

MINUTES
Research Advisory Committee, Region 4 Meeting
Wichita, Kansas, Monday, July 23, 2018,
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Roll Call

Present	Name	Organization
X	Carolyn Morehouse	Alaska DOT
X	Dianne Kresich	Arizona DOT
	Jim Appleton	California DOT
	Joe Horton	California DOT
	Pete Zaniewski	California DOT
	Aziz Khan	Colorado DOT
X	Amanullah Mommandi	Colorado DOT
	Wayne Kawahara	Hawaii DOT
X	Ned Parrish	Idaho TD
X	Sue Sillick	Montana DOT
X	Bobbi deMontigny	Montana DOT
	Mostafa Jamshidi	Nebraska DOR
X	Ken Chambers – Chair	Nevada DOT
X	Randall Soderquist (by phone)	New Mexico DOT
X	Clayton Schumaker (by phone)	North Dakota DOT
	Matt Linneman	North Dakota DOT
X	Amy Beise	North Dakota DOT
	Ron Curb	Oklahoma DOT
X	David Ooten	Oklahoma DOT
X	Teresa Stephens	Oklahoma DOT
X	Michael Bufalino– Vice Chair	Oregon DOT
X	Dave Huft	South Dakota DOT
X	Wade Odell (by phone)	Texas DOT
X	Rocio Perez- Secretary	Texas DOT
X	Kevin Pete	Texas DOT
X	Phillip Hempel	Texas DOT
X	Cameron Kergaye	Utah DOT
	David Stevens	Utah DOT
X	Rhonda Brooks	Washington DOT
	Tim McDowell	Wyoming DOT
X	Enid White	Wyoming DOT

Additional Attendees	Organization
Lori Sundstrom	NCHRP
Jim McDonnell	AASHTO
Eva-Maria Muecke	Portland State University
Lisa Patterson	TREC

Welcome and introductions

- Ken Chambers is the new RAC 4 Chair, Michael Bufalino is the Vice-Chair and Rocio Perez is the new Secretary.
- Ken thanked the previous RAC 4 administration for their service. He asked for help to review minutes –thank you Wade and Ned for volunteering.

Administration updates

Discuss and finalize dinner plans for Wednesday

- Dinner will be held on Wed., July 25th at 6 PM. Reservations for 22 were made at River City Brewing Company.

Membership changes

- Ken brought a PDF of the RAC 4 roster showing current members. Team will review the roster and contact Natassja Linzau (TRB) Ken or Rocio with updates. Roll call was taken.

Region IV overview and goals

What did we accomplish this year?

- NCHRP Regional Scoring
- Peer Exchanges –just one peer exchange in the last year that took place in Montana
- HVR Selection-will continue the same and Ken congratulated the winners and thanked UTAH for their assistance.

Discussions on – What to highlight?

- Ken-TKN, electronic document access-State DOTs should post on different topics.
- Cameron invited folks to meeting that afternoon. He discussed an initiative in UTAH, none traditional research.
- Ned-In Idaho, the Director meets with those that have initiatives that are not straight research. They are on their 4th year. States could bring ideas that may never hit a TRB paper, but allow people to bring things that are useful.

Is there a change at the funding level end in the committees?

- Michael-Planning and Environmental Committees are questioning why their dedicated committee NCHRP funding went away.
- Ned-Other AASHTO committees asked for funding, they were denied. R&I wants to make funding available to everyone. There currently is money available for all committees for different initiatives such as development of research roadmaps and hosting research-related workshops. There are also other pots of money available for things such as immediate research.
- Ken-What are potential items we can discuss for the next year?
- Theresa addressed the SPR Part B guidance that is under legal review and the Leadership call that took place in June.
- Sue mentioned it may not relate to AASHTO. Sue recommends we put together a survey from RAC 4 on how you implement innovation in the DOTs. 2 CFR 200 is newer and it will be addressed in the updates that are more research related.

What do we want to accomplish this year?

Plan and execute 2019 Midyear Meeting in Santa Fe –Will continue.

- Continue NCHRP Regional Scoring-Will continue.
- Peer Exchanges this year- Arizona's will be coming in the near future; New Mexico and Washington will be held this year as well.
- Task Force Participation-Will continue and encouraged.
- Get all states participating in RAC 4 Meetings–Ken thanked North Dakota for coming to RAC Meeting. Hawaii is still pending.
- Update rosters and listserv –Joe Horton has asked that relevant information be updated. Send any changes to Ken or Rocio.

RAC IV Peer Exchanges

Summary of RAC 4 Peer Exchanges Completed last 12 months?

Montana completed.

Identify Upcoming Peer Exchanges and Topics or Others?

Arizona, Washington and New Mexico are pending

RAC Mid-Year Meeting Planning for 2019 in NM

- Randall-Will take place at the Drury Hotel in Santa Fe July 22-25, 2019, and the dinner will take place at the New Mexico History Museum.
- RAC Meeting lodging rates are good for RAC week only, but if you need more information, speak to Karen Crawford at the Drury.

Will AASHTO or NM create a video?

- Randall-They have not started one.
- Ned-The video can be requested from the Chamber of Commerce or another entity, not necessarily developed by the DOT.

What help does NM need?

- Randall- once Wichita, Kansas RAC Meeting concludes, he will discuss with Karen. The current NM Secretary wants to leave the theme to the next Secretary.
- Ken asked the team to volunteer and assist with the conference.

