



RIC Spring Quarterly Meeting

March 13, 2017

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

MnRoad Conference Room

9011 77th Street NE

Albertville, Minnesota 55362

MINUTES

Attendees:

Mike Flaagan (Chair), Pennington County
Guy Kohlhofer, Dodge County
Klayton Eckles, City of Woodbury
John Brunkhorst, McLeod County
Kaye Bieniek, Olmsted County (LRRB)
Steve Bot, City of St. Michael
Ted Schoenecker, MnDOT State Aid
Ben Worel, MnDOT Materials Office
Hafiz Munir, MnDOT Research Services

Staff:

Bruce Holdhusen, MnDOT Research
Becky Lein, MnDOT Research
Joel Ullring, MnDOT State Aid
Shannon Fiecke, MnDOT Research

Others present:

Renae Kuehl, SRF
Mike Marti, SRF

Not present:

Kelvin Howieson, MnDOT District 3
Jim Grothaus, LTAP / UofM CTS

1. Call to Order (Mike Flaagan – Chair)

The committee meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. There were no additions to the agenda.

Review of RIC Meeting Minutes from December 6, 2016

A motion to approve the RIC meeting minutes from December 6, 2016, was made by John Brunkhorst and seconded by Klayton Eckles. Motion approved.

Review of RIC Action Items from December meeting minutes

All of the action items from the December RIC meeting were addressed or are on the agenda later in the meeting, except Action Item 7 was still pending (Action item 7: Jim Grothaus will work with Bruce Holdhusen to get the LTAP contract in place for PPE Safety Posters and Website.)

2. Research Project Updates

Impact of Lower Asphalt Binder for Coarse HMA Mixes: Eshan Dave from University of New Hampshire (formerly at University of Minnesota – Duluth), provided a discussion of the methods and results of this MnDOT research project. The main conclusions were:

- Binder low temperature grade in mix design is significant for field performance cracking
- Consider specifying smaller mix size for wear courses to avoid very high permeability
- Performance predictions show an extremely high potential for inferior thermal cracking performance for these mixes.

Action Item 1: Future presenters for research updates will be given guidance on what the RIC likes to see in these updates, and to avoid providing too much detail about lab

methods and statistical analysis, instead focusing on conclusions, recommendations and further implementation steps.

Slope Stability and Repair (INV 979): David Saftner from University of Minnesota – Duluth, provided an overview of the project to develop a guide book for maintenance engineers who are not geotechnical specialists, targeting slope repairs that are common, recurring, and do not need a geotech consultant. It is an easy-to-use guide for common slope stabilization practices, with many photographic references, that will be taken into the field for inspections.

Flagger Operations: Investigating their Effectiveness in Capturing Driver Attention (INV 948): John Hourdos from the University of Minnesota, presented results from a two-stage project that first used a simulator study to find promising work zone enhancements, then piloted several of the new methods in the field during road construction on very low volume roads. Vehicle approach speed trajectories from first warning to the flagger location were graphed for comparison of effectiveness. Temporary rumble strips were cumbersome, tended to get dislodged by large trucks, and were not recommended. A sonic warning from a horn installed in an orange barrel was effective, in combination with the flashing speed radar device. Dr. Hourdos shared some insights about practicality of adopting these methods, learned through follow-up discussions with the highway work crews.

Slope Stability Assessment (INV 989): Chico Hathaway from Barr Engineering showed results of modeling to predict areas that could be vulnerable to catastrophic geotechnical failures during unusual hydrologic events. Paul Stine from the State Aid Division requested additional funding of \$45,000 for further model development and \$50,000 for implementation:

- Broader outreach and presentation of project results; \$5,000
- Model review by academic and agency experts; \$15,000
- Model refinements; \$25,000
- Cooperative development of process for on-the-ground utilization of the model; \$50,000.

Discussion:

- Steve Bot recommended any implementation should be conducted in counties that have budget available for pro-active geotechnical work.
- Consensus was that the work is not ready for implementation by the RIC, but LRRB should consider funding continued work on the project.

Action item 2: Kaye Bieniek will take the request to LRRB for consideration at their March 23 meeting for consideration of additional funding for Barr Engineering to do further work on the Slope Stability Assessment project, INV 989.

3. Funding Decisions for Future RIC Projects

Ted Schoenecker facilitated a discussion about how the Committee would like to consider funding for new RIC projects in the future. The consensus of the Committee was that larger requests for project funding should be scheduled for the June and December RIC meetings, but smaller amount requests may be brought forward at any RIC meeting.

