

Notes from OAC Technical Council Teleconference Friday, June 26, 2015

Attending:

Barbara Wessinger, Vice Chair
Bill Wright
Kristin White
Lyle McMillan
Clyde Johnson
Juanice Hughes

Not available for call:

Jim Spalla
Rob Jessee
Matt DeLong
Ron Johnson

(1) Technical Council Website:

A recommendation for the layout of the Technical Council web page has been sent to Greta. If any Technical Council member has an addition/revision, please submit to Barbara. The web page lists the 10 current Council members. Dawn Horan of FHWA will be invited to participate in future teleconferences.

(2) Subcommittee for Right of Way, Utilities and Outdoor Advertising Control Website:

A recommendation has been sent to Greta at AASHTO for the Right of Way, Utilities and Outdoor Advertising web page to be revised to include the OAC Technical Council and to place the New Charge Statement [shown at the end of the Resolution that added Outdoor Advertising Control to the subcommittee] on the page.

(3) Delineation of responsibilities of NAHBA and the AASTO OAC Technical Council:

At the last NAHBA Board Meeting, Barbara outlined the delineation of responsibilities of NAHBA and the AASHTO Technical Council. Specifically, NAHBA will have their standing committees address the day to day issues that face the state regulatory programs; will offer webinars for their members on current issues; and will select topics for the annual educational conference that is co-located with the AASHTO Subcommittee conference. (In working with the NAHBA standing committees over the past two years, it has become apparent that many of the NAHBA members are new and stay entrenched on current state and local government issues. Many have not been able to cross over to the policy level.) If NAHBA identifies an issue that rises to national prominence, they will ask the Technical Council to address it. The responsibility of the Technical Council is to take identified issues of national prominence and move them forward to resolution. That may include such activities as seeking funding for needed data and statistics collection from sources such as NCHRP and 20-7 funding; preparing white papers for the AASHTO Subcommittee on topics significant to the regulatory program; and coordinating with NAHBA on AASHTO conference topics. Barbara indicated that the NAHBA Board was appreciative of the explanation.

(4) Technical Council Action Items:

NCHRP Request for Funding – Barbara indicated that we will be posting the current NCHRP paper on the AASHTO website. We are aware that revisions need to be made to that document. On July 6, Jim Spalla, Barbara and Juanice will teleconference with David Reynaud, Senior Program Officer of the Transportation Research Board to gain additional guidance on seeking 20-7 funding. With this new guidance, Barbara, Clyde and Matt will work on redrafting the current paper and will present it at a future meeting of the Technical Council for comments.

(5) Prioritizing the current list of 14 items:

Of the 14 items that are on our current list, 10 were identified and worked on by Clyde in 2002 and the other 4 items were identified several years ago by the NAHBA standing committees. There seem to be some overlapping issues on the list. The Council members agreed that 14 items are too many to work on at one time. Council members were asked to study the 14 and to submit to Barbara [prior to the next teleconference on July 16, 2015] either a list of the 14 in priority order or a list of the items they feel should be the top priorities for the near future and she will categorize the comments. Barbara suggested we keep NCHRP funding in the forefront. Once that document is filed we need to have selected the next issue to move forward with. One possibility may be the movement of nonconforming signs. The goal of the Council would be to change the one section of CFR where it prohibits the movement of nonconforming signs. We would not be looking to allow movement of all nonconforming signs but only those nonconforming signs impacted by a transportation project. It was discussed that perhaps the Technical Council could look at the feasibility of either a pilot program or a research project to document savings to the states by not acquiring nonconforming billboards that were allowed to move on the perpendicular. Discussion was focused on how the Council could secure the needed statistical information in a research study. It was also discussed that securing FHWA approval for a pilot project is difficult and takes much administrative time to get approved. Another concern was doing two 20-7 funding projects at the same time. We would probably not be successful in getting both of them approved. Barbara suggested utilizing AASHTO's survey capabilities to seek statistical data from the Right of Way Departments in the states. Barbara suggested that she and Clyde take a stab at developing survey questions that would not be too burdensome to the states and to review the questions with the Council members at a future meeting. Barbara also mentioned that it is her understanding that OAAA may be looking to gather statistical data for a similar project. For the current time it is recommended that we keep our efforts separate.

(6) Selecting topics for the 2016 Conference:

The Council will work with NAHBA on identifying the Conference topics prior to the conference planning meeting in January 2016.

Adjourn.