

MINUTES
March 12, 2014
LRRB - Research Implementation Committee
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
MnDOT Training Center, Room #11
Shoreview, Minnesota 55126

Attendees:

Jeff Hulsether (Chair), City of Brainerd
Klayton Eckles, City of Woodbury
Mitch Rasmussen, Scott County
Dave Robley, Douglas County
Tim Stahl, Jackson County
Mike Flaagan, Pennington County
Rick Kjonaas, MnDOT State Aid
Ted Schoenecker, MnDOT State Aid
Joel Uring, MnDOT State Aid
Merle Earley, MnDOT District 4
Maureen Jensen, MnDOT Materials Office
Hafiz Munir, MnDOT Research Services
Jim Grothaus, U of M CTS

Staff:

Farideh Amiri, MnDOT Research
Bruce Holdhusen, MnDOT Research
Tina Folch, MnDOT Research

Consultant:

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

Absent:

I. Chairman's Report (Jeff Hulsether)

Jeff welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending. Attendees introduced themselves. New RIC members: Mike Flaagan (replacing Rich Sanders), Ted Schoenecker (replacing Rick Kjonaas) and Merle Earley.

Agenda Review:

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Tim Stahl and seconded Dave Robley. Motion Approved.

Review of December 2013 RIC Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the December 2013 meeting minutes was made Dave Robley and seconded by Mitch Rasmussen. Motion Approved.

II. Budget Review and Conferences (Tina Folch)

RIC Summer Meeting:

The 2014 LRRB/RIC meeting calendar was included in the meeting materials. The 2014 RIC summer meeting is scheduled for June 18-19 in Bemidji (joint meeting with LRRB). Included in the meeting materials, there is an RSVP form for summer meeting lodging/meals arrangements.

Action item: RIC members are asked to fill out the summer meeting RSVP and return it to Research Services no later than May 14.

Conferences:

A complete list of 2014 LRRB conferences was include in the meeting materials. Upcoming conferences were discussed. If RIC members see something of particular interest at a conference, they should note it on their out-of-state trip report and /or discuss it at the RIC meeting.

Minnesota Roadway Maintenance and Training and Demo Day (formerly Minnesota Maintenance Expo): May 15, 2014, at the Alexandria Technical and Community College in Alexandria, MN. Open to all RIC members.

National LTAP Conference: July 20-24, 2014, in St. Louis, MO, is open to 6 RIC members. Jeff and Hafiz are interested in attending. Others are encouraged to attend, if interested, but contact Jeff or Research Services by mid-April so out-of-state travel authorization paperwork can be processed.

Mid-Continent Transportation Research Symposium: August 21-22, 2014, in Madison, WI. Open to all RIC members. Information can be found online by google-searching the conference title.

Action item: Tina will follow up with an email to RIC members about the National LTAP meeting, and include general information about conference registration procedures.

Budget Review:

- The 2012-2014 RIC budget status spreadsheet was included in the meeting materials.
- The budget for the RIC over the next two State fiscal years has been approved by the LRRB at \$440,000 or \$220,000 per year. This is planned to be 2/3 for an amendment to SRF's contract, and 1/3 for other consultants, for topics to be determined.
- YouTube videos now have a separate budget of \$100,000 approved by LRRB for the Outreach Committee. There is a list of about 25 ideas, and at the summer meeting some will be approved to move forward.

III. Award and Service Recognition for Rick Kjonaas (Jeff Hulsether)

Rick Kjonaas was presented with a plaque in recognition of his outstanding service as an RIC member. Rick is retiring from State service this spring. Rick spoke about the value of RIC to city and county engineers, and expressed confidence in Ted's ability to continue the work.

IV. LRRB Update (Tim Stahl)

- Tim and Bruce Hasbargen attended the gravel road conference. Tim will request LRRB support for membership in the newly-formed Road Dust Institute.
- Pavement Resource Center project is still in development. Joel Ulring is possible TL. Julie Skallman and Ted Schoenecker will decide.

- System Preservation (LRRB project) implementation will be 'best practices' that can be customized for each county, for use by the County Engineer to communicate with their county board. Phase 1 has about 6 months of work remaining; 5 pilot counties will have customized plans and a template will be developed. There will be a training component.
- MnDOT has re-hired Brad Wentz as a GIS specialist to help local agencies with GIS issues, especially as related to the Linear Referencing System for roads. Brad is working out of the Detroit Lakes office.

V. Project Updates and Presentations

RIC Task Updates

Sign Person On-line Training: Mitch Rasmussen will be the new TL.

Pedestrian Crossing Safety Training: This task is approximately 50% – 60% complete.

Sign Maintenance and Management Manual: Mark Vizecky gave a presentation on updates that will be made to the manual due to changes in regulations or practices. The current manual was completed in 2010. The updates will be completed by the end of 2014. It will be published as a web site and a downloadable PDF.

LRRB Project Presentations

Salt Brine Blending to Optimize Deicing and Anti-Icing Performance and Cost Effectiveness:

Professor Steve Druschel, Minnesota State University – Mankato

They are in the 4th year of working on this topic. Phase 1 was a laboratory study of effectiveness (ice melting capacity) of commercial products. Phase 2 is a field study to evaluate the products and application methods on the TH-169 bridge in Mankato, and at test lanes set up at the parking lots of Valley Fair and Canterbury Park. MnDOT snow plows are being used on the test lanes to evaluate materials, methods and equipment under controlled situations that mimic roadway conditions. The Phase 2 report is due to be completed this summer.

