

# MINUTES

LRRB - Research Implementation Committee (RIC)  
March 3, 2015  
MnDOT Metro District Construction Office, Room #3  
Golden Valley, Minnesota

## Attendees:

Jeff Hulsether (Chair), City of Brainerd  
Klayton Eckles, City of Woodbury  
Tim Stahl, Jackson County  
Mike Flaagan, Pennington County  
Guy Kohlhofer, Dodge County  
Ted Schoenecker, MnDOT State Aid  
Merle Earley, MnDOT District 4  
Chris Kufner, MnDOT Materials Office  
Hafiz Munir, MnDOT Research

## Staff:

Bruce Holdhusen, MnDOT Research  
Debbie Sinclair, MnDOT Research  
Dan Sullivan, MnDOT Research  
Absent: Joel Ulring, State Aid

## Absent:

Dave Robley, Douglas County  
Jim Grothaus, U of M CTS

## I. Call to Order (Jeff Hulsether - Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. Jeff welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending. Attendees introduced themselves. Jeff congratulated Klayton Eckles on becoming Chair of the City Engineers Association of Minnesota.

*A motion to approve the agenda was made by Tim Stahl, seconded by Mike Flaagan. Motion approved.*

**Review of November 24, 2014 RIC Meeting Minutes:**

*A motion to approve the November 2014 RIC meeting minutes was made by Merle Earley and seconded by Klayton Eckles. Motion approved.*

## II. Budget Review and Conferences (Debbie Sinclair)

### RIC Meeting dates:

The summer 2015 joint LRRB/RIC meeting will be in Walker June 17 & 18 at Anderson's Horseshoe Bay Lodge.

The RIC fall meeting will be Monday, September 14, 2015, at the City of Golden Valley offices.

The RIC winter meeting will be Monday, November 23, 2015, at the City of Woodbury offices.

Debbie Sinclair will talk with Ted Schoenecker to get contact names for Golden Valley and Woodbury.

### Conferences:

A list of 2015 LRRB/RIC research conferences was included in the meeting materials. Upcoming conferences were discussed. RIC members are encouraged to bring pertinent topics from all conferences to the meeting and note the topics on their trip report.

- AAPT – John Garrity and Greg Schneider will attend from the MnDOT Bituminous Office
- MASHTO conference is in Kansas City, August 10 – 13
- AASHTO summer meeting – does LRRB want to support LRRB or RIC attendance?
- NLTAP meeting July in Savannah, GA – Jeff Hulsether and Guy Kohlnhofer expressed interest. LTAP steering committee members could take any unused RIC spots if approved by Mitch Rasmussen
- Northwest Pavement Management Association (NWPMA) conference will be in Vancouver, WA, October 20-23, 2015

**Action item #1: Tim Stahl will bring to the LRRB March meeting the question of whether there is support for LRRB or RIC members to attend the AASHTO summer meeting, and the question of whether there is support for sending LRRB or RIC members to the NWPMA conference in Vancouver.**

#### **Budget Review:**

- Debbie Sinclair noted there is \$134,000 unobligated balance that can be used to fund future RIC projects, plus \$21,000 in the SRF contract designated for a future task to be determined.
- Jeff reminded the group that the focus of the summer meeting will be on identifying research and implementation needs, and RIC should be prepared in the fall to start scoping the next RIC consultant RFP. SRF's contract will reach the 5-year limit in June 2016. In the past, the LRRB has committed to RIC funding in 2-year or 3-year budget allocations. It could be helpful to get guidance or clarification from the LRRB regarding their expectations for the next RIC consultant contract.

**Action item #2: Tim Stahl will bring the question to the LRRB regarding how many years of RIC funding the Board wants to commit starting in July 2016; 2, 3 or 5 years, and how much per year?**

### **III. Project Updates**

- Major Equipment Life Cycle Cost Analysis (INV 950) – Douglas Gransberg, Iowa State University (via teleconference)
- Chloride Free Snow and Ice Control Material (INV 959) – Ryan Peterson, City of Burnsville
- Investigation of Performance Requirements of Full Depth Reclamation Stabilization (INV 947) – Jialiang Le, University of Minnesota

### **IV. Future RIC Projects**

- Mark Vizecky presented the CTS proposal for LTAP to deliver the “Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity Training” classes. The proposal from CTS was for \$76,000 to deliver 15 training sessions in spring 2016.
  - Jeff asked if there were any other funding sources that could contribute part of the money. Ted said that State Aid could contribute \$26,000 if RIC will pick up the remaining \$50,000.
  - Mark Vizecky and Sulmaan Khan will manage the project for RIC.

- Tim asked about putting the training online. Mark stated it is intended to be hands-on training, but possibly later could be incorporated into the Sign Maintenance and Management Online Training.
- Klayton asked if it is a one-time or ongoing effort. Tim stated future training is the reason why RIC asked CTS to do it rather than SRF.
- Mike asked if Townships are eligible to participate in the classes. Mark said yes, they are.
- Klayton asked for clarification on what is the LRRB research connection. Mark mentioned the sign sheeting test deck facility funded by LRRB at MnRoad.

