

## MEETING NOTES

RAC Leadership Teleconference  
Thursday, May 11, 2017  
1:30 – 3:30 pm, EDT

In attendance: Ken Chambers, Joe Crabtree, Stephanie Dock, Anne Ellis, Allison Hardt, Chris Hedges, Joe Horton, David Jared, Cameron Kergaye, Rick Kreider, John Moulden, Dale Peabody, Keith Platte, Ann Scholz, Cindy Smith, Bill Stone, Lori Sundstrom, Brian Worrel, Elisha Wright-Kehner

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/ Wright-Kehner was APPROVED).

### **4. AASHTO Report – Keith Platte**

Dale Peabody reported that the reconstituted SCOR will become The Special Committee on Research and Innovation, and the AASHTO Innovation Initiative will be brought into the SCOR portfolio. Keith noted that precisely how this will affect RAC is still to be determined, but RAC is expected to continue to serve its current function. RAC's value is well understood. The names of both committees may or may not change.

Joe Horton asked if RAC should prepare some comments and or suggestions to SCOR to consider at their August retreat. At a minimum, states will need to think about which staff participate in the new structure. Chris encouraged RAC to provide feedback and/or questions to SCOR for inclusion on SCOR's retreat agenda. Dale suggested that a small group prepare a draft to present at the summer meeting, with the goal of having something to include on the SCOR retreat agenda. Allison and Joe H. will work with Dale, working through the Region Chairs and the Admin Task Force. Dale noted that he will attend the AII meeting at the Spring AASHTO meeting.

Mark VanPortfleet, Chair of AII, will be invited to the SCOR retreat, and they will also prepare comments/suggestions for SCOR.

RAC and SCOR websites are moving from a SharePoint environment to a WordPress environment and Keith is working with NCHRP staff on this. The RAC site has over 440

pages, and so far has trimmed over 100 pages (most of these were old survey pages that are no longer need).

The NCHRP CEO ballot should be out to the states late the week of May 15, 2017.

## 5. TRB/SCOR Report – Chris Hedges

### Staff announcements

Ann Hartell has joined NCHRP as a Senior Program Officer (SPO), filling the vacancy created when Lori Sundstrom was promoted to NCHRP Manager. Ann is in the process of completing a doctorate in Socio-economics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, in Vienna, Austria. She holds a B.A in Geography from the University of Kentucky and a Masters in Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she also worked as a Research Associate for the Center for Transportation and the Environment. While at UNC, she served on a number of NCHRP research teams, and she has been an active researcher and author in the areas of land use planning, social indicators, economic resilience, equity, sustainability, context sensitive solutions, and environmental justice.

NCHRP is recruiting for two additional SPOs – to fill a vacancy that occurred when David Reynaud retired, and to lead NCHRP’s implementation program. The implementation program is being staffed by Waseem Dekebab, but that was intended to be a one-year assignment to help create the program.

### NCHRP

NCHRP is looking into “twinning” two projects. The French Institute of Science and Technology for Transport, Development, and Networks is interested in a project on scour depth around bridge structures, and the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment wants to participate in a study of the expected impacts of advanced vehicle technologies on the physical roadway infrastructure. Twinning will likely involve having cross-representation on our project panels for current or planned activities in Holland and France, with a view to make sure the project scopes are complementary.

NCHRP staff have been participating in the state visits of the Technical Activities Program, and Chris has been getting very positive reviews of the experience, both from NCHRP own staff and from participating agencies.

The NCHRP Synthesis of Practice panel meeting occurred on May 8-9, 2017 where FY2017 topics were selected. Selections included *Managing Transportation Research Programs*, that originated from the RAC membership.

### CRP Publications since the April 2017 call

- National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Synthesis 507: [Traffic Signal Preemption at Intersections Near Highway–Rail Grade Crossings](#)

