

MEETING NOTES

RAC Leadership Teleconference
Thursday, November 10, 2016
1:30 – 3:30 pm, EDT

In attendance: Dale Peabody (Chair), David Jared (Vice Chair), Ken Chambers, Allison Hardt, Chris Hedges, Joe Horton, Cynthia Jones, Cameron Kergaye, Rick Kreider, Ann Scholz,-Bill Stone, Elisha Wright-Kehner.

Decisions and action items are underscored.

1. Roll Call

2. Additions to agenda

None.

3. Notes from previous meeting

A MOTION (Kreider/Jared) to approve the previous meeting notes was APPROVED.

4. AASHTO Report – Keith Platte

No report.

5. TRB/SCOR Report – Chris Hedges

From Ann Brach / Technical Activities Division:

The online interactive program has been up for a little while now; the app will be available in a few days. This year, for the first time, attendees' personal programs/schedules can be synced between the online interactive program and the app.

The Chairman's Luncheon speaker will be Dr. Jaiwon Shin, the Associate Administrator for NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate. Dr. Shin manages NASA's aeronautics research portfolio, which includes research in the fundamental aeronautics of flight, aviation safety, and the nation's airspace system.

There are at least 80 sessions on transformational technologies--about 10% of the sessions. I have attached a list of these sessions. Half of these address automated vehicles (cars and trucks), unmanned aerial systems, etc. I'm sure there are others that address transformational technologies but this is probably a good sample. Of course people can search on this topic in the online program, as well as search for other hot topics like freight, resilience, etc. If any RAC members would like some help finding sessions of particular interest to their CEOs who are attending, they can let Ms. Brach know and we will help in any way we can.

Ms. Brach is putting together the program for the CEO/State Rep lunch on Tuesday of the Annual Meeting and would appreciate any ideas RAC leaders have for issues or topics of interest. Ann is hoping to get more discussion at the tables and fewer talking heads, but she is not sure if the talking heads will be happy with not getting their air time so we'll see how this goes.

From TRB Executive Office:

At last month's meeting TRB's Subcommittee on Planning and Policy Review, a goal was discussed to strengthen the long-term financial stability of TRB by augmenting traditional government sources of funding—a primary goal of TRB's current strategic plan—by helping to enrich the value of the Annual Meeting for exhibitors. They requested we organize a tour of the exhibition area for CEOs and other Executive Committee members. The thought process is that the presence of CEOs will help enrich the perceived value of the Annual Meeting for exhibitors. RAC leaders are encouraged to raise this with their CEOs and invite them to attend the tour which will likely take place on Tuesday morning at 9:00 am before the CEO Roundtables.

CRP Report:

We are working to hire a new NCHRP manager to replace Chris Hedges since his appointment as CRP Director. We hope to fill the position by the end of the calendar year.

Most NCHRP first panel meetings have been held to develop RFPs for FY2017 projects. About 90 problem statements have been received for FY2018 and staff have started their reviews. Reviews are due December 1, at which time the reviews will be returned to the submitters for a response. We plan to have the full package of problem statements and reviews to SCOR and RAC during the first week of January.

We are preparing for the SCOR meeting taking place December 5-6 at the Beckman Center in Irvine, California. The meeting will feature status reports and updates on a number of activities such as the AASHTO reorganization, connected/automated vehicle research, NCHRP's implementation plan, and the recent TRB Symposium on Transformational Technologies. We will also be getting a report from a Task Force looking at the NCHRP AASHTO-support projects (for the committees on highways, planning, environment, and public transportation). There will also be a status report on the TRB policy study on end treatments for W-beam guard rails that originated from an NCHRP problem statement.

TRB IT staff and contractors are planning a full business process review of the Cooperative Research Programs in the next calendar year. Our project management and contact management software has been cobbled together over the years from a number of programs, most of which are outdated at best and no longer supported at worst. TRB is considering whether asking the research programs to contribute to the business discovery process and to future upgrades based on the results.

