AASHTO-ACEC Joint Committee

AGENDA

Chateau on the Lake Convention Center,
The St. Moritz Room — Branson, Missouri

Sunday, May 4, 2008, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order by Co-Chairs ......................................................... ACEC Co-Chair: David Oates
   ........................................................................................................ AASHTO, Co-Chair: Paul Mattox, WV
2. Roll Call – Roster/Sign-In Sheet Provided ................................................ AASHTO, Co-Chair: Paul Mattox, WV
3. Presentation of the Meeting Minutes — October 26, 2006, Portland, Oregon .............. Co-Chair Mattox
4. Introduction of New Members ......................................................... Co-Chairs Oates and Mattox
5. AASHTO Report ................................................................................ John Horsley, AASHTO
   a. Authorization Legislative Teamwork ..................................................
6. FHWA Report .................................................................................... King W. Gee, FHWA
7. Update on Improving the Quality of Environmental Documents Rollout Effort .......... King W. Gee, FHWA, Hal Kassoff (and Gloria Shepherd Tentative)
8. Bridge Design Questions from NTSB Peer Review of Complex Structures ....... Ken Kobetsky, AASHTO
   a. State DOT
   b. Private Design Consultants
9. Improving Contract Plans and Administration ......................................... John Kurgan, ACEC
10. OIG Audit Update ................................................................................... Co-Chair Oates and Jack Basso
11. Environmental Center Update ............................................................. Shannon Eggleston, AASHTO
12. Report from SCOR on the NCHRP 2009 ............................................. Ken Kobetsky, AASHTO
13. NCHRP 20-7 (225) Management of Design Errors and Omissions ................ Co-Chairs Oates and Jim McDonnell, AASHTO
14. Scanning program ............................................................................... Ken Kobetsky, AASHTO
   a. International program
   b. Domestic program
15. FHWA Work Zone Safety Grant ......................................................... Brad Sant, ARTBA
16. Membership ......................................................................................... Ken Kobetsky, AASHTO and Vivian Moeglein, ACEC
17. Old Business ....................................................................................... Co-Chair Oates
18. New Business ...................................................................................... Co-Chair Mattox
20. Adjournment
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
Joint AASHTO–ACEC Task Force

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AASHTO-ACEC JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes
Phoenix, Arizona
May 3, 2007

Officers Present: New AASHTO Co-Chair: Harold Linnenkohl, GA and ACEC Co-Chair: Charles Geer, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc; Ken Kobetsky, AASHTO and Vivian Moeglein, ACEC (Co-Secretaries)

Members Present: Roll Call – Joint Committee Members In Attendance: Kevin Chesnik, WI; King Gee, FHWA; Marvin Murphy, WV; Amadeo Saenz, TX; John Kurgan, Michael Baker; Peter Strub, TransSystems Corp.; Jim Horrocks, Horrocks Engineers; Marvin Murphy, WV; John Deatrick, DC; Hal Kassoff, PB; Michael Baker, PA.

AASHTO Staff in attendance: Jack Basso, Dave Clawson, John Horsley, Tony Kane, Kate Kurgan, Jim McDonnell, Janet Oakley, Ron McCready, Sunny Schusts, Shannon Eggleston, Jim Wright, Valerie Briggs, Roger Roberts, Tate Jackson, and Marty Vitale.

Other Guests: John Horsley, AASHTO; Victor Mendez, AZ; Allen Biehler, PA, Glenn Yasui, HI; Sam Elters, AZ; Rick Hogg, PA, M.G. Patel, PA; Scott Rawlins, NV; Neil Pedersen, MD; Ken Sweeney, ME, Michael Shamma, NY; Paul Degges, TN; Robert Close; STV Inc.; Frank Danchetz, Arcadis; Janice Burnett, ACEC/AZ; Justan Rice, ACEC/AZ; Michael Lonergan, CT, Charles S. Barone, CT; Kirk Brown, Hanson; Rick Powers, AZ; Dallas Hammit, AZ; Steve Hutchinson, ID; Cathy Nelson, OR; Tony Chapman, SC; Vince Li, AZ.

• John Horsley, AASHTO Report
  o New AASHTO staff person for Standing Committee on Planning: Ron McCready
  o Centerpiece of AASHTO policy work for past year and half is influencing work of National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission,
    ▪ One member of commission is Frank Bussalacchi, WI DOT
    ▪ Completed hearings, now have 7 months to present report
    ▪ Commission charged with creating a new vision for transportation
    ▪ 8 groups partnering with AASHTO on developing a transportation vision, including ACEC, AAA, APTA, ARTBA, ATA, AAR, AGC
      ▪ Panels included Sustainable Transportation, Highways, Safety, Freight, Advanced Technologies, Transit, Metropolitan Mobility, and Funding
      ▪ Now integrating papers into a draft vision statement
      ▪ May 21-23 visioning conference with industry participation