4. RIC Support Contract – Consultant Task Updates

Task 1 – Fleet Management (Chair: Guy Kohlhofer)

Deliverable: Report summarizing fleet management options and experiences

Audience: City and County Engineers

Goal: To educate local agencies on tools available for fleet management for all sizes of local agencies.

This task is proceeding as planned. They are trying to meet the needs of smaller counties that do not have budget or need for elaborate systems, as well as some of the larger cities/counties on the TAP that have specific ideas for implementation. Scheduling the next TAP meeting for April.

Task 2 – Base Stabilization Additives (Chair: Ben Worel)

Deliverable: Guidebook

Audience: County Engineers and Pavement Designers

Goal: To educate local engineers on the use of Base Stabilization Additives

The TAP scoping meeting was held March 8, with 18 TAP members in attendance. The project title was modified to “Base Stabilization Additives *for Pavement Design*” and a proposed scope of work and guidebook outline were developed (provided to the RIC in a handout). The scope included developing a guidebook, no local survey to be conducted, no decision tree to be developed, and training needs to be determined at a later time.

Action item 3: The RIC approved moving forward with the scope of Task 2 and guidebook outline as proposed by the TAP at the March 8 TAP meeting and as shown in the handout provided March 13 by Renae Kuehl.

Task 5 – Addressing Traffic Safety Concerns (Chair: Steve Bot)

The TAP scoping meeting was held January 24, with 17 TAP members in attendance. The next TAP meeting has been scheduled for April 12. The proposed outline for the project and deliverables was provided by Renae in a handout for the RIC. It will include information for local agency personnel on best practices for responding to citizen requests, and communication tools and products that can be provided to citizens, including:

- How to deal consistently with typical requests
- How to handle incoming requests and communicate back to the public
- Forms and methods for tracking requests over time
- Case Studies

Action item 4: The RIC approved moving forward with the scope of Task 5 as proposed by the TAP at the January 24 TAP meeting and as shown in the handout provided March 13 by Renae Kuehl.

Task 7 – ADA Training for local agencies (Chair: Ted Schoenecker)

Deliverable: One full day general training course, 2 training courses on construction and design, and a webinar

Audience: City and County Engineers and staff, consultants

Goal: Provide training on ADA law, transition plans, design and construction. Classroom training and videos of field scenarios.

This task is proceeding as planned, except that the scope has been modified to avoid duplication of effort by incorporating ADA design and construction training that is currently provided by the MnDOT ADA unit (Todd Grugel, Kristie Billiar and others). LTAP will deliver a new full day training class covering all aspects of ADA, and MnDOT will continue to provide 2 full day classes on ADA design and construction.

A TAP meeting was held March 7, with 16 TAP members in attendance. Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the general training were reviewed. Ann Johnson will work Jim Grothaus and SRF to better define the learning “outcomes and objectives” so that the TAP can determine if the modules/content accomplish the desired outcomes and objectives.

Discussion for TAP consideration:

- Kaye Bieniek reiterated concern that the training discussion about ADA transition plans must include clear guidance on the minimum requirements.
- Guy Kohlnhofer concurred with Kaye and said he thinks there is a need for a fill-in-the-blanks type of template for the ADA transition plan.
- Ted Schoenecker stated there is a need for a 2-hour webinar update for counties and this should not be put off until the end of the project.
- John Brunkhorst advocated for clarity in the form of guidance that states counties “shall” do the ADA transition plan a certain way, with explanation of why it has to be done that way.
- There was general discussion suggesting that MnDOT and major urban areas have added some things to the transition plans and guidance that are not strictly required by statute or rule, and the Greater Minnesota counties need to know specifically what is actually required for the ADA transition plan, and where each requirement is codified.
- Kaye suggested the TAP identify and list the ‘gray areas’ about the ADA transition plan mandate, and address them. For example, is an inventory “required” and what does that mean for the rural areas of a county?

Task 8 – Re-implementation of Completed Tasks

Deliverable: new products as needed, to be determined by RIC board

Audience: City and County Engineers

Goal: Complete additional project tasks as needed

Task 8B: Survey of LRRB and RIC products

Renae provided a table of LRRB/RIC products to consider updating. The question was to find a short list that would be reasonable to send out in the survey of local agency practitioners to find out if they are being used.

