

RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) met in the Geology Conference Room, in the Planning Building, on Friday, July 20, 2016. The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. The following members were present, constituting a quorum.

Mark Eisenhart, P.E., State Field Operations Engineer
Peter Hallsten, P.E., District 5 Maintenance Engineer
Greg Milburn, P.E., State Materials Engineer
Matt Carlson, P.E., State Highway Safety Engineer
Kevin Lebeda, Right of Way
Jim Coffin, P.G., Chief Engineering Geologist

Mark Gillette was excused

Also present at and participating during the meeting were:

Tim McDowell, P.E., State Programming Engineer
Keith Compton, P.E., District 3 Engineer
Talbot Hauffe, Transit Program Coordinator
Phil Pratt, Construction and Design Engineer FHWA
Corinna Riginos, Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative
David Kack, Western Transportation Institute, MSU
Marcel Huijser, Western Transportation Institute, MSU

Chairperson White called the meeting to order. Introductions were made. Minutes were sent out via e-mail for an e-mail vote. Most projects are on task and on point. One project was late but the Research Center is working on fixing this issue.

It was noted that Ms. White would be presenting in two breakout sessions during the AASHTO RAC Summer Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island in July. The first session will be on public access and the second session will be on intellectual property, specifically copyrights and research reports. Discussion was held on the Sweet Sixteen award WYDOT recently received for the Trapper's Point research project. Mr. McDowell will be presenting on Phase 1 of the SHRP II Naturalistic Driving Study project Rhode Island also. Phil Pratt introduced himself and gave a brief history of his work experience with FHWA. Jeff Purdy left for DC. The October meeting will be in Laramie and everyone must be there in person.

PROPOSALS, REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND ADDITIONAL TIME

1. Last Mile Commercial Package delivery as a Revenue Generation Tool for Rural Public Transportation Systems in Wyoming.

Jaydeep Chaudhari, Western Transportation Institute
David Kack, Western Transportation Institute
Talbot Hauffe, WYDOT Transit Program Coordination

Mr. Hauffe introduced the project and discussed previous projects between WYDOT and WTI. This project is an offshoot of an inner-city bus service project, which was recently completed. Mr. Kack discussed the project and how this project may help rural public transportation sectors obtain additional funding. This project could be a new funding stream for local agencies in this poor economic time. The concept would not change the way public transportation works, just enhance the service. The project would be for one year and the budget would be split as follows: \$40,143 from WYDOT and \$80,660 from WTI/UTC.

Questions: Discussion was held on whether this project could lead to results which other states could implement; how this project would be unique; and how this project could aid local revenue streams.

BREAK

2. Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Night Time Speed Limits in Reducing Wildlife Vehicle Collisions.

Corinna Riginos, Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative

Marcel Huijser, Western Transportation Institute

Keith Compton, P.E., District 3 Engineer

Mr. Compton provided a brief background for the project. He discussed a recent meeting in Pinedale, Wyoming regarding the increased speed limits on the secondary highways, and the need for reduced speeds in wildlife hotspots. He emphasized the need for research on speed limits in the hot spot areas.

Ms. Riginos introduced the project and provided facts regarding wildlife/vehicle collisions in Wyoming. She emphasized the fact that the collisions are costly to the driver and to the ecology of Wyoming. She further discussed how Wyoming has studied different mitigation strategies, and how this fenceless project needs to be studied. She discussed driver compliance, how the topic of nighttime speeds is appealing to the public, and correlation between lower speeds and fewer wildlife vehicle crashes. She discussed the hot spots and the migration routes. This is a 2 ¼-year projects, which will run \$250,026.

Questions: Discussion was held on who would pay for the signs, how the radar records will work, the previous studies on this topic, how the project may be implemented in areas even before the research begins, how to measure driver compliance, the political ramifications of the study, and enforcement in the signed areas.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. White outlined the monies that are available in FY2016, the monies that still need to be paid out, and the FAST Act funding.

VOTE ON PROPOSALS, EXTENSIONS FOR TIME AND FUNDING

1. Last Mile Commercial Package delivery as a Revenue Generation Tool for Rural Public Transportation Systems in Wyoming.

Mr. Carlson moved and Mr. Eisenhart seconded that this project should be forwarded to Executive Staff and FHWA for funding approval. There was no discussion on this motion. By a 5-1 vote, this project will be forwarded to FHWA and Executive Staff for a funding approval.

2. Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Night Time Speed Limits in Reducing Wildlife Vehicle Collisions.

Mr. Milburn moved and Mr. Coffin seconded that this project should be forwarded to Executive Staff and FHWA for funding approval. Mr. Eisenhart moved to table the motion until all costs are known. Mr. Millburn's motion was withdrawn. Discussion was held on how to move forward on this project and the possible increase in the budget. Mr. Hallsten moved and Mr. Coffin seconded that this project should be forwarded to Executive Staff and FHWA for funding approval as written. A lot of discussion was held on whether there will be additional costs in this project or not, and on the necessity of this project, and on the enforcement issue. By a unanimous vote, this project will be forwarded to FHWA and Executive Staff for a funding approval. The RAC mentioned that if necessary, they would agree to an e-mail vote on additional funding if necessary.

Mr. Pratt mentioned that he feels that the projects will benefit WYDOT. He appreciated all the hard work the RAC puts in.

Matt moved and it was seconded that the meeting should be adjourned. The next meeting will be October 12, 2017 in Laramie at the Engineering College.