BACKGROUND INFORMATION
AMENDMENT TO THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS
TITLE: RECONSTITUTE THE MEMBERSHIP OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

PROPOSAL

Proposal to dissolve the current membership structure of the Special Committee on Wireless Technology (SCOWT) under the Standing Committee on Highways from a special committee with a chair, vice chair, secretary and 12 regional representatives to a Special Committee on Wireless and Radio Frequency (SCOWRF) under the Standing Committee on Highways that includes up to three representatives from each AASHTO region.

HISTORY OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

SCOWT began as a special committee on communications organized under the Standing Committee on Highways to help AASHTO members address radio communications issues and licensing.

The SCOWT, and its predecessor Special Committee on Communications (SCOC), provides support and assistance to the member state departments of transportation and the general public as one of four (4) public safety frequency coordinators authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to assign public safety radio frequencies to authorized entities for voice, data, and video applications. The SCOWT meets annually to conduct a two day workshop and committee meeting. Committee members also participate in conference calls and on-line polls of its members.

The Special Committee reports directly to the Standing Committee on Highways. In addition to AASHTO and FHWA liaisons, membership includes a chair, vice chair, secretary, and three representatives from each AASHTO region.

The Special Committee on Wireless Technology acts as the voice and resource for state departments of transportation (DOTs) to improve wireless telecommunications across all modes. Its mission is to advocate for effective communications systems that strengthen operations and homeland security by coordinating and collaborating with other AASHTO committees, its members, other agencies and professional organizations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SCOWT

Among its significant accomplishments over the last five years, SCOWT has guided initial preparation and subsequent updating of numerous position papers, official responses to regulatory agencies, participated in standards settings organizations such as the International Telecommunications Union World Radio Advisory Committee (ITU-WRAC), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). SCOWT has authored and assisted in the preparation of pleadings, petitions, and responses to various regulatory agencies including the FCC and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

As an authorized Public Safety Frequency Coordinator for the FCC, AASHTO’s Telecommunications Manager represents the Association, its mission, and its members on the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC), the Public Safety Communications Council (PSCC), and the governing board for the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC). The LMCC is comprised of representatives from each of the organizations authorized by the FCC to assign and manage the private land mobile radio (PLMR) frequencies used by all nonfederal agencies under Title 47, Part 90, Code of Federal Regulations. The PSCC is a subset of the LMCC comprised of the four public safety FCC communications coordinators from AASHTO, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO), Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA) and the International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA). The NPSTC is an organization founded to carry on the work begun under federal programs which resulted in sweeping changes to the radio spectrum allocated to public safety. The NPSTC is comprised of 14 agencies each having an interest and active participation in the assignment and use of public safety spectrum.
The SCOWT holds an annual meeting and workshop designed to strengthen the professional capacity of each member DOT in wireless communication and inform its attendees of new programs and services that have become available.

**NEED FOR RECONSTITUTION OF SCOWT**

The original charges of the Special Committee on Communications and subsequent Special Committee on Wireless Technology have quickly grown and evolved from managing and maintaining two-way radio communications into an essential and ongoing focus-point for AASHTO’s efforts to address an aging radio telecommunications infrastructure, incompatible radio systems, fragmented spectrum, homeland security concerns and continuing operations as it relates to transportation. Expanded authority and representation on SCOWT is desirable for the following reasons:

- When SCOWT began, states had large, dedicated staffs with radio frequency (RF) maintenance and frequency coordination responsibilities; therefore a narrower membership was both justified and practical. Many states have now reduced staff with RF responsibilities while the demand for wireless communications has expanded, but few states participate in SCOWT;
- Without strong representation at SCOWT meetings from states’ staff with Wireless and RF responsibilities, the committee’s ability to act in a leadership capacity on key issues such as training, awareness, policy development, and research is hindered;
- Members of SCOWT are often unable to secure funds and authorization for travel to SCOWT annual meetings and other opportunities thereby decreasing the participation and influence at all levels within their DOT;
- Wireless communications has expanded from voice centric two-way radio communications to embrace video and data services outstripping the capabilities of an aging in-place infrastructure;
- Increased dependence on other forms of wireless communication has led to a decline in the perceived need for a strong, centralized repository maintaining the member department’s RF infrastructure to a fractured and uncoordinated allocation of responsibilities; **Reword to make positive by stating our participation in all forms of communications.**
- Other groups and committees are now venturing into wireless communications to address specific requirements in the transmission of voice, video and data from applications as diverse as wireless data networks, roadside sensors, and vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure systems under the Intelligent Transportation System umbrella. **Lack of coordination with state communications systems.**
- Additional groups within the DOTs are being formed to address the inability of state agencies having diverse needs but similar requirements to communicate over systems utilizing different technologies and frequencies in common emergencies.
DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS (AGD)
TITLE: RECONSTITUTE THE MEMBERSHIP OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS, The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Special Committee on Wireless Technology has been charged with the responsibilities to advocate for a secure transportation communications system by coordinating and collaborating with AASHTO, its members, the Federal Communications Commission, other agencies, professional organizations; and

