

## Minutes for RAC Region 1 Teleconference, Thursday September 7, 2017

### Attendees:

Flavia Pereira (CT), Stefanie Brodie (DC), Hua Xiang (MD), Radha Gomez (MA), Ann Scholz (NH), Ryan Lund representing Bob Sack (NY), Lisa Tarson (PA), Mike Sock (RI), Emily Parkany (VT), Keith Platte (AASHTO)

There was no RAC Leadership Committee update because the meeting was expected Thursday, September 14.

### RAC Committee Announcements:

- Administration (Flavia Pereira): RAC roster will be maintained on the website and members will no longer get an annual spreadsheet of members. The official RAC roster is concerned about voting members and members non-voting as acknowledged by CEO letter to AASHTO and friends. Keith Platte said that the Regional (email) List is much more flexible and can contain whoever we want.
- Coordination and Communication: Outreach effort to the AASHTO committees about how to write a successful research statement
- Program Management and Quality (Hua Xiang): Expecting final recommendations of FHWA Peer Review report; also description of FHWA demonstration programs; staffing measures report
- Value of Research (Lisa Tarson): Looking at research performance measures (TX examples) and research management quality; reviewing the HVR website and how the process worked

We had a discussion of what first-time attendees of the National RAC meeting in Louisville were impressed by. Items that came up included the emphasis on mentoring, the session on RAC onboarding, and the TRB involvement and content of the meeting.

### We discussed potential speakers for upcoming meetings:

- Talks from the Louisville session on conducting your research program. Megan Swanson of Illinois and their tech writer/tech editing/dates of draft and final report efforts. (Perhaps MI's related efforts are more palatable/don't require a full-time tech editor.) Sue Sillick's (MT: research idea submission process) and Cynthia Jones' (OH: Topic?) presentations from the same session
- Radha asked for a primer on FHWA Pooled Funds, NCHRP, and AASHTO TSPs. I would be interested in this. I wonder if Keith Platte would be willing to do something; he would probably prefer more than two days' notice.
- SCOR/R&I efforts on how to incorporate innovation with our research programs. Suggestions for the states on how RAC and All (AASHTO Innovation Initiative) are coordinated.

Radha Gomez, Massachusetts' new Research Manager, introduced herself and described her UMass-Amherst and Volpe efforts prior to joining MA and her background in human factors, psychology, safety and driver behavior.