



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

## COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

August 23, 2002

### **Address Reply to**

Dwight A. Horne, Secretary  
AASHTO Subcommittee on Design  
Federal Highway Administration, HIPA-1  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Subcommittee on Design National Meeting  
Savannah, Georgia – June 12-14, 2002  
Meeting Minutes

Members  
AASHTO Subcommittee on Design

Region II and the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) hosted the 2002 national meeting of the AASHTO Subcommittee on Design (SCOD) in Savannah, Georgia on June 12-14. Each AASHTO Region also held separate meetings on June 10-11.

### **Opening/General Session – Wednesday morning**

Tom Turner (Georgia) opened the SCOD meeting and welcomed the attendees (approximately 227 registered). Forty states were represented at the meeting. Also represented were Puerto Rico, Port Authority of New York/New Jersey, Federal Highway Administration, Province of Ontario, Transportation Research Board, and several consultants and industry representatives.

Tom Coleman, Commissioner Georgia DOT, welcomed the attendees to Georgia and provided an overview of Georgia DOT's highway issues and initiatives.

Dwight Horne (FHWA) provided a federal perspective on the FHWA Vital Few (safety, environmental stewardship and streamlining, and congestion mitigation); waste, fraud, and abuse; and Congressional activities.

John Horsley, AASHTO Executive Director, provided a state perspective on various items including reauthorization issues, new publications from SCOD and its Task Forces, publications under development, reorganization of the Standing Committee on Highways and its subcommittees, work zone initiatives, European scans (none are design related in FY 2003), recently funded research projects of interest (including FSHRP activities). John noted that SCOD and its Task Forces are some of the most prolific developers of manuals, guides, and other publications within the AASHTO community.

## **Business Meeting**

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

### Susan Martinovich

In addition to the agenda items, Susan addressed:

- Activities of interest from the Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety (SCOHTS). As a member of the SCOHTS, Susan serves a liaison role for the SCOD.
- Future SHRP (FSHRP) and the status of Congressionally directed study Report 260. There are approximately 130 people on five panels (four technical panels and an oversight panel).

### Dr. Kam Movassaghi

#### Committee Reports

- Expedite program delivery
- Reauthorization
  - Environmental stewardship and streamlining
  - Preserve broad discretion under existing laws
  - Preserve 10 percent set aside of STP
    - Preserve transportation enhancement with streamlined processes
  - AASHTO Center for Environmental Preservation
  - Pilot projects/programmatic resource protection
    - USFWS, ACOE, FHWA, etc.
  - Improve linkage between planning and environmental studies
    - Eliminate major investment study
  - Reform the NEPA process
    - Streamline in law
  - Reform Section 4(f)
  - Have USDOT delegate some approvals on to state DOTs
    - Environmental, e.g., categorical exclusions
  - Establish a 60 day time limit for legal claims/challenges after approval of the environmental document
  - Strengthen oversight and management for USDOT environmental efforts
- Context sensitive design
  - Bridging document
    - First three chapters are ready to be finalized
    - Chapter 4, legal, is cause of concern for a number of review parties
      - A method for producing and finalizing (by end of CY 2003) is under consideration
- SCOD Executive Committee
  - Established to facilitate coordination and communication between the Subcommittee and its task forces, as well as coordination and communication between the task forces themselves

- Development under consideration
- Membership
  - Subcommittee Chair
  - Subcommittee Vice-Chair
  - Subcommittee Secretary
  - Chair of each Regional Steering Committee
  - AASHTO liaison (ex officio)
- Manage SCOD and its Task Forces
- Task Forces report directly to SCOD
  - Task Force chairs can attend Executive Committee meetings

### Dwight Horne

FHWA Reports – topics included:

- FHWA restructuring reassessment
  - Headquarters Offices and Associate Administrators
  - Resource Centers – Board of Directors
- Utilities
  - NCHRP 20-24(12), Avoiding Utility Delays
  - FHWA 19-minute video being sent to field offices and States
- Status of Design-Build rulemaking
  - Final rule expected mid-to-late 2002
- Consultant regulations
  - Reported Final Rule expected to be published in summer 2002
  - Published on June 12, 2002
- Roadside Design Guide
  - Recently published
  - FHWA/AASHTO will produce CD and slides describing changes
  - Training available from NHI
- 2001 AASHTO Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets (2001 Green Book)
  - AASHTO published June 2001
  - Formally adopted by FHWA in February 12, 2002 Federal Register
  - Memo from FHWA on February 15, 2002 provides for a 1-year transition period
- Excellence in Highway Design 2002, FHWA Biennial Awards competition
  - Entries due June 30, 2002

### Ken Kobetsky (AASHTO)

Signalized Intersection European Scan

**General Session** – Wednesday Afternoon

### Susan Martinovich

SCOH reorganization and effect on SCOD

- Approach and results
- Administration and policy recommendations
- Develop work plans
  - SCOD, joint task forces, task forces

- How to shorten meetings
  - Change regional meetings format to roundtables
- Question: Where is the problem?
  - Discussion revolved around communication issues and costs
- Summary
  - Task forces still need face-to-face meetings
  - Task force work plans will be reviewed by SCOD Chairman and Vice Chairman
  - In SCOD, retaining Regional discussions favored
    - SCOD meeting could contain roundtables to benefit from some of the Regional discussion (in this meeting, a “Results of Regional Meetings” roundtable was held on Thursday morning)

Tim Neuman (CH2M Hill)

