

**AASHTO Subcommittee on Design  
Ypsilanti, Michigan  
June 20-22, 2001**

Region III and the Michigan Department of Transportation hosted the national meeting of the AASHTO Subcommittee on Design (SCOD) in Ypsilanti, Michigan on June 20-22. Each AASHTO Region also held separate meetings on June 18-19.

**Opening**

Paul Miller (Michigan) opened the SCOD meeting and welcomed the attendees. Forty-six states were represented at the meeting. Also represented were Puerto Rico, Port Authority of New York/New Jersey, Federal Highway Administration, Province of Ontario, US Forest Service, Transportation Research Board, and several consultants and industry representatives.

Paul invited Tom Maki, Michigan DOT's Chief Operations Officer, to give an overview of Michigan DOT's highway issues and its initiatives to move service closer to the customers by including Transportation Service Centers into the organizational structure.

Dean Carlson (Kansas), AASHTO President, addressed the group and spoke about safety, reauthorization, context sensitive design, and operations. Capacity increases, design standards, design exceptions, and public involvement were highlights of Dean's remarks. Dean noted the need to get the most out of the highway infrastructure that we have. He also mentioned that AASHTO is looking at the need to reorganize its committee structure since the Standing Committee on Highways (SCOH) has become overloaded with duties and responsibilities.

**Business Meeting**

Kam Movassaghi (Louisiana), Chairman of SCOD, presided over the business meeting. Items presented for discussion by Kam and Susan Martinovich (Nevada), Vice Chairman of SCOD, included:

Nomination Needs

- A nomination is needed from each Regional Steering Committee for the Special Committee on International Activities
  - This committee helps select the international scanning tours that are conducted each year by AASHTO and FHWA
  - For the 2002 and 2003 scan seasons, there are NO design-related scans scheduled, so it is important to get some good representation on this committee
  - (Scheduled scans include topics such as safety, ITS, winter maintenance, pavement warranties, bridge construction, materials, environmental issues, and freight logistics.)

- In addition, the Design-Build Task Force is being re-started and updated nominations are needed from each Region
  - Need three people from each Region
  - For those Regions which have submitted names, please confirm these people's willingness to participate
- The National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) needs a representative from the SCOD
  - The NPHQ is a partnership between AASHTO, FHWA, and Industry that works to advance highway quality issues through such means as communications efforts, national awards, and assistance to the state quality programs across the country
  - This committee includes a SCOH member from each Region, as well as a member from each of the following subcommittees: Construction, Design, Maintenance, Materials, and Traffic Engineering
  - The Regional Chairs should present nominations to Kam (or Ken Israel) by August 15
- In response to a commitment made during the business meeting, Jim McDonnell (AASHTO) sent the Regional Chairs an e-mail message containing a listing of the nominations which are needed for various AASHTO committees. The Regional Steering Committee members were copied on the message.

#### Roadside Design Guide

The updated Roadside Design Guide was passed by the SCOH. All comments have been considered. The AASHTO Task Force for Roadside Safety will do another review of the document by the Chapter Authors/Teams. The projected publication date is the Fall of 2001.

#### Items from Spring SCOH Meeting

At the recent SCOH meeting, a new task force was created that will deal with Spatial Information. This task force will cover the subjects of GIS, photogrammetry, and location/design/land surveying and be chaired by Freddie Simmons (Florida). The task force will report directly to SCOH on a trial basis for three years. At that time it will be re-evaluated to see how it is doing and to decide where it should be housed permanently within the AASHTO structure.

At the May meeting of NCHRP 20-7, five research projects were approved, including two dealing with design issues.

- "Development of a Software Verification Protocol for Hydrologic and Hydraulic Models," submitted by the task force on Hydrology and Hydraulics, was awarded \$100,000. This project will assist in the development of minimum criteria to evaluate the various proprietary software programs that claim to help design hydrologic systems.

- “Evaluation of Potential Impacts on the State DOT’s of the US Access Board’s Recommendations on Public Rights-of-Way,” submitted by the task force on Geometric Design was awarded \$75,000. This project will review a report recently released by the US Access Board (which deals with ADA requirements) that provides recommendations for structures in the public rights-of-way, such as streets, sidewalks, and ramps.

