

**AASHTO Research Advisory Committee  
Value of Research Task Force  
Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date</b>	November 18, 2015	<b>Time</b>	11:00 – 12 noon Central
<b>Co-Chairs</b>	Bill Stone, Missouri DOT Linda Taylor, MnDOT	<b>Scribe</b>	Renée McHenry, Missouri DOT Bill Stone, Missouri DOT
<b>Subject</b>	Value of Research Task Force Teleconference		
<b>Attendees</b>	<u>State DOT – members</u> Bill Stone, Missouri (co-chair) Linda Taylor, Minnesota (co-chair) J. Michelle Owens, Alabama Ann Scholz (New Hampshire DOT)  <u>State DOT – friends</u> Alicia Urban (Arizona DOT) Megan Swanson (Illinois DOT) Skip Paul (Louisiana DOTD) Jerry “Wayne” Rice (Oklahoma DOT) Jimmy White (Virginia DOT) Enid White (Wyoming DOT)	<u>Other organizations – friends</u> Pat Casey, CTC & Associates Chris Jenks, NCHRP Valerie Lefler, Integrated Global Dimensions	

**Key Points Discussed**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Highlights</b>
1	Welcome and roll call	Linda did a Roll Call.
2	Review & Approve September Meeting Minutes & Action Items	Minutes: Motion to approve (Ann); seconded (Linda)

<p>3</p>	<p><b>High Value Research Update – Bill Stone</b></p> <p>TRB Annual Meeting Poster Session Update (TRB Session: Jan. 11th , 2016 8:30- 10:15 AM in Hall E)</p> <p>2016 High Value Research Solicitation Process</p>	<p>Bill: There will be presentations on the 10 research projects from the Structures brochure and the 16 Sweet 16 project for 26 total areas. He has sent the names of presenters to James Bryant for the TRB conference listing (printed and interactive versions).</p> <p>Chris: The printed conference booklet will only be a slimmed down version with session titles only. A PDF with more details will be available prior to the conference.</p> <p>Bill: The HVR solicitation process will start in Mid-January and close on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Bill will be sending out information. Renée will be available to help with the submittal process if needed. <b>Staff may want to double-check that they have working RPM passwords ahead of time.</b></p> <p>Bill: Ann Scholz looked into high research submittals. RPM will be used for next submittal. What should be done in the future? RPPM might be a later option. Ann reached out to Natassja (definitely an option). The contract ends in July 2016.</p> <p>Chris: SCOR would be the one to make a decision. Not sure if someone put in a request for further funding as a problem statement.</p> <p>Bill: We discussed this before the summer meeting and could discuss more at TRB. We could use additional SCOR support funding.</p> <p>Skip: Tommy and others were working on a problem statement to move funding from RPM to RPPM and ask for funding.</p> <p>Chris: What are the annual costs? Skip replied \$15,000-\$20,000 per year. It could come out of RAC task force activities pot.</p> <p>Linda: Monies haven't been allocated yet. We have identified user and administrative issues. We would like someone who has programming skills and understands our needs, can evaluate options, and provide recommendations on how to proceed.</p> <p>Chris: Could a consultant do the evaluation?</p> <p>Linda: They could. Only a few states are using RPM for its intended purpose. We need to see if it can be done more expeditiously. However, we don't want to lose information. We need the legacy of HVR. We would need to look to Skip and Chris – is this a possibility? We haven't really been "in" on this discussion.</p> <p>Chris: Funds could be set aside for RAC activities. The oversight panel was supposed to be formed based on RAC leadership. The task force would provide the request and panel would say yea/nay. TRB would facilitate to get the project done.</p> <p>Skip: The panel would consist of the Task Force chairs, Chris and Skip. Natassja has looked at how to incorporate RPM into RPPM. It would retain the key HVR features.</p> <p>Linda: What about timing and this cycle? Chris is looking for a date (maybe the Thursday of TRB week or sometime in January)</p> <p>Bill – solicitation deadline is march</p> <p>Chris: We could ask for funding beyond July to ensure continued access and functionality of static site until transition. Unless you want to completely re-do RPM (diff story). Maybe just have RPM focus on</p>
----------	---	--