Cost Effective Pavement Preservation Solutions for the Real World:

Professor Jim Wilde, Minnesota State University – Mankato

The tool developed in this project is a PDF file that will be downloaded from a web site and used by engineers to determine pavement preservation alternatives, costs and benefits. It is a compilation of existing data and results, not developing new methods or data. The final deliverable is expected to be completed this summer.

Assessing the Impact of Heavy Loads on Local Roads:

Professor Jim Wilde

The Heavy Vehicle Impacts Tool developed in this project is a spreadsheet file for calculating the pavement condition impacts and costs, at the network level or segment level, for different types of trucks. There are typical trucks in a menu list, which can be modeled as empty, full or half full, or the user can define a customized type of vehicle and axle loading. The user can define pavement and base parameters for segment evaluation. The tool will be released with the final report this summer.

VI. Future RIC projects

A subcommittee or TAP met in January and February to sort through the list of completed LRRB research projects and identify a short list for RIC to consider for the next two years of RIC projects. The current goal is to identify the priorities for SRF's contract amendment. Included in the meeting materials was a spreadsheet with a short list of potential projects, and a longer list of topics that were voted on at the MCEA and CEAM meetings. The short list of 11 projects was discussed and voted upon by the RIC, and TAP chairs were nominated as follows:

- Potential future RIC project (task) topic; number of votes; TAP chair
- **Impacts of Heavy Loads; 8 votes; Tim Stahl**
- **Condensed MUTCD for Work Zones on Low-volume Roads; 7 votes; Jim Grothaus**
- **Local Agency Needs for ITS Traffic Control; 7 votes; Mitch Rasmussen**
- Toolbox of Countermeasures for Rural 2-lane Curves; 4 votes; TAP chair not assigned
- **Cost-effective Pavement Preservation for the Real World; 6 votes; Jeff Hulsether**
- **Salt Brine Blending to Optimize Deicing and Anti-icing; 8 votes; Dave Robley**
- **Recycled Asphalt Pavement; 5 votes; Mike Flaagan**
- Salt Tolerant Sod Mixtures; zero votes (research not complete); TAP chair not assigned
- Use of StreetPave for Design of Concrete Pavements; zero votes; this will go directly to LTAP program
- **Effect of Signing and Lane Markings on Safety of a 2-lane Roundabout; 3 votes; Outreach task (no TAP chair)**
- **Development of Guidelines for Flashing Yellow Arrows for Protected/permissive Use; 2 votes; Outreach task (no TAP chair)**

For the projects listed in bold type above, Mike Marti and Renae Kuehl will develop enough information to draft a scope for each topic and an estimated cost for each task, and provide that information to Research Services by April 15. The RIC will review the task scopes and budgets, and determine which ones to include on SRF's contract amendment. Communication will be done via email or conference call.

SRF's current contract will expire on July 31, 2014, and the amendment paperwork process must be started before the end of May to ensure SRF can continue to work on RIC tasks without interruption.

Action item: SRF will develop a task scope and estimated budget for 8 potential projects, by April 15.

- Task 5.1, Traffic Data Collection: This will be presented at the CTS Research Conference in May.
- Task 4, Road Safety TZD: This is focusing on unbelted drivers, distracted driving, and speeding. The target audience is young male drivers, age 21 – 29. It has a budget of \$90,000. The TAP wants to find partners to provide additional funding to produce higher quality video products that would be suitable quality for broadcast TV. RIC discussion ensued about the best way to reach that audience, may not be traditional TV.
- Task 5.2, On-line Training for Sign Management and Maintenance: The training will be developed in 10 modules. The TAP is requesting additional time to complete this task.
- Other SRF contracts with RIC:
 - Pavement Resource Center task is a survey-based synthesis of practice, responses from local agencies, agencies outside Minnesota, and MnDOT. The TAP is reviewing results.
 - Gravel Road Management synthesis of practice.

A motion was made by Mitch Rasmussen and seconded by Tim Stahl, to amend the contract time for Task 5.2, On-line Training for Sign Management and Maintenance, to allow for Beta testing. The motion was approved.

Action item: Renae will send an email to Bruce and Tina to find out whether this task time extension can be included in the larger amendment of SRF's contract, or if it should be done as a separate amendment.

Round Robin:

Jeff – Expressed thanks to new members and staff.

Hafiz – Contact Tina with any contract questions.

Farideh – Will be on a mobility assignment for 6 months with the government affairs office, federal section.

Maureen – There is a national workshop on SHRP2 pavement preservation in the first week of September. She would like to ask LRRB to cover her expenses to attend the 2nd day of the workshop.

Jim – For the June RIC meeting, he would like to have the Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing project on the agenda.

Bruce – In the meeting materials there is a draft RIC Implementation Form. A form like this may be helpful in the future for collecting the type of information needed for RIC implementation projects, which is different than for research projects.

Adjournment

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Tim Stahl and seconded by Mike Flaagan. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Hulsether.

Action Items