At the December meeting of NCHRP 20-7, another design-related project entitled “Geometric Design for Transit Facilities on Highways and Streets” was approved. This project will compile design information from existing manuals on the accommodation of rubber-tired transit vehicles on streets. It will also identify gaps where further guidelines are needed.

#### Green Book Issue

In the Regional meetings, several people mentioned that the 2001 Green Book would not be used on Federal-aid highway projects in their states until FHWA formally approved it through the Federal Register process. Seppo Sillan (FHWA) confirmed that the 2001 Green Book could not be used as a standard on the NHS until it was formally adopted by the FHWA. Seppo went on to explain that a state could begin using the 2001 Green Book as a guide before it is formally adopted by the FHWA. For projects on the NHS, FHWA will not require any formal design exceptions in the case where the new 2001 Green Book criteria falls outside the range of acceptable values in the 1994 Green Book (which is the current FHWA standard). However, documenting that the 2001 Green Book criteria were used is recommended. The FHWA expects the adoption process for the 2001 Green Book to be completed in the Summer 2002. To provide time for the states to transition to the 2001 Green Book, the FHWA will require the use of the 2001 Green Book for projects on the NHS in about a year following adoption of the final rule in the Federal Register.

Following the SCOD annual meeting, Jim McDonnell distributed a PowerPoint presentation that outlines the major differences between the 2001 and 1994 versions of the Green Book.

#### SCOD National and Regional Award Nominations

During the dinner meeting on June 21, two National design awards and three Regional design awards were presented. The National Awards were presented to Richard Adams (Kansas) and Wendel Ruff (Mississippi). The Regional Awards were presented to Wendel Ruff, Region II; Robert Pfeiffer (Wisconsin), Region III; and Steve Oxoby (Nevada), Region IV.

During the business meeting, SCOD members were requested to start thinking about nominations for next year’s national and regional awards. For the National Award, achievement should be based on outstanding service to the SCOD during the preceding year or years. Nominations for the National Award should be coordinated with Susan Martinovich. For the Regional Awards, criteria include outstanding achievement in highway and transportation design, with emphasis on quality, originality, and response to

an important problem or issue. Nominations for a Regional Award should be coordinated with the Regional Chair.

#### Other Business Meeting Items

Kam encouraged everyone to visit the SCOD website. He also spoke about project integrity versus rigid design criteria, innovation in public involvement, product evaluations, and updates, implementing the dissemination of publications, and consideration of an executive committee for the SCOD. Kam asked if the SCOD's mission statement (and the task force mission statements) are in line with the new AASHTO Strategic Plan?

Susan Martinovich also addressed F-SHARP and the upcoming report to Congress in October 2001, the hydraulic manual, the SCOH Context Sensitive Design Task Force and her role as chair of one of the three subgroups which will look at standards and policies, the fee to be charged for voluntary use of radio frequencies and bandwidths (AASHTO coordinates the bands), and the need to look at more interaction among the Regions with reports being given and more discussion of issues as a group during the SCOD annual meeting.

Region III passed two motions (Attachment A) and presented them to the full SCOD for consideration. Motion #1 reads: "AASHTO should investigate the feasibility of funding travel expenses for task force members." Motion #2 reads: "AASHTO should create and sponsor a joint task force under the Subcommittees on Design and Construction devoted to developing national guidelines for project cost estimating." The SCOD recommended that Motion #1 be transformed into a resolution (Attachment B) and presented to the AASHTO Board of Directors for consideration. Motion #2 will be pursued through the SCOH 20-7 panel. Susan Martinovich will work with John Haverberg on the submittal for the November National meeting.

#### **Presentations**

AASHTO Strategic Plan as it Relates to AASHTO SCOD and AASHTO Vision  
John Horsley, Executive Director of AASHTO

SCAN Tour Results  
Seppo Sillan, FHWA

5 Year Program/Project Development at Michigan DOT - Goals, Targets, and Strategies  
Tony Kratofil, Michigan DOT

Very Low Volume Local Roads (less than 400 ADT)  
Norman Roush, West Virginia DOT  
Tim Neuman, CH2M Hill  
Doug Harwood, Midwest Research Institute

Consultant ISO 9001 Certification  
Richard Wilcox, Wilcox Associates, Inc.

