

RAC Leadership Teleconference  
Thursday, February 9, 2017  
1:30 – 3:30 pm, EDT

In attendance: Dale Peabody (Chair), Ken Chambers, Allison Hardt, Joe Horton, Rick Kreider, Ann Scholz, Elisha Wright-Kehner, Zona Kahkonen Keppler, John Moulden, Timothy Klein, Cindy Smith, William Stone.

Decisions and action items are underscored.

**1. Roll Call**

**2. Additions to agenda**

None.

**3. Notes from previous meeting**

A MOTION (Smith/Scholz) to accept the December 2016 meeting notes was APPROVED.

A MOTION (Chambers/Wright) to accept the November 2016 meeting was APPROVED.

**4. AASHTO Report**

No report.

**5. TRB/SCOR Report – Lori Sundstrom.**

The TRB Annual Meeting broke several records: more than 13,300 confirmed attendees, with over 3,000 1<sup>st</sup> time attendees. Staff are preparing for the March 22-23, 2017 SCOR meeting. Note there are two problem statements regarding shrink/swell (C-01 and D-07) that look very similar. AASHTO confirmed that that C-01—submitted by the Joint Technical Committee on Pavements—is an updated version of D-07, which was submitted by the Subcommittee on Materials. We are suggesting that SCOR and RAC members complete their ballots as normal, and decisions whether to fund or not can be made at the March 2017 SCOR meeting.

**6. OSTR Report – Tim Klein.**

In addition to waiting for appointees, Mr. Klein provided the following information.

- **UTC Grant Re-competition**
  - Notice of Funding Opportunity held up in political transition; no clarity yet on timeline.
  - 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.
- **Five-Year RD&T Strategic Plan/Annual Modal Research Plans**
    - Published and posted after TRB Annual Meeting.
    - Available on expanded Research Hub website: <https://ntlsearch.bts.gov/researchhub/index.do> - click on the tabs.
  - **Transportation Statistics Annual Report (TSAR)**
    - 21st edition presents key transportation indicators along with an overview of the transportation system.
    - It also includes data and statistics on passenger travel, freight movement, transportation and the economy, system reliability, safety, energy use and environmental impacts
    - Download: [https://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/sites/rita.dot.gov/bts/files/TSAR\\_2016.pdf](https://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/sites/rita.dot.gov/bts/files/TSAR_2016.pdf).

## 7. FHWA Report – John Moulden

Mr. Moulden reported that FHWA is also waiting on appointees. He said there is nothing to report on budget issues, and gave a reminder about the Pooled Fund webinar scheduled for March 15, 2017 at 1:30pm Eastern.

## 8. Region Chairs/Vice-Chairs Issues

Region 1—Ann Sholz: Maina Tran presented the High Value Research website. Curtis Bradley resigned and Stephanie Dock is replacing him; she will be next Region 1 Chair.

Region 2—Elisha Wright-Kehner: Working on a pooled fund project on the value of research, and continuing to work on the RAC Summer meeting in July, 2017.

Region 3—Rick Kreider: Rick is now Chair since Cynthia Jones stepped down. Brian Worrel from Iowa is Region 3's new Vice Chair. Kansas will host the 2018 RAC meeting; it will probably be held in the Overland Park or Legions area. He will contact Keith Platte at AASHTO to initiate the planning process with AASHTO's meetings consultant.

Region 4—Joe Horton: Region 4 is starting a bi-monthly meeting schedule. They have been busy getting High Value Research information out to the region and reviewing the NCHRP ballot.

## 9. Winter 2017 meeting – All

All agreed that the format used for the Winter 2017 RAC meeting was successful.

## 10. Summer 2017 RAC Meeting – Elisha Wright-Kehner, Joe Crabtree, Jason Siwula.

Planning activities are in full swing.

## 11. Task Force Updates – David Jared

### **Administration – Allison Hardt**

- Allison will be surveying RAC members about the winter meeting format. The RAC 101 presentation has been posted.
- Annual state DOT fact sheets are being updated. A request to the states to review their information went to RAC on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>; she has heard from 10 states. Each state's information will now also include the date it was updated.
- A Mentoring program is under discussion. The idea of holding group calls is under consideration; Region 3 holds calls with a group of people and this seems to be successful. She invited ideas from the other RAC officers. She noted that Flavia recently joined, and that they are looking for a R2 member to replace James.

**Coordination and Collaboration – Cameron Kergaye.** (not present/no report)

### **Program Management and Quality – Joe Horton**

- Have created an internal survey to RAC asking for work items for the Task Force.

### **Value of Research – Bill Stone**

- High Value Research website -- questions should be sent to Maina Tran; she will work with the consultant to address any issues. The March 31st deadline could be extended but doing so may jeopardize it being ready for the Summer RAC Meeting. Maina will hold a webinar on the website.
- Ann Scholz reported that the Task Force plans to submit a problem statement to update the 2001 Synthesis Report 300 on research program administration, noting that it is time to refresh this report.
- Linda Taylor has stepped down as co-chair and Bill is looking for a replacement. They will be asking the Regions to share their ratings for all the projects so that several projects can be included in a brochure.

### **Transportation Knowledge Networks**

- Since Curtis Bradley has stepped down as chair, it may be time to consider whether this activity be absorbed into other task forces. Many of the people involved in this are not RAC members and some of their concerns that are not shared by RAC—or not shared to the same degree. While valuable, this task force does not seem to fit neatly within RAC. Should it go somewhere else? Each Region Chair was asked to gather feedback from their members on the fate of TKN, and to share that feedback at the next RAC Officers Meeting.
- Minnesota DOT is drafting a pooled fund proposal for the benefit of transportation libraries.

## 12. Adjourn

Next Conference Call: Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 1:30 pm Eastern.