

## MEETING NOTES

RAC Leadership Teleconference  
Thursday, October 13, 2016  
1:30 – 3:30 pm, EDT

In attendance: Dale Peabody (Chair), David Jared (Vice Chair), Allison Hardt, Chris Hedges, Joe Horton, Cynthia Jones, Rick Kreider, Tim Klein, Ann Scholz, Cindy Smith, Sidney Strecker (FHWA, for John Moulden), Brian Worrell.

Decisions and action items are underscored.

### **1. Roll Call**

### **2. Additions to agenda**

None.

### **3. Notes from previous meeting**

A MOTION (Krieder/Smith) to accept the previous meeting notes was APPROVED.

### **4. AASHTO Report**

No report.

### **5. TRB/SCOR Report – Chris Hedges**

In a reminder from Ann Brach, RAC members are encouraged to RSVP for the CEO/state reps luncheon at the annual meeting if they have not already done so. This is done through a recent survey send to RAC that also asked about reimbursement.

From Mark Norman, at least seven state DOTs will be participating in the Partners in Research: Transformational Technologies Symposium coming up October 31 – November 1 in Detroit.

FY2018 NCHRP problem statements are due tomorrow, October 14<sup>th</sup>. We are currently in the midst of panel meetings to develop RFPs for FY2017 projects.

The ACRP oversight committee selected new topics in July; RFPs will be developed over the next several months.

The TCRP oversight committee meets on October 28<sup>th</sup> to select new topics.

Mr. Hedges described NCHRP implementation activities that are ramping up under implementation coordinator Waseem Dekelbab. He asked whether RAC members or one of its task forces would be interested in conducting an initial screening of implementation

funding proposals to rank topics on the basis of relevance to state DOT priorities. There was discussion but no conclusion – Mr. Hedges will follow up with Waseem and members of RAC.

Publications since the last leadership call:

### **NCHRP**

- Synthesis 495: Use of Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement and Recycled Asphalt Shingles in Asphalt Mixtures
- Report 819: Self-Consolidating Concrete for Cast-in-Place Bridge Components
- Report 825: Planning and Preliminary Engineering Applications Guide to the Highway Capacity Manual
- Report 835: Guidelines for Implementing Managed Lanes (Prepub)

### **TCRP**

- Research Results Digest 112: Contracting Commuter Rail Services
- Research Report 187: Livable Transit Corridors: Methods, Metrics, and Strategies
- Report 188: Shared Mobility and the Transformation of Public Transit

### **ACRP**

- Synthesis 77: Airport Sustainability Practices
- Report 159: Pavement Maintenance Guidelines for General Aviation Airport Management
- Research Report 162: Guidebook for Assessing Airport Lead Impacts

## **6. OSTR Report – Tim Klein**

In the current UTC competition, the DOT has decided to request supplemental information from all 212 proposers asking them to make clear linkages to the FAST Act and departmental priorities. A decision on winners has been deferred until December 4.

Joe Horton passed on comments from universities in his region that the delayed process is holding up annual workplans and programming. He asked OSTR to take this into consideration for future competitions.

## **7. FHWA Report – Sydney Strecker**

Turner Fairbank is completing interviews for a legislative analyst position; when that is filled the Office of RD&T will be fully staffed. FHWA is working with the Office of Innovative Programming on a new initiative called “Innovation as a key business process”.

Mr. Strecker reminded RAC that *Every Day Counts* regional summits will be held between October and December.

From David Pamplin, the transition of the Pooled Fund Program website to a new host will be completed soon. FHWA will be posting a file on the website of all projects and current status; this will be updated in the middle of each month.

Please note that close-out requirements for pooled fund projects require a change of status on the PF website, posting of the final report, submission of a close-out spreadsheet, and use of form 1575 to return unspent money to sponsors.

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

Reg. 4 – Joe Horton – The last conference call featured updates on a number of recent and upcoming peer exchanges: Utah this week, Caltrans first week in November. Maina Tran provided an update on website updates and migration. A question was raised about who is allowed to be on the RAC listserv. There was general agreement that the list should be restricted to government employees or staff from AASHTO or TRB. Joe is developing a policy and will share with the other regions.

Region 2 – Cindy Smith – Still working monthly on FY2017 national meeting. A timeline for critical planning milestones developed – thanks to Region 1 for the example. Information will be posted on the SCOR/RAC, RPPM, and AASHTO websites.

Region 3 – Cynthia – Under consideration is a regional consortium for common research issues and may develop a pooled fund effort similar to other regions. The operating guidelines are under review. Region 3 will hold a dinner in January rather than a meeting. The website updates for peer exchanges look very good; 5 or 6 Region 3 states are planning exchanges in 2017.

Region 1 – Ann Scholz – Met one week ago with 8 states participating. A membership slot was filled on Value of the Research task force; they are once again featuring topic presentations on the calls – covered the NH peer exchange last week;

David Jared – the New Hampshire peer exchange was very well organized and a wide variety of internal partners participated. CTC did a good job organizing the event.

## **9. Winter 2017 meeting, Administration Task Force – Allison**

Brian Worrel received 32 responses to a survey collecting input from the agenda. There was a consensus that programmatic updates from TRB, AASHTO, and FHWA were not needed unless there are specific new initiatives affecting RAC. Similarly there was little interest in CV/AV, regional updates, or funding program updates. Survey results reflect a need to eliminate overlap between this meeting and the state reps luncheon. Dale – if we decide to change the agenda to eliminate national program updates, we should know this soon. A draft agenda should be available for review by the November leadership call.

## **10. Summer 2017 meeting, RAC 2**

No report.

## **11. Task Force Updates – David**

### **Administration – Allison Hardt**

Other than planning the winter meeting, the task force is working on website updates, task force membership revisions, the RAC 101 presentation, and guidelines for hosting national RAC meeting. Ann Scholz asked other states to let her know if they statistics on statistics: costs, average number of registrants, room rates, etc.

### **Coordination and Collaboration – No report**

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

At Sept 8 meeting they received an update from Maina Tran on website activity. A survey was distributed to determine best times and dates for future task force meetings; they will be adjusting the schedule based on the results. Seven new focus areas have been identified, and they will follow up with RAC leadership for discussion and approval. Two people are interested in chairing or co-chairing this effort. David Jared is preparing an article for Public Roads on moving research into practice. Another article on implementation is planned for TR News. Washington State DOT is leading a pooled fund project on research management databases (Bin Bui involved from PM&Q – reviewing proposals now). A new consultant is needed for the 20-111G project to review peer exchange practices. Barbara Harder is unable to accept the contract for health reasons and David will schedule a conference call to discuss. The task force is still working on skill sets for transportation research managers.

### **Value of Research**

David Jared - Bill Stone is working with James Bryant to identify speakers for a High Value Research poster session at the 2017 TRB annual meeting. A time and date should be set soon.

## **TKN**

David – Curtis is working on reviving the task force; they are now meeting monthly and working with Erin Grady on an initiative concerning the AASHTO publication distribution policy.

## **12. Adjourn**

Next Conference Call: Thursday, November 10, 2016