



The RAC Region 1 teleconference was held on Thursday, August 2, 2018.

The following individuals participated:

Flavia Pereira	Connecticut
Stephanie Dock (Chair)	District of Columbia
Stefanie Brodie	District of Columbia
Allison Hardt	Maryland
Hua Xiang	Maryland
Steve Woelfel	Massachusetts
Ann Scholz	New Hampshire
Dee Nash	New Hampshire
Don Streeter	New York
Doug Zimmerman	Pennsylvania
Mike Sock	Rhode Island
Emily Parkany (Vice Chair)	Vermont
Ian Anderson	Vermont

Minutes from the 7/5/18 call were approved (Hardt/Streeter)

### Old Business/Announcements

1. RAC Leadership Update – there was no leadership call in July. A brief meeting was held in Wichita at the end of the conference. The discussion was largely around RAC-CUTC collaboration. There is interest in seeing where that could go, but questions about how to proceed. There will be future work on this to see what the groups can come up with to collaborate on. The group is not immediately leaning toward an MOU, as had been suggested during the CUTC session, but rather towards starting to work together and having the partnership grow more first.
2. Member updates – There has been turnover in some of our states.
  - a. Delaware: Mike DuRoss is an Assistant Director in Planning for DeIDOT. SPR parts 1 and 2 are handled together in Delaware and the part 2, Research, is in the process of being strengthened.
  - b. MassDOT has had a few changes. Steve Woelfl from MassDOT was on the call. He is the Deputy Director of Planning, which also oversees Research. Radha Gomez has recently left Research and Lily Oliver will be taking over her role on RAC. Lily could not join this week, but Steve wants to see MassDOT engaged with RAC again.
  - c. Doug Zimmerman is the Acting Division Chief of Research. He has been in the role for a year and a half. Lisa Tarson is still in Research, but Doug will be the primary RAC representative going forward.
3. Task force membership – the region tries to have 2 members on each task force. Program Management & Quality was down to one person, Hua, but Emily Parkany is now a member as of the RAC meeting last week.

### RAC Task Forces/Announcements

**Administration** – Allison reported that the task force successfully hosted the Your Role in RAC session in Wichita based on feedback from the Sunday meeting at the TRB Annual Meeting. The updated RAC meeting guidelines have now been reviewed by the AASHTO meeting planners and will be posted in September. The task force discussed ideas for the onboarding calls that Cynthia Jones and Brian Worrel have been hosting. They got good feedback from Brian Ness, chair of the Standing Committee on Research & Innovation. There are also new, needed members for the website working group.



Allison reminded the region that we need to plan the agenda for the January 2019 RAC meeting at the TRB Annual Meeting. This usually starts with a survey to RAC about topics. We will again encourage folks to come early and stay late for networking around that meeting. Allison requested that this be an item on the agenda going forward.

**Coordination and Collaboration** – Stephanie reported that the CCTF had discussed some new ideas to work on:

- Writing better problem statements (for NCHRP) from the State DOT perspective. The TRB Conduct of Research committee has an AASHTO outreach group working on some similar information about funding programs for the committee research coordinators. They are looking for volunteers to help with a crosswalk of AASHTO committees to TRB committees. There was also the suggestion to encourage states to look at the Research Needs Statement database when putting together statements for NCHRP and our own research, since those statements are often produced by the TRB committees and have good information.
- Sharing implementation of TRB ideas. There is interest in how people take ideas back from the TRB AM and try to implement what they learn. It can take a lot of work to track, but there is payback (based on Utah experience). One idea would be to survey attendees soon after the meeting to see what they took away and want to implement, so you have something to follow up on.

CCTF also discussed that the A.I.I. group is looking to set up a community of practice to help take ideas back and put them into action at your DOT. The Transportation Knowledge Networks is working on 508 compliance (making web documents accessible). There was discussion of the technical documentation page – USDOT wants to be able to track projects funded by SPR. They had suggested language but it was noted that there is already another spot in the model technical documentation page that would do that. TKN is going to work with USDOT on the language and then make sure the regions are aware of the technical documentation page guidance. Enid White of Montana is looking into copyright questions around papers and final reports.

The next CCTF meetings will be in Sept and Nov.

**Program Management and Quality** – Hua reported that the research implementation subgroup is monitoring the NCHRP 20-44 (09) project on the value of NCHRP projects. Frances Harrison of Spy Pond Partners provided an update on the pooled fund project on program management tools. There was also a reminder to clean up old contracts in the pooled fund system. The task force discussed whether to continue their subgroup on quality and timeliness of research products – there appears to still be interest and Jen Harper of MoDOT may assist going forward. Enid White of Montana gave an update on the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that took effect in May 2018. The regulation affects European researchers working on US projects. The task force is looking into developing a new action plan. The peer exchange report is due soon. There is an ongoing survey about staffing levels in SPR part 2 programs and 2CFR200 compliance. They also discussed copyright issues and whether journals will accept articles if the state is publishing the report.

The next meeting is Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Value of Research** - Ann reported that they got an updated presentation from the Southeast Transportation Consortium about their research paper on performance measures. There is still some work to be done to make the report implementable when it is published later this year. The Sweet 16 presentations were successful this year and all states with winning projects are reminded that there will be a poster session at TRB in January. Bill Stone will have more information out about that soon. The task force has updated its action plan and that will be finalized soon. The task force is working on guidance about high value research submissions and regional voting – they continue to enhance the process.

**New Business**



1. Site of 2020 summer meeting: Steve Woelfl reported that MassDOT has the green light to host from their leadership. Stephanie will let Glenn, Dale, and Jim know and connect with MassDOT on next steps.
2. Report back from RAC summer meeting. The region 1 members who attended the meeting last week in Wichita reported back on their key takeaways from the meeting:
  - a. The use of Mentimeter came up for multiple people – the system worked well. Allison liked the submission and rolling comments. Flavia is looking to implement it for seminars and lunch and learns. Vermont has experience with the system and is a good resource, along with Iowa DOT, on the options.
  - b. Jack Jernigan had reported that FHWA is trying to get out to all the states over the next 4 years to learn about the research programs. Craig Thor of TFHRC will be visiting MD on Aug 26<sup>th</sup> and Allison will report back on that at the next meeting. Vermont is up soon after that (Sept) and interested to hear how that goes.
  - c. Implementation and tech transfer were heavily discussed. The intro to A.I.I. was also appreciated, since many had not known much about that beforehand (and there are still many questions).
  - d. The session on TRB State Visits was helpful for thinking about how to structure and use those.
  - e. The first time attendees felt like they learned a lot about what RAC does. Look at RPPM! The RAC community is very friendly, the conference ran on time, and there was a good dose of humor.
  - f. Emily in Vermont is looking into information she learned about program compliance, based on some work OR has done, as well as NH and ME.
  - g. Stephanie is going to look into MnDOT's strategic plan(s) and NC's protocols/surveys from their ROI project to inform a potential survey to agency staff.

Based on the discussion, the next calls will try to incorporate presentations on the 20-44 NCHRP implementation program, particularly MassDOT's nearly completed project, and on the AASHTO Innovation Initiative (A.I.I.).

Ann alerted the newer members to the option of RAC mentoring. If interested in being mentored or mentoring a new member, please reach out to Stephanie.

The next meeting is September 6, 2018.