

MEETING NOTES

RAC Leadership Teleconference
Thursday, April 13, 2017
1:30 – 3:30 pm, EDT

In attendance: Ken Chambers, Stephanie Dock, Anne Ellis, Allison Hardt, Chris Hedges, Rick Kreider, Tim Klein, John Moulden, Keith Platte, Cindy Smith, Brian Worrel, Elisha Wright-Kehner, Rhea Vincent (Mississippi DOT).

Decisions and action items are underscored.

1. Roll Call

2. Additions to agenda

None.

3. Notes from previous meeting

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

4. AASHTO Report – Keith Platte

The committee reorganization is dominating AASHTO activities at the moment. It is hoped that some of the new committees will be launched at the Spring Meeting in Portland, Maine, including one on knowledge management.

The AASHTO websites are under review and they are planning to move from a SharePoint to WordPress platform. Keith will work with Natassja Linzau and the AASHTO IT contractor to make sure we don't lose any functionality in the four sites maintained for AASHTO by the NCHRP.

5. TRB/SCOR Report – Chris Hedges

SCOR met March 21-22 and selected projects for the FY2018 NCHRP. The announcement of the program will be posted today or tomorrow and will be distributed to our various listservs. The announcement will be accompanied by a request for panel member nominations which will all be done electronically this year (although people can still fax forms to us if they prefer). We will start forming panels in June and holding first panel meetings in July and August.

The ACRP is working on projects selected in July 2016 and are planning their next governing board meeting this July when the next round of projects will be selected.

The TCRP governing board (TOPS) will be meeting in June in Woods Hole. This is their off-cycle meeting (not project selection) where a number of status reports and updates will be presented and discussed.

TRB's 100th anniversary is coming up on November 2020, and we have begun plans for commemorative events and activities. We will be developing a "coffee table book" covering TRB's first 100 years and looking ahead to the future. Events will begin with the January 2020 TRB meeting, and culminate at the 2021 annual meeting.

CRP Publications since March call

NCHRP

- IDEA Project 176: Contactless Electrode for Fast Survey of Concrete Reinforcement Corrosion
- Research Report 843: Long-Term Field Performance of Warm Mix Asphalt Technologies.
- (IDEA) Safety Project 28: Field Validation of Inspection Gauges for Wheel Climb Safety at Switch Points
- NCHRP Synthesis 504: Strategic Program Delivery Methods
- NCHRP Web-Only Document 229: Methods and Technologies for Pedestrian and Bicycle Volume Data Collection: Phase 2
- NCHRP Research Report 840: A Watershed Approach to Mitigating Stormwater Impacts
- NCHRP Report 841: Development of Crash Modification Factors for Uncontrolled Pedestrian Crossing Treatments
- NCHRP Web-Only Document 226: Data Visualization Methods for Transportation Agencies

ACRP

- ACRP Report 50: Improved Models for Risk Assessment of Runway Safety Areas
- ACRP Research Report 166: Interpreting the Results of Airport Water Monitoring

TCRP

- TCRP Synthesis 125: Multiagency Electronic Fare Payment Systems
- Legal Research Digest (LRD) 48: Legal Issues Concerning Transit Agency Use of Electronic Customer Data
- Research Report 191: Public Transportation Guidebook for Small- and Medium-Sized Public-Private Partnerships. (Pre-pub)

6. OSTR Report – Tim Klein

- **UTC Grant Re-competition**

- Notice of Funding Opportunity with Secretary Chao for approval; hope to release by the end of the month.
- To re-compete three Regional UTCs:
 - Region 1: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.
 - Region 2: New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands.
 - Region 3: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia.

- **Webinar – Exploring Transportation Statistics - Bike Statistics**

- Tuesday, April 25, 2017; 1:30 p.m.
- Sign up: <https://www.bts.gov/event/behind-numbers-exploring-transportation-statistics-bike-statistics>

- **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase 1 Awards**

- Fourteen U.S. Small Businesses will receive over \$1.9 million to research and develop innovative solutions to our nation's transportation challenges.
- Topics posted at: <https://www.volpe.dot.gov/work-with-us/small-business-innovation-research/171-sbir-solicitation-recommendations-award>.
- Includes research on identifying air voids in concrete (FHWA-funded).

