MOTION

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE PRODUCTION OF PUBLISHING TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS GENERATED BY THE HIGHWAYS BRIDGES AND STRUCTURES IN DUAL UNITS

In the mid 1990’s when FHWA required all documents to be in metric AASHTO began the conversion. Then in the late 1990's Congress removed the requirement. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), which became law in June 1998, resolved that metric conversion would be optional for state DOTs. The majority of our member departments started converting back to US Customary units. The AASHTO Board of Directors took action to require that technical documents be published in U.S. Customary units and metric; yet, they agreed to make an exception, if a subcommittee had good reason to no longer publish in metric. The Board gave SCOH the authority to approve such requests from the DOTs to discontinue the metric publication.

The Highways Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures produces various documents for publication through AASHTO. This year in updating information on timber bridges, a question was raised about the need to provide this information in metric. The timber bridge information is a good example as it appears to have limited use. Due to time considerations and additional costs (approximately $5,000), it was directed by the Subcommittee Chair that information for the publication only be prepared in U.S. Customary units. Since several states have already gone back to English units, it is requested to discontinue the publishing of all SCOBS documents in dual units.

The Highways Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures requests to discontinue the process of producing metric publications. Since most of their publications are not in dual units, additional publications will result in generating separate documents. Approximately 49 of the 50 states use U.S. Customary Units. It is motioned to support their request and publish only in U.S. Customary Units.