Changes in the 2001 Green Book – State’s Status

- Stopping sight distance
- Intersection sight distance
- Design speed
- Flexibility and responsibility – message of policy
- Substantive safety vs. nominal safety

Frank Rucker and Walker Scott

Atlanta Airport expansion over I-285

Bill Eisele (Texas Transportation Institute)

Raised Medians – an update on research

- Effect on businesses, etc.
- Restricted access
- Access management
- NCHRP 395

**Task Force Reports** – Thursday morning

- Design Build – Brian Blanchard (Florida)
  - Current practices guide
  - Web site for Task Force
  - Request for proposal guidelines by consultant (development)
  - Monitor rule making status
- Environmental Design – Paul Miller (Michigan)
  - Visualization in transportation improvements
  - Landscape design coordination
  - Critter crossing
  - Vacancies need filling
- Hydrology and Hydraulics – Susan Martinovich
  - Report of products delivered
  - Report of development status

- Pavement Design – David Kratt
  - NCHRP 1-37A; July 31, 2002
  - Three NCHRP reports recommended for funding by SCOR
- Preconstruction Engineering Management – Richard Adams (Kansas)
  - Quality of process
  - 1991 guide update; web based data collection proposed
  - vacancies need filling
- HOV/Public Transportation Facilities Design – Bill Eisele
  - HOV guide update
  - Park/Ride planning design guide
- Roadside Safety – Kent Israel (Louisiana)
  - NCHRP 22-7, 17-11, 22-14-2
  - FHWA Research
  - Highway safety manual
  - Roadside Design Guide published
  - Vacancy needs filling
- Susan noted three new task forces added

**Panel Discussion** – Joe Palladi (Georgia)

Results of Regional Meetings

**17<sup>th</sup> Street/Atlantic Station Design** – Joe Palladi

Atlantic Steel Property Redevelopment in Atlanta, GA

In-fill development adjacent to I-75/I-85

**Consultant Evaluations** – Cash Misel (Ohio)

Consultant evaluation system; web based

**General Session** – Thursday afternoon

**Work Zone Safety and Mobility** – Shelley Row (FHWA) moderator

- Outreach on Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Work Zone Safety
  - Presentation and discussion

**Panel Discussion** – Wendel Ruff (Mississippi) moderator

Plan Development Process Streamlining

- Public Involvement – Wendel Ruff
- Phone Survey - Richard Adams
  - Household surveys via telephone
  - Project development
- Public Involvement on I-16/I-75 Macon, GA – Angela Alexander (Georgia)
- Use of Videos – Rocque Kneece (South Carolina)
  - Visualization
  - Narrator

### **Awards Banquet – Thursday evening**

- Awards Receipts
  - Region 1, David Bizuga (New Jersey)
  - Region 2, Randy Epperly (West Virginia)
  - Region 3, John Haverberg (Wisconsin)
  - Region 4, John Lewis (Arizona)
  - National, Mark Marek (Texas)

### **General Session – Friday morning**

#### **HOV Design Panel Discussion**

- Bill Eisele – Texas Transportation Institute
- Tom Crochet – Jordan Jones & Goulding
- Rodney Givens – Parsons Transportation Group

#### **Public Right of Way Accessibility – Dennis Cannon (US Access Board)**

“Building a True Community”

- Draft notice publication, June 17, 2002 Federal Register
- Rule making, early 2003
- New specification for detectable warning system

#### **Continuous Flow Intersections**

Francisco Mier – F. Mier & Associates

Kirk McClellan (Maryland)

#### **Wrap-up, Next Meeting, and Closing Comments – Susan Martinovich**

Susan covered numerous items including:

- Access Board study completed
  - Information is being compiled
  - A couple of months out
- Business
  - Standing Committee on Quality
    - Project delivery survey
  - Task Force vacancies need filling
  - Task Force/committee on CSD
  - Resolution: The Availability of Out-of-Print AASHTO Design Policies
    - Print document conversion to electronic format
    - SCOD recommended the resolution be presented to the AASHTO Board of Directors for consideration
  - Reorganization plan
    - SCOD Executive Council created
      - Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Regional Steering Committee Chairs
      - AASHTO Liaison (ex officio member)
    - A charge statement is to be developed for SCOD
  - Task Force work plans are to be presented to the SCOD Executive Council

- Annual meeting format changes will be considered
  - Need more transfer of Regional meeting discussions to annual meeting
  - Roundtable topics will be suggested by the Subcommittee members before the meeting
  - Executive Council meeting evening/day before annual meeting
  - 3-day annual meeting possibly structured as
    - Day 1 – opening general session, business meeting, regional business meetings, roundtable sessions, an evening outside event
    - Day 2 – presentations, technical tour, awards banquet
    - Day 3 – presentations, closing business session
- Task Force meetings
  - Schedule and frequency to remain as is for now
  - Consider lessening of number and duration
  - Consider holding the same week as SCOD annual meeting
    - May have Task Force chairs attend SCOD annual meeting, if not currently attending
  - Consider having at least one SCOD member on each task force, possibly as an officer

The 2003 SCOD annual meeting will be held during the week of June 2 in Boston, Massachusetts. At the Awards Banquet, we were given an overview of the information available to date so that members can begin planning for the meeting.

cc: Dr. Kam Movassaghi, Chairman  
Susan Martinovich, Vice-Chairman  
Regional Steering Committee Members  
Ken Kobetsky, AASHTO Headquarters  
Jim McDonnell, AASHTO Headquarters