WHEREAS, The voting members of the Special Committee on Wireless Technology include; a chair; a vice chair; and the representatives from each of the four AASHTO regions; and

WHEREAS, Wireless communications has always been an essential and ongoing responsibility with increased emphasis on integration with ITS, Public Safety, Operations, Maintenance, and homeland security functions for every state DOT, resulting in agencies having established special staff positions and resources to meet these expanding demands and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, State DOTs must speak with a strong and unified voice before the Federal Communications Commission and other federal regulatory bodies responsible for developing significant wireless voice and data policy and regulatory positions to ensure their issues and concerns get the attention they deserve; and

WHEREAS, Widespread sharing of knowledge among agencies and integration of varied perspectives held among all DOTs are vital to the success of the Special Committee on Wireless Technology in achieving its vision to be the voice and resource for state DOTs to improve transportation operations, maintenance, and security across all modes; and therefore be it

RESOLVED That the membership of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials’ Standing Committee on Highways Special Committee on Wireless Technology shall be dissolved and reconstituted as the Special Committee on Wireless and Radio Frequency under the Standing Committee on Highways to include up to three representatives from each AASHTO region; and be it further

RESOLVED That the following language shall replace the final paragraph of text referring to the Special Committee on Wireless Technology in the AASHTO Board of Directors policy manual:

The Special Committee shall report to the Standing Committee on Highways. Membership of the Special Committee shall comprise up to three representatives per AASHTO region. The President will appoint a chair, a vice chair, and a Secretary. Member States shall nominate members who are appointed by the President. Other AASHTO committees are encouraged to provide liaisons to the Special Committee on Wireless and Radio Frequency. Representatives from federal agencies, associations, or private organizations may be appointed as non-voting members by the Committee Chair.
AASHTO STANDING COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

• **Existing**

The membership of the special committee shall comprise a chair, vice chair, secretary, three members from each Region of AASHTO, chosen for their knowledge of the radio communications needs of member departments, and one person appointed by the Federal Highway Administration, who serves ex officio at the pleasure of that Administration. The term of the three members from each region is three years, which will be staggered to provide continuity on the special committee. Members of the special committee, as designated by the President, represent the Association on the Land Mobile Communications Council and other organizations related to radio communications which the Association may participate. The Wireless Technology Special Committee shall:

- Monitor developments with regard to radio communications;
- Work to secure and protect sufficient frequency assignments to meet the radiofrequency and frequency management needs of the member departments;
- Cooperate with others having common interests with member departments in securing and protecting frequencies;
- Propose to SCOH such policy statements as it believes the Association should consider and adopt; and
- Under the general supervision of the Executive Director, represent the interests of the Association and its member departments in proceedings before Federal agencies on radio frequency matters.

The committee shall report to the Standing Committee on Highways.

• **Proposed**

The membership of the special committee shall comprise a chair, vice chair, secretary, up to three members from each Region of AASHTO, chosen for their knowledge of the radio and wireless telecommunications communications needs of member departments, and one person appointed by the Federal Highway Administration, who serves ex officio at the pleasure of that Administration. The term of the three members from each region is three years, which will be staggered to provide continuity on the special committee. Members of the special committee, as designated by the President, represent the Association on the Land Mobile Communications Council, the Public Safety Communications Council, the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, and other organizations related to wireless communications in which the Association may participate. The Wireless Technology Telecommunications Infrastructure Special Committee shall:

- Monitor developments with regard to wireless radio communications;
- Serve as a depository of technical information, solutions and advice on transportation-related wireless systems and equipment;
- Offer expertise and lessons learned on improving incident response and interoperability communications with other state and local agencies, including technical and administrative information.
- Work to secure and protect sufficient frequency assignments to meet the radiofrequency and frequency management needs of the member departments;
- Cooperate with others having common interests with member departments in securing and protecting frequencies;
- Propose to SCOH such policy statements as it believes the Association should consider and adopt; and
- Under the general supervision of the Executive Director, represent the interests of the Association and its member departments in proceedings before Federal agencies on radio frequency matters.

The committee shall report to the Standing Committee on Highways.