- Several products have already been requested for re-printing, so it is understood those are being used, do not need to be on the survey, and can move to the stage of being evaluated for whether content needs to be updated or just re-printed.
- The budget, process and responsibility for reprinting was not clear.
- The RIC discussed the products on the list and provided some ideas about needs and suggestions for a process to move forward.

Action item 5: Renae Kuehl will work with State Aid to distribute the list of LRRB/RIC products and develop a short list of high priority existing products to be considered for update, revision, or re-implementation in another format.

5. LRRB Outreach Committee Update

Shannon Fiecke provided an update on some things that the MnDOT communications group is doing:

- Video projects
- LRRB web site

- LRRB 'At-A-Glance' summary for 2016
- Accelerator newsletter

Renaee discussed ideas for the Outreach Committee support contract that is expected to start in July, 2017:

- Expand the email distribution list beyond the State Aid list of county engineers and MSAS city engineers
- Ability to sign up for an email list through the LRRB web site
- Scheduled email updates instead of just sending an email blast when there is a new item to distribute
- Short videos about completed research projects
- LRRB research blog site.

Action item 6: RIC members with ideas for new LRRB outreach strategies should contact Shannon Fiecke, Mitch Rasmussen, Lyndon Robjent or Paul Oehme.

6. RIC Budget, Meetings and Conferences

Becky Lein provided a spreadsheet with the LRRB budget and a list of upcoming conferences for LRRB and RIC members.

Travel forms can be found on the RRB web site in the 'members only' section. The login is LRRBmember and the password is citycounty2012.

The contact person at MnDOT for travel is:

Lori Sobczak lori.sobczak@state.mn.us 651-366-3769

7. LTAP Work Plans for RIC Approval

Jim Grothaus was not able to attend, and the LTAP proposals on updating the "Snow and Ice Control Field Handbook" and the new RIC project on PPE Safety Posters and Web Site, were held over to the next RIC meeting.

Action item (held over from December RIC meeting): Jim Grothaus will work with Bruce Holdhusen to get the LTAP contract in place for PPE Safety Posters and Website.

8. LRRB Liaison Update

Kaye Bieniek related that the LRRB last met in December to hear research proposals, and fourteen new research projects were funded.

9. Round Robin

Hafiz Munir discussed the schedule for collecting new research ideas for the next LRRB research RFP, and outlined RIC members' participation in developing new research need statements at the next RIC meeting June 28-29, which will be a joint meeting with LRRB in Grand Rapids.

Klayton Eckles mentioned a stormwater re-use exemption from DNR water use permits.

Ben Worel highlighted several projects, including road flooding, a Swedish version of software similar to MnPAVE, NRRRA Technology transfer efforts, roller-compacted concrete for city streets, and the upcoming NRRRA conference on May 23-24, 2017.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40.

Next RIC meeting: June 28-28, 2017 at the Sawmill Inn in Grand Rapids, which will be the annual joint meeting with LRRB.

RIC ACTION ITEMS (March 13, 2017)

Action Item 1: Future presenters for research updates will be given guidance on what the RIC likes to see in these updates, and to avoid providing too much detail about lab methods and statistical analysis, instead focusing on conclusions, recommendations and further implementation steps. (ongoing)

Action item 2: Kaye Bieniek will take the request to LRRB for consideration at their March 23 meeting for consideration of additional funding for Barr Engineering to do further work on the Slope Stability Assessment project, INV 989. (completed)

Action item 3: The RIC approved moving forward with the scope of Task 2 and guidebook outline as proposed by the TAP at the March 8 TAP meeting and as shown in the handout provided March 13 by Renae Kuehl.

Action item 4: The RIC approved moving forward with the scope of Task 5 as proposed by the TAP at the January 24 TAP meeting and as shown in the handout provided March 13 by Renae Kuehl.

Action item 5: Renae Kuehl will work with State Aid to distribute the list of LRRB/RIC products and develop a short list of high priority existing products to be considered for update, revision, or re-implementation in another format. (discussed, ongoing)

Action item 6: RIC members with ideas for new LRRB outreach strategies should contact Shannon Fiecke, Mitch Rasmussen, Lyndon Robjent or Paul Oehme.

RIC ACTION ITEM pending from December 6, 2016

Action item 7: Jim Grothaus will work with Bruce Holdhusen to get the LTAP contract in place for PPE Safety Posters and Website. (in process)