

MINUTES

September 18, 2013
Research Implementation Committee
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
MnDOT Training Center, Room #10
Shoreview, Minnesota 55126

Attendees:

Jeff Hulsether, Chair, City of Brainerd
Farideh Amiri, MnDOT, Research
Klayton Ekles, City of Woodbury
Jim Grothaus, U of M, CTS
Walter Leu, MnDOT, D1 DSAE
Mitch Rasmussen, Scott County
Tim Stahl, Jackson County
Hafiz Munir, MnDOT, Research
Mel Odens, MnDOT, State Aid
Dave Robley, Douglas County

Consultant:

Mike Marti, SRF Consulting Group, Inc.
Renae Kuehl, SRF Consulting Group, Inc.

Guests:

Debbie Sinclair, MnDOT Research
Joshua Friell, U of M
Gordy Pehrson, DPS
Kristine Hernandez, MnDOT
John Micheau, MnDOT
Michael Hogan, MnDOT

Absent:

Maureen Jensen, MnDOT, Materials
Rich Sanders, Polk County
Rick Kjonaas, MnDOT, state Aid

I. Chairman's Report

Mr. Chair welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending, and introduced the guest speakers. Attendees introduced themselves.

Agenda Review:

Motion: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Dave Robley and seconded by Klayton Eckles. Motion Approved.

Review of June 2013 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: A motion to approve the March 2013 meeting minutes was made by Klayton Eckles and seconded by Walter Leu. Motion Approved.

Pending Action Items From June 2013:

Curve Warning Signs (Action Item #1) – Jim Grothaus said that Iowa State University is working on low cost solutions for traffic safety. They are implementing the curve warning signs in 10 different locations with some counties. TAP couldn't find any Minnesota counties to test and evaluate the curve warning signs. TAP decided not to move forward.

Assessment of Heavy Vehicles on the Local Roads (Action Item #11) - Deb Bloom will give an update on the Assessment of Heavy Vehicles on the Local Roads at the LRRB winter meeting. CTS will follow up and will write an article and send to cities and counties.

RIC December Meeting:

December meeting is scheduled on December 18th, 10:00 am at SRF.

Conferences:

Mitch Rasmussen, Jeff Hulsether and Dave Robley (tentative) expressed an interest in attending January 12-16, 2014 TRB.

ACTION ITEM #1: Farideh Amiri to forward Mitch Rasmussen, Jeff Hulsether and Dave Robley (tentative) names of those who expressed interest in attending 2014 TRB to the LRRB Board.

ACTION ITEM #2: If anyone is interested in attending any of the other approved conferences, let Farideh Amiri or Jeff Hulsether know.

- 2013 TTAP - October 28 to November 1, 2014. Pending LRRB Approval.
- 2014 Minnesota Transportation Conference - March 4-6, 2014.

ACTION ITEM #3: LRRB signed up for LRRB/RIC booth at the Minnesota Transportation Conference and asked RIC members to sign up for a time to manage the booth.

2014 RIC Meetings:

- March 12 – SRF
- June 17-19 – Bemidji
- September 17 – SRF
- December 2 - SRF

Budget Review:

- Farideh Amiri went over the budget table and said that the percent tasks completed have been updated.

RIC Consultant Contract:

- RIC consultant amendment was approved by the Board to extend for two years.
- The following RIC members and staff are TAP members:
 - Jeff Hulsether
 - Mitch Rasmussen
 - Kalyton Eckles
 - Hafiz Munir
 - Farideh Amiri

ACTION ITEM #4: Farideh Amiri will schedule a meeting on Tuesday afternoon the day before city engineer's conference in January.

ACTION ITEM #5: Farideh Amiri will ask for volunteers from the LRRB membership to be TAP members for RIC consultant contract amendment for additional scope for the next two years.