TCRP recently formulated their FY2017 program, but with only \$5 million for research and administration, the governing board selected only four new projects and six continuations.

The ACRP is getting new projects underway and will be holding their mid-year meeting on February 1-2, 2017 at the Beckman Center in Irvine.

CRP Publications since the last conference call:

NCHRP

- Research Report 838: Guidelines for Optimizing the Risk and Cost of Materials QA Programs (Pre-Publication)
- Report 831: Civil Integrated Management (CIM) for Departments of Transportation,

TCRP

- Research Report 190: Guide to Value Capture Financing for Public Transportation Projects (Pre-Publication)

ACRP

- Synthesis 78: Continuity of Operations Planning for Small Airports
- Report 150: NextGen for Airports, Volume 2: Engaging Airport Stakeholders: Guidebook
- Research Report 161: Guidelines for Improving Airport Services for International Customers
- Report 45: Optimizing the Use of Aircraft Deicing and Anti-Icing Fluids
- Legal Research Digest 30: Contract Risk Management for Airport Agreements
- Research Report 165: Tracking Alternative Jet Fuel

6. OSTR Report – Tim Klein

No report.

7. FHWA Report – Jack Jernigan

FHWA is operating under a continuing resolution of the appropriations bill that extends through December 9th. Expenditures under the federal aid highway funding program are not affected. John Moulden is heading up an initiative on the RD&T research agenda. Moving forward with FAST Act, they are taking the opportunity to review RD&T's program, budget, and funding allocations over the coming next nine months or so. Under the new Act, there has been a 25-35% cut in FHWA's discretionary research funding. David Kuehn is heading

up a training program on technology readiness assessment – it should be relevant and valuable for several FHWA programs and Mr. Jernigan will share the results with RAC and others.

Dale Peabody: During the upcoming December SCOR meeting there is an agenda item on LTPP / LTBPP (Long Term Pavement Performance and Long Term Bridge Performance Programs) funding. Will SCOR be asked to supplement the funding for these two programs? Mr. Jernigan – FHWA funding for the programs has been reduced along with other discretionary programs. There has been discussion for some time about merging the advisory boards for the two programs into a long-term infrastructure performance program. Michael Trentacoste will report on the topic at the December SCOR meeting.

Allison Hardt and Joe Horton were at a recent peer exchange in New Jersey at which there was considerable discussion on the 2 CFR 200 “Supercircular”. Camille Crichton-Sumners described the requirements of the circular and the lack of guidance on how to comply with the new regulations. Mr. Horton led the development of a problem statement to seek SCOR funding to develop that guidance. Joe spoke to Deb Elston last week and she was interested in participating. Jack Jernigan – they need to coordinate with their legal staff. This is a government-wide circular and the implications go well beyond FHWA. He also noted that the administration of the federal aid program has been decentralized and approval of state work plans is handled by Division offices. More flexibility is given to the Divisions and the states, but there is a chance that there may be differences in interpretation of the 2 CFR 200 requirements. Mr. Horton agreed to distribute the problem statement to the leadership for review and Mr. Peabody will present the request to SCOR in December.

8. Region Chairs/Vice-Chairs Issues

Region 1 - Ann Scholz: Region 1 met by conference call last week with nine states participating. 2 CFR 200 was one topic of discussion. Colin Franco has been moved into the planning bureau in Rhode Island; it was not clear whether he will be replaced as the primary RAC member. New Jersey provided a presentation on their TRB visit, peer exchange, research showcase – all held during the same week.

Region 2 – Elisha Wright-Kehner: Most activity has been focused on the 2017 national RAC meeting in Louisville, KY. A couple of peer exchanges are being planned, including one multi-state.

Region 3 – Cynthia Gerst: Region 3 has been discussing better alignment of research needs within the region in order to better coordinate NCHRP problem statement reviews and possible pooled fund projects. They will be holding a dinner meeting during TRB in January.

