1. Call to Order by Co-Chairs ................................................................. ACEC Co-Chair: Charlie Geer
............................................................................................................. AASHTO, Co-Chair: Harold Linnenkohl, GA
2. Roll Call – Roster/Sign-In Sheet Provided ................................................................. All
3. Presentation of the Meeting Minutes — October 26, 2006, Portland, Oregon  Co-Chair Linnenkohl
4. Introduction of New Members................................................................. Co-Chairs Geer and Linnenkohl
5. AASHTO Report .......................................................................................................................... John Horsley, AASHTO
   a. AASHTO Vision Conference — May 21-23, 2007, Cambridge, MD
6. FHWA Report ......................................................................................................................... King W. Gee, FHWA
7. The Thomas Larson D. Fund for Excellence ................................................................. John Kurgan, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.
   .................................................................................................................. and Tony Kane, AASHTO
8. AASHTO-ACEC Task Force on Improving the Quality of Environmental Documents – Status Report...
   .................................................................................................................. Hal Kassoff, PB
9. Briefing on the AASHTO Reports to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study
   Commission ......................................................................................................................... Jack Basso, AASHTO
10. TRAC Program Briefing ........................................................................................................ Tate Jackson, AASHTO
11. Membership ............................................................................................................................ Ken Kobetsky, AASHTO and Vivian Moeglein, ACEC
12. Old Business ............................................................................................................................. Co-Chair Geer
   a. PPP Taskforce
   b. IG audit on Overhead and Executive Compensation
   c. Working Group on Improving Contract Plans and Administration
13. New Business ............................................................................................................................. Co-Chair Geer
   a. New GAO Study on Contracting-Out by State DOTs
14. Next AASHTO/ACEC — 2007 AASHTO Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, WI ........... Co-Chair Linnenkohl
15. Adjournment

* Attached
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2007
AASHTO-ACEC JOINT COMMITTEE
Minutes
Portland, Oregon
October 26, 2006

Officers Present: Co-Chairs: Charlie Geer, ACEC, and Doug Differt, MN. Introduction of Vivian Moeglein (ACEC, co-secretary), Ken Kobetsky (AASHTO, co-secretary)

Members Present: Roll Call – Joint Committee Members In Attendance: Bob Walters, Arkansas; King Gee, FHWA; Scott Murray, Fuller, Mossbarger, Scott & May Engr., Inc.; Dwight Hardin, GRI Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants; John Horrocks, Horrocks Engineers; John Kurgan, Michael Baker Jr., Inc.; Hal Kassoff, Parsons Brinckeroff, Quade & Douglas; Eugene Mulcahy, Transystems Corp.; and John Deatrick, Washington, DC.

AASHTO Staff in attendance: Jack Basso, Dave Clawson, John Horsley, Tony Kane, Kate Kurgan, Jim McDonnell, Janet Oakley, Sunny Schusts, and Marty Vitale.


Co-Chair, Charlie Geer called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM. The first order of business was the introduction of Vivian Moeglein, ACEC, as new co-secretary for ACEC. Self-introduction of attendees followed.

Comments from Harold Linnenkohl, GA DOT Commissioner and AASHTO President:

- The October 27, 2007, meeting of the AASHTO policy group will be providing recommendations to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission
- State DOTs and consultants are in a partnership to provide excellence in transportation

Meeting minutes from the May 4, 2006, Jekyll Island, Georgia meeting were approved. (handout)

DISCUSSION

Review of Interstate 50th Anniversary (Horsley, Schust)

- 20-vehicle convoy went across the country, ending on Ellipse on June 29, 2006, to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Interstate highway bill
- 2-day policy forum on the future of the interstate followed the convoy in Washington, DC
- Press stories in over 500 newspapers, on TV news across the country, magazines, estimate that we reached 80 percent of American households
- Display available for viewing at AASHTO meeting Trade Fair
- (PowerPoint presentation)
- Goal to reestablish transportation as a national priority and to celebrate accomplishments of the Interstate system
- Now looking to the future, including:
  - NCHRP research project exploring future options for the Interstate system (final report in May 2007).
  - providing input to the National Transportation Commission, and
  - building a foundation for creating a coalition for future legislation
Report on AASHTO-AGC-ARTBA Committee Meeting (Linnenkohl, Horsley, Horrocks)
Each year, AASHTO, AGC, and ARTBA identify 4 topics to discuss at the yearly AASHTO regional meetings. This past year, some issues were raised related to the consultant industry. Thus, the development of the Joint Position Statement on Improving Contract Plans and Administration (handout) is aimed at improving contract plans and administration, including: reduce number of change orders, timely approvals, timely payments, reduce number of disputes and claims. The statement presented for review by AASHTO-ACEC committee.

- **Motion** by Horrocks to establish joint working group of representatives from AASHTO-AGC-ARTBA-ACEC for investigating processes procedures and controls for improving contract plans and administration; also, modify last bullet, “continue to use Qualifications-Based Seslection to pre-qualify consultants and continue appropriate training.”
- **Motion passed.**

The AASHTO-AGC-ARTBA Joint Principles for the Nat'l Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission (handout) will be presented to the Nat'l Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, which was established by SAFETEA-LU to look into the future of the nation's transportation system. These principles were jointly agreed upon by AASHTO, AGC, and ARTBA, and are being presented to the AASHTO-ACEC committee for its consideration. AASHTO feels that the position would be strengthened if we had consensus across the industry. ACEC strongly endorses these principles;

