Call to Order & Opening Remarks
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Saenz at 8:38 a.m. with a quorum of 36 members with Frank Tramatozzi (MA) and Grant Levi (ND) attending by phone. The Chairman acknowledged the work on the SCOH strategic plan.

Roll Call, Ratifications & Meeting Notes from May 16, 2009
Because of the lack of a quorum at the last meeting, the following ratification actions were taken:

A. Approval of the Minutes from October 18, 2008, Hartford, CT
B. Approval of the Special Committee on U.S. Route Numbering Recommendations
C. Approval of the NCHRP 20-7 Panel Recommendations

[Motion-MD / Second-MO – Approved]

The Meeting Notes of the May 16, 2009 meeting in Bedford Springs, Pennsylvania were approved.

[Motion-UT / Second-WV – Approved]

Presentations
AASHTO Report – John Horsley, Executive Director
Regarding activities with Congress there are a few pending issues. (1) AASHTO has a survey out of the states for a third round of “ready to go” projects – because of a 9.8% unemployment rate, there is interest in passing a job creation bill and members were encouraged to return the survey. (2) AASHTO has drafted a letter to encourage Chairman Oberstar to include eligibility for capacity expansion in rehabilitation projects in reauthorization.

Given the economic strain that prevented some members from traveling, he requested SCOH members to help make quorum at the Board meeting on Monday.

Call for Agenda Amendments
Motion was made and passed to accept agenda item IV. Summary of SCOH Ballots, and items V.A. through V.E. as a Consent Agenda.

[Motion-MD / Second-WY – Passed]

Reports
TIG Report – Kevin Chesnik, WI
The TIG committee is missing a member from the Mississippi Valley Conference. There are 13 active projects with two closed which will be presented on the TIG website: Road Safety Audits (RSA) and Cable Medium Barriers. Five new submittals were reviewed and one was selected: Tow Plow mechanism – covering multiple lanes with one single truck. TIG is looking for a lead state.

With a $6,000 voluntary subscription, TIG has a carryover of $250,000 before this year’s receipts; $125,000 is spoken for. TIG is looking for more subscribers. The recent trends show 31 states actively participating; multiple states are in lead states role (54 total); but only 10 states have contributed to TIG so far this year. There were 44 states in 2007 which went down to 30 last year.

There were 35 TIG proposals in 2006, but only 5 have been received this year. Upcoming expectations include SHRP2 results which may involve some TIG role; and taskings from the SCOH Strategic Plan. Therefore, TIG will analyze both trends and pending needs and will bring recommendations to the Spring Meeting.
FHWA (King W. Gee) provided an update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Discussions involved current happenings in Congress; performance management directions; a national marketing campaign; and the Highway Safety Manual.

ACEC recognized the state budget downturns and their effect on programs and are willing to help deal with the resultant issues. It was acknowledged that a well-paid and highly qualified state engineering staff was critical to program success. Others current issues include (1) addressing errors & omissions building on NCHRP guidance; (2) 23 CFR 172 update - AASHTO and ACEC will develop best practices to inform this rulemaking; and (3) roll out of the AASHTO audit guide through a great joint effort of AASHTO, ACEC and FHWA.

**Resolutions/Motions**

**Resolution: Formation of a Joint Task Force on Pipe Issues**

Land (CA) proposed a friendly amendment to add a resolve regarding what happens to work tasks when a task force is closed out.

[Motion-CA / Second-UT – Approved with friendly amendment]

**Resolution: Guide Document for the Use of Highway Bridge Program Funds for Preventive Maintenance**

Braceras (UT) – added a Bridge Subcommittee member to the list of group members.

[Motion-UT / Second-WV – Approved]

**Resolution: Continuing Support of the Recycled Materials Resource Center**

Levi (ND) – Friendly amendment: remove penultimate resolve which is redundant to final resolve.