Region 4 – Joe Horton: There have been discussions around who should be permitted access to the regional listservs. A recommendation has been approved by Region 4 and Joe will send to Dale for discussion. Region 4 is coordinating their review of the most important FY2018 NCHRP problem statements. RAC 4 is planning a dinner meeting after the RAC meeting on Sunday at TRB. Several peer exchanges have been held recently, one on research prioritization.

9. Winter 2017 meeting, Administration Task Force – Allison Hardt

Allison will schedule a conference call with Dale and David in the near future to discuss and finalize the agenda. They have been encouraged to make it more of a business meeting. Cameron noted that last year's meeting included a report on recent peer exchanges. This was done last year and was well-received. There has been no resolution on whether to schedule senior leadership presentations at the meeting.

10. Summer 2017 meeting, RAC 2 – Elisha Wright-Kehner

The planning team last met on October 31st and will meeting again on December 16th. A contract has been signed with the Brown Hotel that guarantees the \$121 per diem rate. A free shuttle will provide transportation to and from the airport. Free WiFi will be available in all rooms. There is a \$3000 minimum for food and beverage – this is relatively low and will allow more flexibility to have off-site events. A room available has been reserved for an Ahead of the Curve class on Sunday. All details of the meeting will be posted on the RPPM and SCOR-RAC websites as well as AASHTO meeting site. Joe and Jason have a preliminary list of exhibitors and are soliciting topics for the technical sessions.

11. Task Force Updates – David

Administration – Allison Hardt

Besides winter meeting planning, the Task Force is looking at updating the RAC 101 presentation. They are meeting again next month and hope to post an updated version. There will be a need to account for any changes from the AASHTO reorganization that will be presented to the Board of Directors at their annual meeting in Boston later this month (Note: the reorganization was approved).

Coordination and Collaboration – Cameron Kergaye

The Task Force has been working with Waseem Dekelbab to focus efforts on research implementation methods and results. They have also been coordinating with the TRB Technology Transfer Committee on a survey of reviewers who helped identify “practice-ready papers” for the TRB annual meeting. They gathered a lot of good information from the reviewers and plan to make it available. They also plan to visit a number of committees in January to talk about research and implementation efforts.

Program Management and Quality – Joe Horton

The Task Force is participating in the Pooled Fund and High Value Research website migration. They working on articles for Public Roads and TR News. David Jared believes the RAC community will find the article for Public Roads to be very useful. It will address high value research, NCHRP Project 20-44, RAC and SCOR, AASHTO Innovation Initiative, and other topics. Brian Hirt provided graphics for the article and for the cover. The proposed article for TR News will not duplicate this one. They plan to send survey RAC next year for ideas on useful new activities for the Task Force. Joe is seeking a volunteer to

serve either as co-chair or vice-chair. David –Jason Bittner has been selected to produce the report on best practices for peer exchanges.

Value of Research – Bill Stone

Linda Taylor will be stepping down as co-chair; she was thanked all her many contributions. Two poster sessions will be held on Monday afternoon at TRB; the Sweet 16 is session 354 at 1:30; supplemental brochure topics are featured between 3:45 – 5:30. James Bryant needs the names of presenters ASAP in order to put titles in the TRB program. November 21 is the date for a test session and training on the new HVR website. It should eventually have more features and capabilities. The Task Force is working with CTC and Associates to enhance the 2017 edition of the Research Impacts document. It will have improved formatting and better graphics. CTC will also produce the Research Makes the Difference and the Supplemental brochures. The Task Force had a team to select the topics for the supplemental brochures; one is usually on safety. They will work more closely with the regions next year and use the submittals and voting results to determine which topics will be featured. Chris Hedges mentioned that these enhanced products were being developed by CTC using funds from the NCHRP 20-111 project, submitted by RAC two years ago for funding to support a number of RAC initiatives.

Transportation Knowledge Networks.

The Task Force plans to meet next month.

12. Adjourn

Next Conference Call: Thursday, December 8, 2016