FAST Act)** – ([http://www.rita.dot.gov/utc/press\\_releases/dot020\\_16](http://www.rita.dot.gov/utc/press_releases/dot020_16))
  - Grant Solicitation released March 1:  
[http://www.rita.dot.gov/utc/sites/rita.dot.gov.utc/files/UTC%20Competition%20Solicitation%20RFP%202-29-16\\_1.pdf](http://www.rita.dot.gov/utc/sites/rita.dot.gov.utc/files/UTC%20Competition%20Solicitation%20RFP%202-29-16_1.pdf).
  - Proposals due May 23.
- **Smart City Challenge** – (<https://www.transportation.gov/smartcity>)
  - Secretary Foxx will announce the winners of the five planning grants (\$100K) at South by Southwest in Austin this Saturday.
  - Final selection (up to \$40M) in June.

- **BTS Data Releases**
  - DOT Releases 30-Year Freight Projections – (with FHWA) – freight tons will grow 40 percent in the next three decades while the value of the freight will almost double: [http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/press\\_releases/bts013\\_16](http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/press_releases/bts013_16).
  - 2015 Annual U.S. Airline Traffic Data – all-time annual records for load factor, revenue passenger-miles (RPMs), available seat-miles (ASMs) and passenger enplanements: [http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/press\\_releases/bts015\\_16](http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/press_releases/bts015_16).
  - National Transit Map Initiative – to enable DOTs, planning agencies and researchers can identify and address gaps in access to public transportation: [http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/press\\_releases/dot021\\_16](http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/press_releases/dot021_16).
- **TRB ABJ10 National Data Committee - FAST Act Overview Webinar**
  - The webinar recording, and presentation slides are available at: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2tPF1xCrCDAeEJrdmYtZEFhaEU>

## 7. FHWA Report – John Moulden

The FAST Act established a number of new and sizable initiatives that impact FHWA’s R&T program. FHWA has been working on implementing the act and late March to early April are expected to be busy months for FHWA in terms of moving the FY 2016 program forward.

1. Finalization of decisions affecting the FHWA R&T FY budget should be made by the end of March and the FHWA offices will be integrating those funds into their research plans
2. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the 2 new R&T grant programs are expected to be published in late March or early April
  - a. Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Program (ATCMTD) [FAST Act § 6004] will have about \$60 M available in FY2016 (50% Federal share) for 5-10 grantees (no more than 20% to any one recipient)...an additional \$60 M is anticipated each FY through FY 2020
    - i. Eligible applicants
      1. State or local government or political subdivision thereof,
      2. Transit agency,
      3. Metropolitan planning organization (MPO) representing a population of more than 200,000,
      4. Multijurisdictional group made up of the above eligible applicants, with a signed agreement to implement the initiative across jurisdictional boundaries, and
      5. Consortium of research or academic institutions.
    - ii. Recipient will use funds for the development of model deployment sites for large scale installation and operation of advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, efficiency, system performance, and infrastructure return on investment.

- b. Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives Program (STSFA) [FAST Act § 6020] will have about \$15 M available in FY 2016 (50% Federal share)....an additional \$20 M is anticipated each FY through FY 2020
  - i. Eligible applicants
    - 1. States or groups of States
  - ii. Recipient will use program funds to test the design, acceptance, and implementation of a user-based alternative revenue mechanism, consistent with the program's objectives.

Fact sheets can be found at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/>

## **8. Region Chairs/Vice-Chairs Issues**

Ann Scholz: Region 1 met last on March 3. 10 out of 12 communities have submitted applications to the U.S. DOT's Smart City Challenge (see <https://www.transportation.gov/smartcity>). High value research submissions are now being solicited. Bill Ahearn will be retiring from the Vermont DOT and from RAC. The checklist for new members has been very helpful in orienting recent RAC appointees.

Cindy Smith: Region 2 is currently planning the Southeast Transportation Research Consortium meeting this June in Atlanta, as well as the 2017 RAC national meeting in Louisville, KY (see below).

Rick Kreider: Region 3 met on Tuesday earlier this week. The meeting featured a presentation by Renee McHenry on AASHTO's new digital publication distribution policy. There are still concerns about the policy. Serious concerns expressed again. There is a need to follow up with AASHTO to express the concerns and clarify the policy. AASHTO staff will be invited to participate in the next Region 3 meeting. It will also be an agenda item for the TKN task force meeting on April 7th. Erin Grady from AASHTO will participate.