***Motion by Klayton Eckles, seconded by Tim Stahl, to provide \$50,000 in RIC funding for the CTS proposal for LTAP to deliver the Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity Training in 15 training sessions in spring 2016. The motion was approved.***

- Mike Flaagan reviewed the document developed by Lou Tasa for “Value of TZD since its inception in Minnesota.” The document is an implementation plan in MnDOT format that will be presented to MnDOT TRIG for funding consideration on April 1.
  - The concept is to compare the trend of improved safety in Minnesota to other states that did not implement TZD. It should demonstrate the financial effectiveness of MnDOT’s decision to give federal money to the cities and counties. It will help maintain the momentum of the TZD effort by raising public awareness.
  - Consensus was to let it go forward to TRIG for funding consideration, and if not successful in getting funded by MnDOT to bring it back to the summer RIC.

## **V. Research Projects funded by LRRB in December**

Hafiz Munir provided a summary table of the research projects that were approved by LRRB at their meeting in December.

- One of the projects, “Pothole Prevention and Innovative Repair,” is in need of additional TAP members.
  - Tim Stahl will bring the item to the next LRRB meeting, as there were no volunteers from RIC members present.
  - Klayton Eckles will be sending out an e-mail to the CEAM membership asking for volunteers. Jeff Hulsether also suggested asking APWA.

## **VI. Consultant Contract Updates**

Renae Kuehl from SRF presented an update on progress toward completing the tasks in the consultant contract.

- Amendment #4 was executed as of December 30, 2014. That contract amendment added \$10,000 for LRRB Outreach activities, re-budgeted unused money from direct expenses to labor, and adjusted the budget of Task 4, the TZD Younger Driver Toolkit.
- A consultant contract update summary was provided in the meeting materials, covering details of current efforts.

- Ted Schoenecker volunteered to replace Mitch Rasmussen as the TL for Task 10 - "Implementation of ITS Technology for Local Agencies."
- Renae gave a demonstration of the recently-completed online training course for "Sign Maintenance and Management."

## **VII. Project Update**

- Development of Salt-tolerant Sod Mixtures for Use as Roadside Turf (INV 897) – Eric Watkins, University of Minnesota

## **VIII. Future RIC projects (continued)**

The group continued discussion of needs and ideas for possible future RIC projects.

**Action item #1 held over from November RIC meeting: Klayton Eckles and Joel Ulring will develop a scope of work or need statement for a TRS project on the topic of best practices for local agencies to manage concrete roadway projects, and bring it back to the RIC.**

- Klayton and Joel will continue to talk and develop a research need statement for the summer LRRB/RIC meeting.

**Action item #3 held over from November RIC meeting: The topic raised by Mitch Rasmussen regarding the role of government in construction staging plans will be included on the agenda of the LRRB/RIC joint meeting in June, 2015.**

- Aging of Low-Binder HMA – Mike Flaagan
  - Cores have been obtained from low-binder HMA pavements as part of an internal State Aid project to see how they are aging.
  - Joel and Ron will meet with Mike to review Ron's results.
- FWD analysis tool
  - Current FWD viewer is considered too static, the counties need a tool that can be updated with new FWD data. Joel is working on a State Aid internal project.

**Action item #4 held over from November RIC meeting: Joel Ulring will bring an update to a future RIC meeting on the FWD viewer tool and FWD data collection specifications.**

**RIC Action item from LRRB December meeting: Joel Ulring and Guy Kohnhofer will develop the scope of work for an RIC consultant proposal to meet the need for base stabilization information as set forth in NS 400 and bring it back to the LRRB for funding consideration.**

- There is some uncertainty about the difference between NS 400 (Options and Guidance When Using Base Stabilization Additives) and NS 396 (Evaluation of Stabilized Full Depth Reclamation), which was funded by LRRB.

## **IX. Round Robin and Hot Topics**

- Guy Kohlnhofer: Guy is an expert on FWD data analysis and he will work with Joel Ullring and Professor Wilde (Minnesota State University-Mankato) to put together a proposed project scope for data collection. Tim Stahl added that Professor Wilde wanted the method used to be more interactive and user-friendly.
- Chris Kufner: Joel is in Alabama at the NCAT annual meeting. MnDOT/MnRoad has made good progress on a partnership with NCAT, building some test sections down there and some up here. There are two pooled fund solicitations; one for high-RAP and performance tests, and one for a pavement preservation study. Five states have contributed funds as part of TERRA.
- Klayton Eckles: The LRRB project on Evaluation of Stripping Under Chip Seals is well underway and a draft report is expected by next spring. Klayton also mentioned the increased scrutiny of groundwater issues brought about by persistent low water levels in White Bear Lake, and other concerns, may raise interest in the issue of road salt impacts to groundwater in the future.

## **X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:00 PM.

Next RIC meeting is the joint meeting with LRRB June 17-18, 2015 in Walker, MN. Attendees are advised to be prepared for golf and/or fishing activities outside meeting times.

**March 3, 2015**

**RIC Meeting**

**Action Items**

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