

RIC MINUTES
LRRB/RIC Summer Meeting
June 17&18, 2015
Anderson's Horseshoe Bay Lodge
Walker, Minnesota

Attendees:

Jeff Hulsether (Chair), City of Brainerd
Klayton Eckles, City of Woodbury
Mike Flaagan, Pennington County
Guy Kohlnhofer, Dodge County
Merle Earley, MnDOT District 4
Dave Robley, Douglas County
Bernard Izevbekhai, MnDOT Materials Office
Hafiz Munir, MnDOT Research
Jim Grothaus, U of M CTS

Staff:

Bruce Holdhusen, MnDOT Research
Debbie Sinclair, MnDOT Research
Becky Lein, MnDOT Research
Joel Uring, State Aid

Absent:

Tim Stahl, Jackson County (attended LRRB sessions)
Ted Schoenecker, MnDOT State Aid

I. RIC Separate Session – Day 1

1. Call to Order (Jeff Hulsether - Chair)

The committee meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM. Jeff welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending. Attendees introduced themselves. There were no additions to the agenda.

Review of March 3, 2015 RIC Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the March 2015 RIC meeting minutes was made by Klayton Eckles and seconded by Mike Flaagan. Motion approved.

2. Review of Action Items

NS-400: Options and Guidance when Using Base Stabilization Additives

Joel Uring reported he has reviewed the literature and found several applicable studies, including a NCHRP Report and a MnDOT study of granular equivalent (GE) values for stabilized base. His recommendation is to have MnDOT Research Services do a transportation research synthesis (TRS) report and then use a consultant contract to develop a handbook with guidelines, similar to the seal coat handbook. He is developing a work plan. The next step will be to meet with a TAP and consultant to develop a scope and cost.

Other discussion followed, including that John Siekmeier & Terry Beaudry at MnDOT are developing a specification for base stabilization, and Aaron Budge at MSU-Mankato did a study on this topic. This could be a project for Prof. Budge or for SRF under their current RIC contract if the timing works out. Otherwise it would be a good topic for a task in the RFP for the next RIC 3-year support contract.

Action item 1: Joel Uring and Bruce Holdhusen will initiate a TRS for 'Options and Guidance When Using Base Stabilization Additive' (NS-400) and develop a cost and scope of work, and bring it back to the RIC at their September meeting.

Best Practices for Managing Local Concrete Road Projects

Klayton summarized previous discussion on this topic by saying there is a need for a tool (a guide with checklist and decision tree) to help local agencies decide if concrete is an appropriate option for a given project, considering that urban and suburban settings have special considerations. There is also a need for best practices guidance on how to build concrete roads where there are constructability issues such as narrow and curvy roadway and right-of-way, adjoining property access and parking issues, and lack of alternate neighborhood access or detour routes. He said the City of Minneapolis has a video on maintaining concrete streets, but most smaller cities don't have equipment or training for maintaining concrete streets because 99% of the existing streets are asphalt.

Additional discussion considered whether it would be a good project for a consultant. A TRS survey of local agencies in neighboring states (Fargo has a lot of concrete streets) and a look at manuals from other states might be a good way to get started. Gordy Bruhn at MnDOT has a current project on guidance for concrete rehabilitation. TAP members should include Matt Zeller, Klayton Eckles, Joel Ulring, Maria Masten, Gordy Bruhn and Jim Grothaus.

Action item 2: Joel Ulring and Bruce Holdhusen will schedule a TAP meeting to initiate a TRS and a scope of work for a consultant on the topic of 'Best Practices for Managing Local Concrete Road Projects'.

Action item 3: Klayton Eckles will bring up the topic of 'Best Practices for Managing Local Concrete Road Projects' at the CEAM planning meeting.

FWD Viewer Tool

Joel told the group he has a specification with data collection guidelines such as GPS location and appropriate distance between points that can be used by local agencies when contracting with a consultant to collect FWD data.

However, on the question of opening the FWD Viewer tool to allow new data to be entered by local agencies, Joel found that the FWD Viewer is run by Jim Wilde at MSU-Mankato and it has known limitations. To meet the need for a more open and updatable FWD Viewer would require a new project and budget. Joel has been talking to counties about their use of the current FWD Viewer and need for a better tool, but current use is low because the tool is stagnant. It might be more productive to focus on how FWD data can be better utilized in pavement management information and analysis.

3. RIC Support Contract for FY2017-2019

Hafiz Munir and Becky Lein discussed the timeline and process for a new RFP to select a consultant for the next RIC support contract. The new contract will need to be in place by July 1, 2016 to provide continuity for RIC support, because SRF's contract expires in Jun 2016. Posting the RFP, selecting the consultant and executing the contract will take up to 6 months, so a scope of work with a new set of RIC tasks must be finalized in early January. The TAP will include, Jeff Hulsether, Tim Stahl, Klayton Eckles, and Jim Grothaus.