- **Motion** for the AASHTO-ACEC Committee to endorse these principles
  - **Discussion –**
    - Deatrick, DC: feels that these principles are too highway-oriented, need to be more comprehensive from a modal perspective
    - Norton, CO: approx 80% of costs in maintenance, but AASHTO continues to emphasize capital projects and may be overlooking need for federal participation in maintenance
    - AASHTO: principles could be amplified to include greater focus on maintenance; current principles include statement on public transportation, while AASHTO position statement on transit asks for transit funding increase in proportion to highway increase, rail not currently included
  - **Modifications proposed:**
    - 9th bullet, after “improvements,” replace with “exemplify the principles of environmental stewardship and are consistent with community values”
    - 1st bullet: add “multi-modal” before “surface transportation program”
    - New bullet, “Recognize the vital role and adequately fund alternative modes of surface transportation”
  - Since there are modifications, two sets of principles would need to be presented to the AASHTO Board of Directors on Monday: one from AASHTO-AGC-ARTBA, and one from AASHTO-ACEC.
  - Given that there would need to be two statements, would one joint statement from all committees be more powerful than two separate statements that have slight differences?
    - Proposal: agree on principles that AASHTO-AGC-ARTBA adopted, plus add the three additional points that have been discussed

- **Motion passed.**

**SAFETEA-LU Implementation (AASHTO, FHWA, ACEC)**
- **Open discussion of issues to highlight**
  - FHWA: guidance coming out quickly, design-build rule coming soon
  - ACEC: ground needs to be covered regarding earmarks;
  - ACEC: significant increase in escalation of construction costs is having a significant eroding effect on ability to deliver transportation projects; US DOT OIG has begun an audit on this topic to determine if it’s long-term or not, the causes, the effects
Task Force on Improving the Quality of Environmental Documents (Kassoff) (handout document)
- Joint task force of AASHTO, ACEC, and FHWA
- FHWA precipitated the issue
- Document on web sites of AASHTO’s Center for Environmental Excellence and FHWA
- Success!

AASHTO/FHWA Survey on Construction Cost Increases (Kobetsky) (PowerPoint handout)
- Many materials have risen dramatically in price over the past year or two, including steel, concrete, asphalt, fuel, etc.
- Also mentioned – AASHTO meeting with OIG

Public-Private Partnerships (Kane, Basso, Gee) (handout)
- Web page on PPPs on FHWA’s web site
- FHWA has a guidebook on PPPs
- What should the charge be of the task group?
  - Develop guidebook? White paper? Consolidate information sources?
- USDOT is supporting and advocating PPPs
  - Not a panacea, but a piece of the funding picture
  - Guidebook being updated, intended to be a resource document for States and others
  - Model enabling legislation being developed, 21 states already have legislation
- AASHTO Finance and Administration committee met today
  - Discussed what they can develop to help advance PPPs
  - AASHTO Project Finance Institute offers training in finance-related issues, including PPPs
  - Wharton School of Business has approached AASHTO to potentially develop an executive level program in finance
- Two people from ACEC and two from AASHTO named to task group

Transportation Market Issues (ACEC)
- Shortage of engineering and technical talent available
- Is there a way to work together to improve the situation?
- Public awareness/public information programs at grade school, high school, and college levels? Also international talent – increasing caps for H1B?
- Discussion
  - Need to reach kids in middle school, need simple things to reach out such as videos
  - The sexy shows on TV have to do with doctors and lawyers; engineers are usually on the History Channel
  - TRAC program, will ask Tate Jackson of AASHTO to be at next AASHTO-ACEC meeting
    - TRAC offers opportunities for teachers to bring engineering projects into the classroom
    - DOT volunteers are stewards and assistants in the classroom
    - Approximately 30 states participate in TRAC
    - ACEC would like to offer member firms to participate in the TRAC program
    - MS has TRAC in every school in the state, provides over $1 million per year

CSS Conference Update (Pedersen)
- Neil will be talking to SCOH and Board of Directors later this weekend on this topic, also
- Joint AASHTO/FHWA Peer Exchange on CSS was held in September, a follow-up to the 1998 Thinking Beyond the Pavement conference
- 262 participants, including 42 states, 8 DOT CEOs
- Was primarily facilitated peer discussion sessions: project delivery, stakeholder involvement, the principles of CSS, project discussions, how to mainstream within the DOTs
- Today held a follow-on strategic planning meeting to start the development of an AASHTO/FHWA CSS action plan
- Institutionalization within AASHTO leaning toward a joint committee involving representatives from the Standing Committees on Highways, Planning, and Environment
Report from the Peer Exchange and other materials on the Center for Environmental Excellence website

(Gee)

FHWA will be collaborating with many organizations in the implementation of CSS, including ITE, ASCE, Project for Public Spaces

Nov 16-17, ASCE/FHWA conference on implementing CSS in projects

(Pedersen)

This will be a paradigm shift in the way projects are addressed in the consulting world, also

Membership (Kobetsky, Moeglein)

ACEC – no changes

AASHTO – no changes

Old Business

None

New Business

Audit by Office of Inspector General, Overhead and Executive Compensation

Draft audit identifies issues of concern, but exaggerates extent of the problem, presents an unfair and negative picture of the industry

ACEC requesting partnership to address some of the issues as well as some of the inaccuracies

Examples include:

- OIG examined data from 59 engineering firms for only one year, extrapolated it out over 6-year bill to determine overages
- 10 firms identified for overage charges, one of which has been identified for fraud, and used these to extrapolate
- $180 million in executive-level over charges
- DOTs not providing sufficient oversight

Need to be proactive and put together a task force to address these issues

(Basso)

AASHTO Standing Committee on Finance and Administration looking into this

Next week, AASHTO will have briefing on status of report, no timeline on release yet

Next Meeting: early May 2007, Scottsdale, AZ

Adjournment
American Association of State Highway and Transportation
Joint AASHTO–ACEC Task Force
April 18, 2007

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