• King Gee, FHWA Report
  o Changes in leadership:
    ▪ Cindy Burbank retired, Gloria Shepherd is replacement
    ▪ John Baxter is new Associate Administrator for Federal Lands
    ▪ Pete Stephanos is new Pavements person
    ▪ Dave Geiger retired, in process of interviewing
  o Final rule on planning regulations published Feb 14 (?)
  o Safety programs doubled with SAFETEA-LU, but added requirement for Strategic Highway Safety Plans, 33 states currently have approved plans
  o Cost increases in steel, concrete, and asphalt; forum planned for this summer
    ▪ States will provide their insights into how they are handling the increases
    ▪ Industry will respond to these ideas and present some of their own
    ▪ Group brainstorming on how best to cope with the increases
    ▪ Jerry Yakovenko, FHWA, and Jim McDonnell, AASHTO, working on this item
  o Local project administration
    ▪ $6-8 billion per year goes to local agencies
- FHWA Divisions have until Oct 1 to determine if states have comprehensive LPA oversight program, and an additional year to assess the effectiveness of these oversight programs
- Bob Wright will facilitate this initiative from FHWA; Jim McDonnell, Shannon Eggleston, and Jung Lee from AASHTO will work on this, also

**Thomas D. Larson Fund, John Kurgan and Tony Kane (see also handout)**
- Initiating a program at Penn State that would foster mentoring people to be part of the transportation industry
- Endowed fund for scholarships and lectureships at Penn State
- John Kurgan, industry, Tony Kane, AASHTO, and Bud Wright, FHWA, and collaborating on this project
- Close to $250,000 so far; hoping to get $1 million by end of the year
- Information will be provided electronically in the near future

**Improving the Quality of Environmental Documents, Hal Kassoff**
- “And then, out of the ashes, rose the Phoenix…”
- Process started 4-5 years ago
- AASHTO, FHWA, and ACEC took on the issue of quality of NEPA documents
- Result: 35-page report
- Need to get the word out to the line engineers
- Provides best practices
- Webinar will be conducted on May 17
- [http://www.acec.org/calendar/eventDetails.cfm?eventID=907](http://www.acec.org/calendar/eventDetails.cfm?eventID=907)

**Briefing on reports to National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, John Horsley, AASHTO**
- 4 reports have been produced since January
  3. Revenue Options: “Green Report”
  6. Multimodal Transportation
  7. Streamlining and Project Delivery
- All reports online at [www.transportation.org](http://www.transportation.org)

**TRAC Program Briefing, Tate Jackson, AASHTO**
- Going into schools to talk to kids about civil engineering
- Takes what the students are already doing in their coursework and relates it to civil engineering
- The TRAC program is hands-on – Implemented through the DOTs, 22 states on board – newest states are UT and ME; 8 more looking into it currently
- Engineers go into the schools and trained with the teachers, public and private sector folks working in the program, 3-4 times per year
- This year’s contest is balsa wood truss drawbridge within certain specifications; highest loading wins
- If a private company is interested in participating in the program, they would be put in touch with the TRAC coordinator within the DOT in that state

**Membership, Ken Kobetsky and Vivian Moeglien**
- See new members announced previously; membership is full
- On ACEC side, have one vacancy

**Old Business**
- PPP Task Force. Jim Horrocks
• ACEC wanted to identify potential problems, advantages from both sides; explore constraints, recommendations, etc., for those states interested in pursuing PPPs
• On ACEC side, formed subcommittee of funding committee, 7 members, and ACEC Staff has generated a white paper on PPPs with recommendations and policy positions
• AASHTO has produced the “Green Report” with revenue options that mentions that every state should be given every option available, including PPPs
• Is there a benefit in forming common ground in the form of a resolution from the AASHTO-ACEC Committee?
• Logical next step is to review ..... (?)
  o OIG Audit on Overhead and Executive Compensation, Jack Basso
    ▪ AASHTO had meeting with OIG staff, pointed out a number of flaws in the report, including methodology
    ▪ OIG has still only released a preliminary report to FHWA; have not
    ▪ They are planning to go back to the major firms to review their results with them
    ▪ ACEC recommended “exit interviews” to answer some of the questions that the OIG had
    ▪ Firms received letters with draft results and are beginning to meet with OIG
  o Working Group on Improving Contract Plans and Administration, Harold Linnenkohl
    ▪ Came out of the AASHTO-AGC-ARTBA meeting
    ▪ AGC and ARTBA had issues related to consultant plans, and we are now seeking representatives from ACEC and AASHTO to discuss and problem-solve the issues

• New Business
  o GAO Study on Contracting-out by State DOTs,
    ▪ Chairman Oberstar has commissioned this study
    ▪ Concern is that this could lead to actions or mandates at the congressional level to limit the DOTs’ ability to contract out
    ▪ Possibly have GAO come to next meeting and give an overview of the audits underway
  o Freight Policy – Bob Close
    ▪ Wants ACEC to tie into policy statements that AASHTO is making so that everyone is speaking with one voice
    ▪ Over next 6 months will be developing ACEC’s views, will bring it to next AACHTO-ACEC meeting

• Next AASHTO-ACEC Meeting
  o Milwaukee, WI, at the AASHTO Annual Meeting, September 28