- **National Transportation Noise Map**

- BTS map contains aircraft and road noise inventory data provided by FAA and FHWA.
- Posted: <https://maps.bts.dot.gov/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a303ff5924c9474790464cc0e9d5c9fb>

- **2016 Airline Traffic Data**

- U.S. airlines and foreign airlines serving the U.S. carried an all-time high of 928.9 million systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service passengers in 2016.
- Link: <https://www.bts.gov/newsroom/2016-traffic-data-us-airlines-and-foreign-airlines-us-flights>

7. FHWA Report – John Moulden

- Heads up: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) about to be released soon for:

- Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Initiative (sec 6004 of FAST Act)
- Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives (sec 6020 of FAST Act)
- There is a TPF solicitation (#1435) for the RABIT. IA (Brian Worrel) is the lead. They are looking for more sponsors/partner. <http://www.pooledfund.org/Details/Solicitation/1435>
- In-situ Scour Testing Device (attached description) is looking for is looking for projects to field test the device. Contact Kornel Kerényi. (202) 493-3142
- Asphalt Binder Quality Tester is loaning out the device to any state that is interested in using it. The device is currently only used for quality control of asphalt binder. They are working on a method for quality acceptance. Contact Jack Youtcheff. (202) 493- 3090

8. Region Chairs/Vice-Chairs Issues

Region 1 – Stephanie – Their last call took place last week, featuring topic presentations. The region is considering a review of the role that research divisions serve in STICs. It seems to vary widely; some STICS are managed by the research division; others not.

Region 2 – Michelle Owen (Alabama) will be appointed Vice Chair at the national meeting in July. Region 2 is also looking for someone to fill the secretary position.

Region 3 – Rick Kreider – Nothing new to report.

Region 4 – Bill Stone - Nothing new to report.

9. Summer 2017 meeting, RAC 2 – Cindy Smith

- The planning committee continues to hold monthly teleconferences. The April teleconference will be next Wednesday (April 19) at 10 AM EDT.
- The agenda is coming together. The February and March teleconferences focused on development of the agenda. Session topics have been identified and assigned to specific individuals to flesh out the details.
- A draft agenda has been placed on the meeting homepage.
- Registration is open on the website, and the hotel room block is open. Emails were sent to the RAC listserv on Feb 10 and Mar 29.
- Invitations to be a sponsor and/or exhibitor have been sent to 35 different organizations. We have had several positive responses thus far.

10. Task Force Updates

Administration – Allison Hardt

Getting started on revising the *Your Role in RAC* session and plans to solicit ideas from RAC members. The session will be mainly Q&A. The Task Force is continuing its review of the SCOR/RAC website, currently seeking input on the *Resources for Research Managers* section. Please contact Allison with feedback and suggestions.

The will be reviewing the mentoring guidelines over the next few weeks, and are still updating the DOT fact sheets – about half the states have responded.

Coordination and Collaboration – Ann Ellis

Membership is currently under review and they are recruiting new members and friends. There are currently 18 members jointly with the TRB Conduct of Research committee. The next meeting is on April 26th and is posted on the RPPM calendar. The funding guide update is proceeding well, and they will next be considering updates and improvements to RPPM.

Program Management and Quality -- No report.

Value of Research – Bill Stone (notes provided)

- The Annual High Value Research Project Submission deadline is completed. There were some issues associated with the server being down in the last week before the original deadline of March 31, 2017. The deadline therefore was extended for an additional week to April 7, 2017.
- The Value of Research Team is reviewing all of the projects submitted and assigning Topic areas to them that will be shared with the Regional Chairs. The Sweet Sixteen voting will be similar as in the past. However, the Task Force is asking the Regional Chairs to assist with the selection of the Safety Brochure projects and the other projects for the brochure from the most submitted topic area.
- There has still been some issues with the reports and information compiled in the new website. The Value of Research Task Force is working with Natassja Linzau and some individual states to compile the information.
- States have also been asked to provide issues through the process this year to Natassja that will share with the website contractor, so that there can be improvements to the system to ensure those problems are corrected next year.

Highlights of the Supplemental Brochures process that was shared with the Regional Chairs:

- The Regions to continue with their selection process of the Sweet Sixteen projects as has been done in the past and ask that they identify the next two Safety projects and also an additional two projects in the most submitted topic area from submitted projects in their region.
- With the submission process completed the Task Force will review all topic areas and send that list to the Regional Chairs that identify the Safety projects for each AASHTO region and also the overall nationwide topic area most submitted for each of the regions.
- The Regions include the voting of the top two Safety and most submitted topic area projects to the Value of Research Task Force along with their Sweet Sixteen projects.
- The Safety and most submitted topic area projects are not be any of the Sweet Sixteen projects.

TKN -- No report.

11. Adjourn

Next Conference Call: Thursday, May 11, 2017