- National Cooperative Rail Research Program (NCRRP) Web Only Document 4: [\*\*Inventory of State and Federal, Passenger and Freight Rail Programs\*\*](#)
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Research Report 848: [Inspection Guidelines for Bridge Post-Tensioning and Stay Cable Systems Using NDE Methods](#)
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Web-Only Document 231: [Challenges to CV and AV Applications in Truck Freight Operations](#)
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Web-Only Document 231: [A Performance-Based Highway Geometric Design Process](#)
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Research Report 855 (Pre-publication): [An Expanded Functional Classification System for Highways and Streets](#)
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Synthesis 504: [Strategic Program Delivery Methods](#)
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Synthesis 508: [Data Management and Governance Practices](#)
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Synthesis 508: [Highway Worker Safety](#)
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Research Report 843: [Long-Term Field Performance of Warm Mix Asphalt Technologies](#)
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Research Report 844: [Guide for Integrating Goods and Services Movement by Commercial Vehicles in Smart Growth Environments](#)
- Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Synthesis 128: [\*\*Practices for Evaluating the Economic Impacts and Benefits of Transit\*\*](#)
- Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Research Report 192: [Decision-Making Toolbox to Plan and Manage Park-and-Ride Facilities for Public Transportation: Guidebook on Planning and Managing Park-and-Ride](#)
- Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Legal Research Digest 49: [Updated Guide to Buy America Requirements—2015 Supplement](#)
- Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) Report 150: NextGen for Airports, Volume 5: [NextGen for Airports, Volume 5: Airport Planning and Development](#)
- Rail Safety Innovations Deserving Exploratory Analysis (IDEA) Safety Project 25: [Dynamic Impact Factors on Existing Long Span Truss Railroad Bridges](#)

**6. OSTR Report – No report.**

## **7. FHWA Report – John Moulden**

New peer exchange guidelines are on the website.

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

Region 1 – Ann Scholz – Reported that 10 states submitted a total of 26 projects. Heard a presentation from Curtis Bradley on project selection considerations; it's on the RPPM site. Emily Parkany from Vermont has volunteered to be the Vice-Chair. Region 1 has two unused seats for Ahead of the Curve Training.

Region 2 – Elisha Wright-Kehner – They are in the process of approving new by-laws. Beginning at the summer meeting in July, Cindy Smith will be Chair, and Michelle Owens from Alabama will be Vice-Chair. They are still working on HVR projects.

Region 3 – Rick Kreider – Met on May 9, 2017, have selected their HVR projects. They discussed whether TPF projects should be submitted as part of the HVR competition, or should that be handled as in independent competition? Dale noted that when SCOR originally asked for HVR projects, they did not specify a funding source for the research. However, many states don't appear to consider TPF projects for HVR.

Region 4 – Joe Horton – Last met on April 20, 2017. Their HVR projects have been selected. Sue Sillick identified some categories for additional HVR groups, including Safety. They discussed what the AASHTO committee reorganization implications.

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

- The planning committee continues to hold monthly teleconferences. The agenda is coming together. Session topics continue to be developed.
- A draft agenda has been placed on the meeting homepage.
- Registration is still open on the website, and the hotel room block is open. Emails were sent to the RAC listserv on Feb 10 and Mar 29. Early registration ends July 1, 2017.
- Invitations to be a sponsor and/or exhibitor were sent to 35 different organizations; 5 positive responses received so far.

## **10. Task Force Updates**

### **Administration – Allison Hardt**

- They've been focusing on the role of RAC for the summer RAC meeting. Still updating state DOT fact sheets on the website; Joe H. offered to help get Region 4 responses.

- Peer exchanges, communicating research results, and RAC surveys are the top 3 topics for the Role of RAC session.

#### **Coordination and Collaboration – Anne Ellis**

- Anne Ellis announced that she is retiring from the Arizona DOT. The members thanked her for her contributions.

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

- Nothing new to report

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

- They are discussing how they collaborate with other task forces, and how to market the research results, e.g., through publications
- They are reviewing the solicitation process
- They will be meeting with Natassja Linzau to work through the issues some people had with the accessing the website to figure what should be changed for next years.
- They are working with CTC on summaries of the HVR projects

#### **TKN -- Cameron Kergaye**

- Held a conference call on May 11, 2017. Some of the work activities of the two task forces have a lot in common, so makes sense for the TKN task force to be brought under the Communication and Collaboration. Will recommend that the TKN participants meet before they meet with the Communication and Collaboration. The Summer RAC meeting schedule needs to be changed to enable this -- Admin and TKN will trade time slots.

A **MOTION** to formally change the status of the TKN task force to a Work Group under Communication and Collaboration (KREIDER/STONE) was **APPROVED.**

### **11. Adjourn**

Next Conference Call: Thursday, June 8, 2017