Joe Horton: Region 4 has been coordinating on rankings of the FY2017 NCHRP problem statements. Jim Appleton has been appointed the new research director at CalTrans. Region 4 is looking for nominees to the PM&Q Task Force and Ahead of the Curve advisory panel.

## **9. Summer 2016 meeting, Providence, RI –Ann Scholz**

Questions arose about the arrangements on logistics for the Sunday *Ahead of the Curve* session. Ann will follow up with Barbara Harder to discuss. The meeting website is now live, the draft agenda is available, as are sponsorship opportunities. Registration and hotel booking is available on the site. Linda Taylor suggested that Region 1 needs to promote the meeting more aggressively. It was also suggested that each region identify their new

members and encourage them to attend *Ahead of the Curve*. Dale will contact Ann Brach to clarify reimbursement of travel expenses for state reps. TRB's Conduct of Research and Technology Transfer Committees will also be meeting during the event.

There is a plan to include brief presentations on the AASHTO National Transportation Product Evaluation Program (NTPEP) during each regional meeting. ARTBA sending a lunch speaker to Providence; they will accompany NTPEP staff to the regional meetings.

Dale will follow up with Jim to discuss a presentation on the SHRP2 NDS database in Providence

#### **10. Summer 2017 meeting, RAC 2 –Joe Crabtree**

The meeting will be held in July 2017 in Louisville, KY. The likely dates are July 24-27. Region 2 is using their LTAP for meeting arrangements. They will be reviewing data from previous meetings to develop a budget. Keith Platte will check for any possible conflict with regional AASHTO meetings. The organizers will plan to reserve space for *Ahead of the Curve* on Sunday and provide hotel rooms for Saturday night.

#### **11. Task Force Updates – Dale or David**

##### **Administration – Allison Hardt**

The checklist for regional chairs has been distributed. It is time for DOTs to check their Fact Sheets and see if any revisions are required. The Task Force will be hosting “Your role in RAC” again this year in Providence.

##### **Coordination and Collaboration**

No report.

##### **Program Management and Quality – David Jared**

Joe Horton is the pending new chair (confirmation/start date TBD), and Megan Swanson (ILDOT) will be taking over as Secretary.

A TRB group on research implementation has decided to merge with PM&Q and will be co-chaired by Hafiz Munir (MnDOT) and Ryan Culton (ILDOT). Tommy Nantung is helping to lead the transition of the RPM and TPF sites to AASHTO server. Funding for longer term support for the TPF site was requested from SCOR for FY2017 and scored very highly by SCOR and RAC. A one-hour session on Intellectual Property issues is scheduled for Providence. The task force is working on a follow-up initiative on IP to collect success stories and good practices among the states. Martin Pietrucha is stepping down from his

position at Penn State University and will likely resign from PM&Q. A new group within PM&Q is looking at personnel and human resource issues. Under NCHRP 20-111, David is leading the development of an RFP to collect best practices on peer exchanges. The task force is also looking at an initiative to identify appropriate skill sets for transportation research professionals; which could possibly be a mini-synthesis or white paper.

### **Value of Research –Linda Taylor, Bill Stone**

High Value Research nominations are due March 31<sup>st</sup>. Regional chairs are asked to reach out and encourage each state to submit at least one project. It should be made know to the states that Pooled Fund projects can be submitted as High Value Research submissions. There is a contractor available to provide technical support on the RPM website that is used to submit nominations. Renee McHenry of Missouri DOT will provide support on the submission process. New brochures on safety and pavement research will be available in Providence, distributed to RAC, and posted on website. The task force is helping to coordinate a session on marketing at the annual meeting in Providence. The NCHRP RAC support project 20-111 includes migration of the High Value Research component of RPM to the RPPM website. A working group has identified features and report formats that should be retained on the new site.

### **TKN – Leni Oman**

Curtis Bradley is the new co-chair of TKN. Leni will be transitioning off the task force in the coming months. The next conference call meeting will be held April 7, and the task force will be working to clarify their business plan and future tasks. TKN has a problem statement under review for SCOR next week (SP-06).

## **12. Adjourn**

Next Conference Call: Thursday, April 14, 2016