

AASHTO – RAC Value of Research Taskforce
September Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 12, 2018
11 a.m. – 12 noon CDT

Welcome – Introductions & Roll Call

Bill called the meeting at 11:03 a.m. CDT.

Anne Freeman called the roll

Attendees:

Bill Stone	Curtis Bradley	Gary Hook
Kevin Pete	Wayne Schumacher	Patrick Casey
David Sherman	Anne Freeman	Lynn Hanus
Flavia Pereira	Ken Chambers	Jorge Prozzi
Lakeda Huckabay	Dale Peabody	??? Ryan
Tim McDowell	Enid White	Amy Kosanovic
Neil Mastin	Ann Scholz	

Review & Approval of Summer Meeting Minutes & Action Items

Amy put the meeting minutes up on the screen to review. Bill discussed the Summer Meeting minutes and briefly covered the Southeast Consortium presentation given by Dr. Yoon. He also still needs to get the Strategic Plan draft out. He finished up asking for comments, which we had none

Motion – Ann Scholz Approved – David Sherman.

NCDOT Presentation

Neil Mastin and Curtis Bradley presented on research implementation for NCDOT. The presentation related to one of their research projects that attempted to quantify implementation and benefits to NCDOT via a Benefit/Cost Analysis and their internal efforts to investigate and survey research project implementation.

Questions at the end of the presentation:

1. Bill Stone asked about whether the 17 contracts were in-house or university-based? Neil confirmed that all their research is primarily university-based.
2. David Sherman asked when NCDOT needed more interaction with project, was that subjective or objective? Neil confirmed that it could be both and that there were definitely research PIs that needed more hand holding. Their office also tries to stay on top of those researchers that are conducting research for several different types of groups.
3. David Sherman also asked about their project selection process? Neil stated that they have technical committees and then an Executive committee that chooses the projects to be researched. They still need to work on stages of the project process.
4. Bill Stone also asked about the three forms NCDOT uses as part of the implementation plan? Curtis will send it to Amy to distribute out to the group, along with the presentation.

5. Bill Stone asked how well received are the forms from the research PIs? Curtis said he had only received one push back from a PI.
6. Enid White offered that Wyoming sends out their first implementation form immediately. Then subsequent forms go out at nine months and three years to see how the implementation has affected the area, process, etc. This follow-up can also sometimes determine if additional research is needed.

Synthesis NCHRP 49-07 - “Managing State Transportation Research Programs”

Bill Stone described the project that it is a study that is attempting to address the question: “How do transportation agencies organize and manage their research programs to strive for quality and positive impacts on the transportation system?”

It is a synthesis study so it will be documenting information on the state of practice and is not intended to outline best practices.

The study documents state transportation research program structures and processes and has been developed to cover four areas:

- Program Capability-the ability of a state research program to in respect to goals, knowledge, expertise, resources and relationships.
- Program Management-Document the processes and procedures of research programs to execute, manage and deliver research results
- Program Quality-How state research programs adhere to principles, best practices and efficiencies to pursue their research
- Program Value-how state research programs are developing useful means to gain knowledge on the value of the research they are conducting to enhance the transportation system.

One of the first activities of the research was to conduct a survey on the elements of the synthesis on managing state transportation research programs and also including elements on workforce skillsets and experience as this was the common elements of two submittals that ultimately became this study. One was submitted by the Value of Research Task Force and the other from the Ahead of Curve efforts. There were 44 agencies responding to the survey. One of the last informational elements offered from the survey is where are the research programs located in their respective agencies. It was note about 45% are located in Policy/Planning sections. Approximately 20% under the Chief Engineer, 12% in materials, 7% strategy unit, 17% other.

The study also identified five agencies to conduct further interviews and identify specifics on items such as how they prioritize and select research projects and also have they evaluate their research programs to cover the four areas identified earlier. This was a nice element of the study and the following five agencies:

- District of Columbia DOT
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
- Minnesota DOT
- Ohio DOT
- Utah DOT

The panel has submitted their comments to the finals draft and it now under review by NCHRP.

Miscellaneous

Bill wants to begin discussion and surveying of other research programs on how they market their research projects. He asked for volunteers. In addition to Pat Casey with CTC Associates that will play a big role in the surveying, Jorge Prozzi, Anne Freeman, and Amy Kosanovic volunteered to help with the surveying.

Bill also plans to send out the actual topic areas that were decided upon for the HVR website.

Bill also reiterated that a draft of the Strategic Plan that Ann Scholz presented at the Summer Meeting will be sent out soon.

Ann Scholz asked if the Sweet Sixteen presentation had been sent to the appropriate people for future use. Bill said he would follow up to ensure that they had received the presentation.

Wrap Up

The meeting was adjourned by Bill at 11:58 a.m. Conference Calls are bi-monthly on the second Wednesday at 11 am to noon CST. The remaining conference call in 2018 is to be held on November 14, 2018.