Michigan DOT's Design Package Evaluation Process  
Mark Van Port Fleet, Michigan DOT

Context Sensitive Design - Bridging Documents and Pilot State Projects  
Tim Neuman, CH2M Hill

Context Sensitive Design – European Examples  
Joddie Gray, Arcadis & Miller, Inc.  
Wassim Selman, Arcadis & Miller, Inc.  
Jan Mulder, Arcadis & Miller, Inc. of the Netherlands

ITS Technology  
Cary Vick, PB Farradyne

Auto-Vehicle Technology for Collision Avoidance  
Bryan Riley, Delphi Automobile Systems

Field Trip – GM Proving Grounds

AASHTO SCOD Task Force Reports

Accelerated Program Delivery  
Rocque Kneece, South Carolina DOT

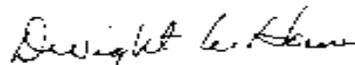
Continuously Operating Reference Stations and Design Surveys  
Brian Dollman-Jersey, Michigan DOT

FHWA Update – Green Book and Design Build Proposed Rule Making  
Dwight Horne, FHWA

FHWA Update – Research Activities (NCHRP, TRB, and FHWA)  
Ray Krammes, FHWA

### **Wrap-up and Next Meetings**

The next annual meeting of the SCOD will be held June 9-14, 2002, in Savannah, Georgia. At the Awards Dinner, Jim Kennerly (Georgia) gave an overview of the information available to date so that members can begin planning for the meeting. The 2003 annual meeting of the SCOD will be held in Massachusetts.



Dwight A. Horne, Secretary  
AASHTO Subcommittee on Design

Attachments

**Proposed Motions for Consideration by the Subcommittee on Design  
From SCOD Region III  
John Haverberg, WI, Chair**

Region III passed the following motions at their 6/19/01 Business Meeting and is presenting them for consideration by the full Subcommittee on Design.

**Motion #1**

"AASHTO should investigate the feasibility of funding travel expenses for Task Force members."

**Background**

Because of out-of-state travel restrictions in many states, existing task force members are not always able to attend meetings, and qualified staff will not accept appointments to task forces. In addition, some task force members pay some or all of their travel expenses out of their own pockets. Other national transportation groups, such as ITE and NCHRP, recognize this problem and reimburse member experts for travel expenses. To assure adequate group participation for important task force efforts, AASHTO should underwrite reasonable member travel expenses.

**Motion #2**

"AASHTO should create and sponsor a Joint Task Force under the Subcommittees on Design and Construction devoted to developing national guidelines for project cost estimating."

**Background**

Region III discussed State DOT project cost estimating practices and identified a lack of any national guidelines in this important area of project development. Estimating has become a significant issue tied to agency performance measures and has even been a topic of review by the Federal House Subcommittee on Transportation Appropriations for projects over \$10 million. Estimating is performed in different functional areas among the State DOTs, but primarily in design and construction. A group of State DOT estimators has formed an association and has approached AASHTO regarding estimating issues and the need for national guidelines.

Resolution from the Subcommittee on Design

**"Travel Expenses for Task Force Members"**

**WHEREAS** the Vision Statement for AASHTO's new Strategic Plan states that AASHTO will be a "catalyst for technical excellence"; and

**WHEREAS** the AASHTO Task Forces perform the bulk of the technical work within the AASHTO structure, resulting in technical excellence; and

**WHEREAS** these task forces develop such prestigious and technically complex documents as the Green Book, the Roadside Design Guide, and the Highway Drainage Guidelines; and

**WHEREAS** these documents are viewed as industry standards throughout the country and around the world; and

**WHEREAS** out-of-state travel funding restrictions in many states force some existing task force members to miss task force meetings; and

**WHEREAS** qualified staff may not accept task force appointments due to their administration's limited travel budget; and

**WHEREAS** some task force members pay some or all of their travel expenses out of their own pockets; and

**WHEREAS** other national transportation groups, such as ITE and NCHRP, recognize the existence of state travel and budget restrictions and reimburse member experts for travel expenses;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that, to ensure adequate participation in important task force efforts, AASHTO should underwrite reasonable member travel expenses; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Subcommittee on Design recommends to the Standing Committee on Highways that an investigation be conducted into the feasibility of funding travel expenses for Task Force members.