

## RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) met in the WYDOT Commissioner's meeting room on Tuesday, April 14, 2015. The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. The following members were present, constituting a quorum.

Tony Laird, P.E., Highway Development  
Greg Milburn, Materials Lab  
Jim Coffin, Geology  
Larry Konetzki, District 4, Maintenance Engineer  
Keith Compton, District 3, Engineer  
Michael J. Miller, Right of Way  
Martin Kidner  
Enid White, Research Manager

Also present at and participating during the meeting were:

Matt Carlson

Ms. White introduced herself and her job duties. She informed the RAC that there would be one presentation and informed the RAC that there would be 15 minutes for the presentation and 15 minutes for questions from the RAC. Ms. White asked everyone to please state their names when they talk because the meeting is being recorded.

1. Minutes: There were no changes, deletions, or questions on the draft minutes. Mr. Laird moved and Mr. Miller seconded his motion to approve the minutes. Minutes from the previous RAC meeting were unanimously approved by the RAC.

2. Budget: Ms. White informed the RAC that the funding is very minimal because the Research Center had not receive its full allotment. Ms. White explained that for this meeting there was approximately \$100,000 available. She explained the federal mandates and how funding goes to NCHRP, TRB and SHRP II yearly. It was noted that the federal partners have only taken partial payments in FY2015 so far, but that full payments were expected.

3. Proposal:

### **Developing Mitigation Strategies to Reduce Truck Crash Rates on Wyoming Highways.**

**Matt Carlson, State Highway Safety Engineer**  
**Khaled Ksaibati, Principle Investigator.**

Mr. Carlson introduced himself and the project. He informed the RAC that this project comes from a request by the Wyoming Transportation Safety Coalition, which is a group appointed by the governor to serve on the Transportation Safety Committee. Mr. Carlson presented the committee with a national study on highway safety.

Dr. Ksaibati outlined the project and the objectives. He stated that the first objective for the project is to identify the primary factors behind the high number of truck crashes in the state. The second objective is to develop mitigation strategies for the Wyoming Highway Patrol and WYDOT to figure out

how to reduce the high truck crashes in the state. Dr. Ksaibati discussed the various studies that were looked at when implementing the proposal and how there was a discrepancy between the numbers from WYDOT and the numbers in the studies.

Dr. Ksaibati outlined the highway zones which will be studied; the survey they will use for the highway patrol; and three recommendations categories which will come out of the study. Dr. Ksaibati further discussed the scope of work and the budget; the desired outcomes; and who will be assisting with the project.

#### **Discussion and questions from RAC:**

Mr. Laird asked Mr. Carlson whether the Wyoming Safety Coalition had a budget or funding which they could use for this project. Mr. Carlson informed the RAC that there were no funds available from the Coalition. Mr. Carlson also mentioned that he hopes this report will assist the Coalition in handling other matters before it. Mr. Laird asked whether information on the truck arrestor should be part of the study. Mr. Carlson thought truck arrestors would be a little outside the scope of the project.

Mr. Laird asked Dr. Ksaibati about the national study, particularly about the state funding levels for enforcement and the crash rates. Dr. Ksaibati believes this project will help answer the questions brought up in the national study and should help clarify some of the information found in the national study.

Discussion was held on Dr. Ozbek's research project and how his results and experiences may help Dr. Ksaibati in this study.

#### **4. Other Business**

Ms. White informed the RAC that the Teton Science School would be closing their research center but that they would be completing all of its projects in a timely manner. Discussion was held on the inventory from previous projects and how the Research Center would be collecting the items.

Discussed was held on the cameras from the Nugget Canyon and Trapper's Point projects.

It was decided that Mr. McDowell would contact the Game and Fish and other to see if they could use either the tracking collars or the cameras. Mr. Kidner volunteered to contact Tom Hart regarding the cameras.

Discussion was held on data and digital material archiving; on what was data; on data retention; on the needs based survey; and on storing data in Falcon.

Mr. Laird had question on how the RAC and WYDOT choose the projects for funding in the Research Center. Mr. Kidner discussed whether the Research Center is required to perform RFPs for projects and whether the Research Center should follow this process or continue forward as it has in the past. Discussion was held on how proposals come before the RAC, and on the federal and state requirement for RFPs and research proposals.

#### **5. Voting**

Mr. Laird moved and Mr. Miller seconded that the proposal on *Developing Mitigation Strategies to Reduce Truck Crash Rates on Wyoming Highways* should be sent to the executive staff and FHWA for approval and funding. Discussion was held on the deliverables; on whether this research would truly be beneficial to WYDOT; and on whether it would be better to have the research conducted in house. By a vote of 6 to 1, the motion was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting should be adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 8, 2015, at 9:00 p.m., in Cheyenne.**