II. Project Presentations

1. Developing Salt-Tolerant Sod Mixtures for Use as Roadside Turf in Minnesota

- The project objectives were:
 - a) Identify salt tolerant cultivars of several species of cool-season turfgrass to be tested in mixtures.
 - b) Formulate mixtures of turfgrass species that are well-suited to a roadside environment using cultivars identified as salt-tolerant.
 - c) Evaluate water use characteristics of each species mixture in the trial and evaluate sod strength characteristics of each species mixture in the trial.
- The four Locations were test bed: I-94, Albertville, MN; Larpenteur Ave, Roseville; I-35W, Minneapolis, and University of Minnesota. – unclear, clarify locations
- A total of 75 Cultivars in 14 species were tested.
- The project summaries were: Establishment of perennial ryegrass at all sites was best, but tall and fine fescues also established well at all locations. At MnROAD site alkaligrass was best, and all other cultivars performed equally well. Survival at Roselawn was best for 'Shoreline' slender creeping red fescue in both sections. Cultivars that performed consistently well were primarily fine fescues, led by strong creeping red fescue.

2. Development of an on-line Concrete Field I Recertification Course

- Students register by email.
- The course is available all year but exams are available from October 1 through April 30.
- The exam is one hour in length.

- Certificates are mailed in June.
- Grading and base is in progress.

3. Teen Driver Safety Parent Awareness Program

- The program objectives are to increase parental awareness of:
 - a) Real teen driving risks;
 - b) Teen driving laws; and
 - c) Importance of parental involvement and resources.
- The program is more effective with parental involvement.
- The video is part of a parent awareness program to educate and empower the parents. It is not a stand-alone video; It's a 1.5 hour teen classroom video.
- There were 17 pilot participants. 20 more were added this year in 45 communities.

Frost video showing

III. Project Updates:

- Truck Weight Enforcement

ACTION ITEM #6: The LRRB funding for the Truck Weight Enforcement project is spent and project is completed. The project update will be removed from RIC agenda.

- Gravel Road video
 - This project was started in August 2013.
 - There is a TAP meeting scheduled for October.
 - It is a tool for local agencies.
 - Expected completion is in June 2014.
- Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing
 - This project was funded by LRRB.
 - The objective is to provide HCM unsignalized pedestrian crossing training materials.
 - It will provide a tool to practice engineering.
 - TAP wants to add public perception to the project objectives.
 - When is it safer to take the pedestrians to intersection from mid-block?
 - Engineering judgment.
 - Right decision for the right location.
- Bolton-Menk is the current contractor. Another consultant to consider is CH2MHILL.

ACTION ITEM #7: Bring the mid-block pedestrian crossing new scope, budget and schedule to the December RIC meeting.

IV. Future projects

Roundabouts

- A YouTube video is under development to focus on the safety and movement in all roundabouts. There was a pre-TAP meeting three weeks ago.
- There is only one 2x2 roundabout left in Minnesota. All others have been changed to 2x1.
- Woodbury built a roundabout to accommodate projected traffic, but they are not up to capacity yet. Therefore Woodbury is converting its' 2x2 to 2x1. In ten years they will need to re-stripe and use again as a 2x2.

Other Projects

- There are a few projects in progress on pavement failure and striping issues.
- MnDOT Materials just completed a project titled "Preventing Striping of Asphalt under Chip Seal." In that report the cause of striping were moisture and air voids.
- A new RFP was posted titled: "Prevention of Striping under Chip Seal."

- City of Woodbury roads were built in 1990 and have delamination issues. They received Federal grant to use for improvement. We need to gather all the information and research projects in the area of stripping under chip seal and we should get TERRA involved.

ACTION ITEM #8: Bring all the research in the area of prevention of stripping under seal and other works to the December RIC meeting.

V. Gravel

The scope was presented by Mike Marti. The purposes of the study are: do a local survey to determine the needs of Minnesota local agencies with respect to gravel road management systems; and do a national survey to determine what types gravel road management systems have been developed and/or are being used.

Motion: A motion to approve the gravel road scope and budget was made by Mitch Rasmussen and seconded by Dave Robley. Motion Approved.