<p>4</p>	<p><b>Marketing the Value of Research Working Group -Megan Swanson</b></p> <p>2015 Supplemental Brochures (Pavements and Safety)</p> <p>Marketing Survey Next Steps</p>	<p>Bill: Megan is the Working Group Chair. Our supplemental brochures this year will be one on Pavements and another brochure on Safety. The projects have already been compiled. So voting on which projects to include in the brochure is the next step. We are targeting 8 projects in each brochure. Bill needs voters from Regions 2 and 4. Ann Scholz offered to assist. Voters can help with write-ups unless there are other ideas from the group.</p> <p>Linda: Did we discuss getting support? Bill replied yes; the write-ups take time and Pat helped with editing the final versions last time.</p> <p>Linda: It would be great if we could contract out the write-ups. Bill agreed. Chris said the Sweet 16 brochure funding came out of 20-44. Linda reiterated that states are busy and writing may not be in their skillset.</p> <p>Ann: How many supplementary brochures will there be? Bill replied two. Ann said she could help with voting. Bill will try to reach out to the MoDOT public relations for help with writing and formatting. Linda also said her communications staff might be able to help. Bill will still reach out to other regions for the voting task.</p> <p>Bill: The marketing survey had 30 respondents (15 offered to share their results). Bill would like to dive into this further. How are states reviewing their effectiveness? How could this help other states? We'd like to hear from managers. It might be a good idea to pursue RAC/NCHRP funding for this. Linda agreed that an in-depth review is needed.</p> <p>Bill asked Pat for his ideas. Pat replied that we would need to drill down further to determine what each state is doing, how we could learn from them, and continue sharing. He'd have to think about it more.</p> <p>Ann: The theme of next summer's conference is improving information sharing. Could this be an opportunity for next summer? Bill agreed that it would be a good topic for a session and we should see if any of the 15 states that agreed to share information from the recent Marketing Survey would be willing to present.</p>
----------	---	---

5	<p><b>Performance Measure &amp; Quantifying the Value of Research Working Group -Jason Siwula</b></p> <p>Status Update</p> <p>a. Southeast Transportation Consortium (STC) – Don Williams</p> <p>b. Florida - Darryll Dockstader</p> <p>c. MnDOT Benefit Quantification Project – Hafiz Munir</p> <p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Bill: Jason Siwula had another commitment today but is talking to volunteers to assist him. He is trying to schedule a call in December to provide some information so that they can proceed.</p> <p>Bill: Don Williams was also unavailable and Darryll is not on the call.</p> <p>Linda: They just attended a training session on the tool for quantifying benefits. It goes through aspects such as lifecycle, user benefits, materials benefits and risk management. It calculates the benefit cost and annual savings. They are currently finalizing the user manual and final report, which will be available by the end of year. To use the tool, staff will need to pull data (traffic safety, personnel, and materials costs). It will be able to vary by area within the state. Bill asked the project developed only the framework. Linda said it established the process but they also took 10 projects in different areas (materials/construction, traffic safety, bridges/structures) and went through the exercise. In some cases, you may need to use estimates rather than actual numbers. One example, for a traffic signal timing project, they could only quantify results 10 years out but not enough data was available for 3 years. The proof will be when staff use the tool and capture data up front.</p> <p>Chris: Have you used the process to evaluate the state's use of selected NCHRP products? Linda replied that they haven't explored yet but would need to look at first. Right now, they are looking at their own research projects or pooled fund projects.</p>	
6	<p><b>Misc. Topics</b></p> <p>2016 Conference Call Proposed Dates</p> <p>Conference Calls: Second Wednesday of Alternating Months (Jan-no meeting; March 9th, May 11th, Summer Meeting July 25-28th, Sept.14th and Nov. 9th, 2016)</p> <p>NCHRP Project 20-111 Support for AASHTO RAC Taskforce</p>	<p>Linda: Posted proposed conference call dates for 2016 VOR meetings to determine if there might be a conflict. If not, she will send out a meeting invite.</p> <p>Linda: Regarding project 20-111, we are looking at support for an RPM assessment and the cost to move/update it; AASHTO survey; and brochure compilation/support. How do we proceed?</p> <p>Bill offered to compile information from the Task Force on the RPM website for HVR Solicitation, Marketing Brochures and Performance Measures Working group and share those with Chris Hedges whom is leading the Project 20-111 effort to identify a work plan for RAC Support</p> <p>Chris: Prepare a request to describe scope and amount of funds needed and submit to Chris Hedges. He'll get the panel involved in making decisions.</p>	
<b>Action Items</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
1	Find representatives from Regions 2 and 4 to volunteer and vote on the top 8 projects for the Pavements and Safety Brochure	Bill	December 1, 2015
2	Gather information on the RPM website for use as the HVR input to NCHRP Project 20-111 for consideration of financial and technical support	Bill/Linda	Mid-January 2016

3	Develop a plan for the development of future Supplementation Brochures to NCHRP Project 20-111 consideration	Bill/Linda	Mid-January 2016
4	Develop a plan for future Performance Working Group needs for NCHRP Project 20-111 consideration	Bill/Linda	Mid-January 2016
5	Send out information on the upcoming High Value Research Solicitation with RPM guidance	Bill	December 31, 2015
6	Schedule 2016 VOR Taskforce meetings	Linda	January 22, 1016