Action item 4: Bruce Holdhusen will schedule TAP meetings to develop the scope of work for the next RIC support contract RFP.

4. Adjournment for Day 1

The Committee was adjourned for the day by Chair Jeff Hulsether at 9:30 AM.

II. RIC Separate Session – Day 2

1. Call to Order

Jeff Hulsether called the committee meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

2. RIC Budget Update

Debbie Sinclair provided a summary of the RIC budget spreadsheet. There is an unobligated balance of \$84,696 available.

3. Other Old Business

The Value of TZD Since its Inception in Minnesota

The MnDOT implementation proposal on this topic was not funded by MnDOT TRIG at their April meeting. The general discussion among TRIG members was that it is complicated to parse out the reduction in fatalities attributable to TZD from that attributable to other causes, such as the primary seat belt law or improvements in vehicles.

Bernard Izevbekhai said he had done a multi-factor economic analysis project that might provide a reference for 'Value of TZD' project.

Action item 5: Mike Flaagan will continue working with Lou Tasa to develop a research need statement on the topic of the quantifying the Value of TZD in Minnesota.

4. RIC Support Contract 2011-2016 Task Updates

Renae Kuehl and Mike Marti from SRF provided an update on progress toward completing the tasks in the RIC and Outreach Support contract.

- A copy of the 'Younger Drivers Toolkit for Local Agencies' developed in Task 4 was distributed to RIC members. This will provide information for County Engineers and others who may be asked to speak to "driver's ed" classes at high schools, and includes 'Younger Driver' fact sheets and a list of public service videos that were rated highly by the young driver demographic.
- The update on the 'Online Sign Maintenance and Management Course' (Task 5.2, completed last February) was that there have not been many new registrations or people completing the online class. Some thoughts were to consider making it free, advertise it at the Fall Maintenance Expo, and to follow up with cities and counties that have not had anyone take the online class.

Action item 6: CTS will follow up with cities and counties that have not had people complete the online sign maintenance and management class, to remind them to register and take the course.

- Task 7 (Impacts of Heavy Loads / Implements of Husbandry) final scope was finalized after meeting with the TAP and provided in the handout from SRF. It will be a 'white paper' with talking points for informational purposes, but not an opinion piece, based on a TRS, survey of neighboring states, and history of changing sizes of farm equipment.
- Task 8 (RAP Asphalt Mixtures on Mn Local Roads) final scope is done after meeting with the TAP. The product will be focused on current best practices for RAP in HMA (not high-RAP) and RAP stockpile management best practices.
- Task 9 (Temporary Traffic Control for Low Volume Roads) is underway and a draft table was distributed of typical low-volume road maintenance activities and traffic control layouts.

- Task 10 final scope (ITS for Local Agencies) is done after meeting with the TAP. It will focus only on ITS technologies for stop-controlled intersections.
- Task 11 (Winter Chemicals Performance and Cost Effectiveness) still needs to meet with the TAP to finalize the scope.
- Task 12 (Signing and Striping of Roundabouts) scope to be determined at TAP meeting.
- Task 13 (Guidelines for Flashing Yellow Arrows) implementation for traffic signal engineers will be a seminar with the local ITE committee and a tutorial YouTube video on how to use the spreadsheet tool, along with a 2-pager listing resources and listing some of the existing YouTube videos for general audience.
- Task 14 (Project Management): on the next contract amendment \$15,000 will be shifted from the undefined future task to Task 9 as approved at the March RIC meeting, and Task 13 will be amended to add budget for the video (that money will come out of the outreach committee budget for videos, not RIC budget).
- The outreach task accomplishments for the year were reviewed and upcoming Outreach activities were planned.

5. Project Update

Transportation Investment and Economic Development in Minnesota (INV 951)

Prof. Jerry Zhao presented the results of a project to evaluate the fiscal returns from transportation investments in Minnesota counties, taking the approach of investments and depreciation rate to estimate the capital stock represented by the highway infrastructure, compared to the property tax revenues over time in each county in Minnesota.

6. Other Business

RIC Support Contract RFP

The breakout groups to write research need statements on Day 1 of the joint LRRB/RIC meeting worked out well for RIC, because there were six need statements recommended for RIC to take action on, and this will help develop a strong list of tasks and products for the scope of work in the RIC support contract.

Low-Binder HMA

State Aid is looking into the issue of performance of low-binder HMA on behalf of the county engineers. This is not a research project yet.

RIC Membership Roster

Jeff Hulsether reminded the group that he will be rotating off the RIC at the end of the year, and a new Chair will be needed.

7. Adjournment

Jeff Hulsether adjourned the committee at 10:00 AM.

Next meeting: Monday, September 14, 2015, at the City of Golden Valley offices.

Action Items

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