[Motion-ND / Second-WI – Approved with friendly amendment]

**Resolution: Request for Interstate Control Cities Approval**

[Motion-WY / Second-MD – Approved]

**Resolution: Endorsement of TransXML**

[Motion-CA / Second-AL – Approved]

**Resolution: Recognize IntelliDrive’s (sm) (formerly called VII Program) Potential to Provide Substantial Benefits in Safety and Mobility Recognizing the Importance of AASHTO’s Role in Providing National Leadership**

[Motion-UT / Second-MI – Approved]

**Resolution: Voluntary SICOP Assessment to Develop a Computer Based Training Program**

[Motion-UT / Second-AL – Approved]

**Resolution: Establishing a Technical Service Program to Develop AASHTO Standards**

Levi (ND): This would involve a $5,000 voluntary contribution.

[Motion-ND / Second-WY – Approved]

**Resolution: Seek to Protect the Ability to Use Fly Ash in Highway Construction**

MD friendly amendment: “Whereas … beneficial use”

[Motion-ND / Second-MD – Approved with friendly amendment]

**Reports**

**NCHRP 20-7 - Neil Pedersen, MD**

Chris Jencks (TRB): Thanked the member departments for allowing their staff to serve on NCHRP panels. He reviewed the nine tasks selected by the 20-7 panel for $715,000 (see
Special Committee on U.S. Route Numbering - Don Vaughn, AL
Keith (MO) reported that 13 submittals had been reviewed and were being recommended for approval except for: (1) conditional approval for AL request because it won’t be open for a few years; and (2) denied joint PA-NY request because it was missing NY’s request.

The Web-based submittal tool is up and running for the special committee.

SHRP2 Implementation Report - Ann Brach, TRB
Brach reviewed the $170 million seven-year program that is half through and reported on early results. There has been tiered involvement with 400 volunteers on the research program and its four tracks: Safety, Renewal, Reliability and Capacity. Vice Chair Pedersen added details of the Capacity track. The Implementation Report to Congress had five recommendations that involved funding for implementation to be managed by FHWA with stakeholder involvement – SHRP2 and FHWA have hired full time implementation managers.

The Vice Chair acknowledged Ann Brach and Neil Hawks for their leadership of SHRP2.

Presentations (continued)
FHWA Activities - King W. Gee, FHWA
All FHWA political leadership is now in-place. Administrator Victor Mendez has the following emphases: safety, ARRA – Recovery Act, reauthorization and innovation. There will be a work group convened under the AASHTO-ARTBA-AGC Joint Committee to focus on this last emphasis on innovation that will explore shortening the development & delivery of projects and accelerating innovation & technology.

ARRA – the State DoTs were thanked for progress on ARRA which highway accomplishment were highlighted by President Obama at a project last week. The current status is that 74% of the $26.6 billion has been obligated; all but four states have obligated more than 50% of the their funds; and four states have obligated 95% or more of their funds. The top two types of projects have been pavement improvements (51.9%) and pavement widening (17.7%). Reporting has involved shifting requirements with the current emphases on maintenance of effort and impact on infrastructure condition. TIGER Grants – there were 1380 applications totaling $56.5 billion received for the $1.5 billion discretionary grant program. Multi-modal teams are reviewing the projects and Secretary LaHood intends to announce grants ahead of the February 2010 deadline.

Other key activities were described briefly: program performance management; a joint USDOT initiative with HUD & EPA on “livability;” exploration of green projects & green programs under the notion of sustainability; addressing post I-35W scrutiny of the bridge program including scour & unknown foundations; and advancing recommendations from OIG & GAO audits that include revisions to the AASHTO Audit Guide and related regulations.

Late Breaking Issue: OSHA citation of a state for safety violations related to shear studs on bridge beams. A few years ago we had worked out an arrangement with OSHA on shear studs. OSHA took this recent action with no prior public notice or discussion with FHWA. FHWA will be seeking a meeting with OSHA to follow up.