ACTION ITEM #9: RIC consultant will prepare an E-blast about dust control document developed by the RIC consultant and will send it to all locals via State Aid.

ACTION ITEM #10: Tim Stahl will present Gravel Road Management project scope and budget at the September LRRB meeting.

VI. 2012-2014 “Consultant Contract” Update

Task 4: TZD:

A TAP meeting was held on September 16th and discussed the concept of the videos (developing 3-5, 30 second PSA’s), watched a few examples and ended the meeting by discussing which topics to address and how to determine the audience for each topic. SRF is going to do some research on the crash data and demographics for various behavior issues at a local and national level. We agreed to look into data for:

- Seatbelt use
- Distracted Driving
- Drinking and driving
- Speeding

Next TAP meeting will be scheduled for mid-October.

ACTION ITEM #11: SRF will revise the original Task4-TZD (PSA’s videos) scope and present it to the RIC Board at the December meeting.

Task 5.1a – Traffic Monitoring Evaluation Methods:

A TAP meeting was held on September 17th. It discussed the status of the data collection efforts and how to write/format the report to document the findings.

Over the past few months, SRF monitored progress and acted as a technical resource to Sibley County. MnDOT facilitated meetings to gather data on the three data collection processes. Using a summer intern, Sibley County didn’t complete all of the data collection for the sites originally identified. Since the intern is no longer on staff, it was determined to not collect the missing data.

SRF conducted pre- and post-data collection interviews with both MnDOT and Sibley County, and will use this data to document their experiences and lessons learned.

Task 5.1b – Traffic Monitoring Field Evaluation:

A TAP meeting was held on September 17th. It discussed the sensor evaluation findings and how to reformat the draft report to document the findings in a way that will be beneficial to local agencies. A report was drafted and sent for review. Based on comments and discussion at the TAP meeting, SRF will be working to revise the report and will send out to TAP for a 2nd review.

Task 5.2: Sign-Person Training:

Scheduled, advertised and hosted three workshops to gather input on best practices from maintenance staff:

- July 30th – Mankato (10 attendees)
- July 31st – Detroit Lakes (8 attendees)
- August 1st – Arden Hills (10 attendees)

Assembled a summary of workshop findings. Next TAP meeting will be scheduled for October.

Task 6: Outreach:

Web articles:

August 2013 – An article on Dust Control was submitted to MnDOT RS for approval.

National Articles:

The LRRB Sustainability Article was published in the August 2013 issue of the *APWA Reporter* on pages 88-91.

Assisted in writing article for Rick West on the implementation of a County Road Safety Plan; will be published in *FHWA Safety Compass* Fall edition.

Newsletter:

August 2013 newsletter was submitted to MnDOT RS and mailed out the last week in August.

Conference Boards:

NLTAP Conference – SRF under outreach task developed a poster highlighting the use of YouTube as an educational tool. The poster won the “Best Poster” contest.

Conference Presentations:

SRF is working with the outreach committee to prepare presentations for the City and County annual meetings in January 2014.

ACTION ITEM #12: Outreach committee to purchase 350 prizes for the jeopardy game for CEAM conference.

Round Robin:

Farideh Amiri – Distributed the list of MnDOT/LRRB need statements that were posted and asked RIC members if they are interested in being a TAP member on any of the the potential future projects.

She also handed out the new Research Services newsletter titled “*Accelerator*” and asked the RIC members to send their feedback to Nick Busse.

Mike Marti – The Civil Engineering video needs to be upgraded to a digital format and he will request funding from the outreach committee.

Walter Leu – MnDOT hired an intern to collect ADR and WIM data. It was funded by State Aid.

Hafiz Munir – Research Services has posted 25 need statements for academic RFP. The December LRRB and RIC will review and award research projects.

Mitch Rasmussen - Scott County has been awarded FHWA funding for mini roundabouts.

Meeting Adjourned

Motion: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dave Robley and seconded by Walter Leu. Motion Approved.

Action Items

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