Discuss FHWA Site Visits

States share experiences

- Ken-The visit to Nevada DOT was just a courtesy visit and directed at coordination between planning rep. and FHWA at Turner Fairbanks.
- Ned- Sid Steckler visited Idaho at the end of May. It was a two day visit and meeting primarily with division office folks. Steckler and the FHWA Division Office Research Liaison and spent some hours with him. They talked about the structure of the program, project selection process, technology readiness and innovation/research issues. Also mentioned the level of their involvement in the STIC and how they could help.
- Sue-Montana's meeting was similar to Idaho's.
- Diane-Arizona appreciated the time they were given and found Sid to be very helpful. Sid mentioned the Research entity should be part of STIC.
- Ned-they plan on visiting all the states in the next 3-4 years.
- David-Oklahoma was visited by Mary Huie. He mentioned that it was a casual visit that included hot topics and the STIC in the discussion. The purpose was to meet/greet and build relationships.
- Waseem-The FHWA's goal is to improve their understanding of the research so they may help the division offices and the DOTs.
- Ned-It is good to have FHWA Division Office folks at the AASHTO RAC meetings.

How do states engage in:

STIC

- Sue-Determine the benefit of the STIC and become more incorporated with the innovations.
- Michael had a discussion at Oregon, defined roles in a new Innovation Section. Inside the DOT they are developing a community of practice of innovators.
- Mommandi -Colorado is leading EDC, his branch manages the STIC and the T Square and works closely with EDC. Goes to region and talks to maintenance. Tapping into the CDOT staff and they have their own newspaper.
- Caroline-Alaska started the research STIC and they bring the funds to the table.
- Kevin-Texas drives the STIC in partnership with FHWA. Build upon utilizing EDCs and includes many industry folks. Wade-there is a relationship between EDC and STIC, topics coming out are sent to the STIC for a survey to make selection.
- David-Oklahoma, changes in leadership increased the state level work in STIC, research group is struggling with issues regarding the different things they are

- working on. They were not seeing value from the state side. The state never really knew what was going on in since FHWA was leading reporting end on EDCs. They have tried to rebuild to get more out of it.
- Rhonda-Washington does not know what to do with the STIC.
 - Waseem-FHWA always needs a champion. They can assist if needed and there is additional funding available through them.
 - Diane-Arizona-there are five or six active members. A consultant runs the administrative work.
 - Michael-Oregon needs to have a separate meeting on STIC and additional funding as well. Ken-Nevada just obtains the funding from the STIC.
 - Theresa-We should setup some time to further discuss this topic.

EDC-

- Michael-Always been on the highway side and that is where the STIC lies.
- Carolyn-STIC was established in Alaska two years ago.
- David-working hard to figure out what's in it for everybody. What does innovation really mean?
- FHWA just announced a new set of EDC technologies/practices (EDC-5). They are getting ready to do regional workshops and each state can send up to 12 people.

Innovation Community of Practice

- Ned- SCOR was renamed as the Special Committee on Research and Innovation (R&I) and the AASHTO Innovation Initiative (AII) was moved under R&I. They have been looking at how to incorporate innovation into the committee's work and decided to create a new innovation community of practice that would be comprised of staff in state DOT innovation offices. 40 or more folks from around the country were participating.
- Jim-Community of practice was to further discuss and put together a core group of folks to discuss how to and who to reach out to. He will email the list of who is on it. Letter went out to several folks.
- Mommandi - Colorado has an efficient process and it is their easiest program.
- Cameron-Consortium gets together and pool their money, a few states participate. We should work as a group to bring people together.
- Ned- We should consider inviting folks from the innovation community of practice to the RAC meeting next summer.

SCRI Update – RAC 4 SCRI members provide their thoughts

- Ned-Cameron is a member in this group. They are updating the Strategic Plan and have four focus areas. One focus is getting input from state DOT CEOs on research needs. They established a AASHTO Strategic Research Team, comprised of the state DOT CEOs serving on the TRB Executive Committee, to provide input on critical issues that could possibly be addressed through NCHRP research. This group met in Nashville. The AASHTO Innovation Initiative (AII) has been charged with creating a flow path to make people aware of resources/programs that are available to assist with development and marketing of innovations (ex. IDEA). The next meeting is in Oct.
- Lori- There is a new project to develop the methodology of calculating value of NCHRP projects. It answers the question of what difference does it make. We should put in a category of incremental progress and should not just focus on ROI. NCHRP has the money, not TRB. They will be developing a communication plan to look at how they can get information about NCHRP research results out to state DOTs and AASHTO committees more quickly and in ways that will encourage implementation. They want to build this functionality into their new IT system. R&I allocated \$2M in funding annually to support implementation of NCHRP results. She passed out sheets for panel nominations.

Go around by state

- Nevada- Their library staff put together a summary of concerns regarding AASHTO digital publications distribution and findability.

Wrap-up and next meeting

- Our next RAC 4 meeting will be a WebEx on Thursday, August 16th from 12:00-1:00 p.m. PST

Reminder - RAC 4 2018 Meetings will continue to be held on usually the third Thursday, every other month.

- The scheduled dates are:
 - Thursday, August 16, 2018, Noon PDT
 - Thursday, October 18, 2018, Noon PDT
 - Thursday, December 13, 2018, Noon PDT (Moved up from 20th)