FHWA Office of Innovative Program Delivery - Regina McElroy, FHWA
McElroy reviewed the scope of her new office. Its emphases involve a research agenda; informing the key players of innovative options and their applicability; lessons learned; capacity building within FHWA/USDOT and with the States & locals; a learning website to be launched.
within the year that can help package the options; guidebooks; technical assistance. There will be targeted technical assistance for specific projects and for states exploring program changes.

**Domestic Scan on Accelerated Construction Practices** – Brian Blanchard, FL
Blanchard reviewed the key findings of the scan which looked at emergency and non-emergency projects in five states: delegating authority to local offices; basic scope of work; work concurrently with design; partnerships & mutual trust; availability of materials; incentives/disincentives; public outreach; program approach to acceleration (shifting from “lowest construction cost” to “lowest project cost”).

**Charting the Course of the Highway Safety Manual** – Ken Kobetsky, AASHTO
Kobetsky introduced the manual by noting that it is a scientific method to evaluate safety effects with software under development by FHWA. It should not affect legal liability because the manual does not “tell” what to do, nor regulate, nor set warrants or standards. The next step is to facilitate more research to refine the manual. Three subcommittees have approved the manual and it is in balloting by SCOH due by 11/2/09.

**Maintenance Decision Support Systems** – David L Huft, SD
Huft reported that 16 states are participating in a pooled fund effort and welcome others to join in this ten year plus research effort. The aim is a more systematic approach to handling winter maintenance decisions: the right treatments at the right time, including “what-if” analyses. It is not just weather prediction, but what is happening to the roadway surface and being predictive; RWIS information; independent B/C analysis. Substantial savings have been realized in NH, MN, CO, SD, & IN. This is an ongoing research effort to refine the tool.

**NCHRP 20-07 Task 259 Study on Earth Retaining Structures** – Butch Wlaschin, FHWA
Wlaschin thanked the states for support and endorsement of the project. He reviewed the need of managing retaining walls and noted the lack of ownership within DOTs; the lack of an inventory of the number and type. The study looked at the state of the practice and any vulnerabilities. The final draft report under review. FHWA will reach out to the community to inform and increase awareness.

Pedersen (MD) acknowledged the peer exchange on asset management and management of highway performance.

**NCHRP 3-94 Project to Develop an AASHTO Operations Guidebook** – Steve Lockwood, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. and John Conrad, CH2M-Hill
Conrad reviewed the history that started the project from SCOH: what would an operations guide look like which developed into a full blown NCHRP effort on the scale of the AASHTO Green Book.

   Lockwood reported that “system operations” is not a formal program, but system operations do take resource decisions which makes it a senior management issue. The effort has yielded web-based guidance to self-assess the state-of-play within a state as a first step. States will be asked to provide feedback and input on this initial product.

**New Business**

**Compressed Round-Table**
Two topics were raised and discussed in an abbreviated round-table session:

- WI: with reduced state budgets what options are being used to reduce the cost of consultant contracts?
- NV: how can a state best prepare for an audit of ARRA projects?
  - WY: coordinating with other state agencies to work out different reporting requirements required by other ARRA Federal funds.
  - TX: GAO review – focus on clear & sufficient documentation of project selection process; jobs reporting; compliance oversight; LPA; contractor selection & bidding
Chief Engineers Letter to Chairman Oberstar
After an initial motion by CA seconded by MD to approve sending a letter from the member departments’ Chief Engineers regarding the need for sustained funding for operational improvements under the highway program, there was extensive discussion and multiple revisions. A shorter revised letter was proposed to be presented to the Board for endorsement. [Motion-AL / Second-MN – Approved]

New AASHTO Engineering Fellow for 2009-2010 – Ken Kobetsky, AASHTO
Member departments were encouraged to support staff members interested in applying for the engineering fellowship in AASHTO headquarters.

Adjournment
The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
King W. Gee
SCOH Secretary
FHWA, USDOT