

**Agenda and Topic List for Region 3 Meetings
Monday July 20th and Wednesday July 22nd
AASHTO SCOD Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana
July 19-23, 2009**

Monday Afternoon Session 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

1. Introductions (5 min)
2. SCOD\Region Issues (25 min)
3. ARRA-Stimulus Lessons Learned: (1 hour)
 - We need to select one representative from our Region to participate in a panel discussion Tuesday afternoon to share lessons learned.
4. SCOD\SCOH Strategic Plans: (30 min)
5. Break at 3:00 pm
6. SCOD\SCOH Strategic Plans: (30 min)
7. Electronic Plans- Machine Control Guidance: (30 min)
8. Climate Control (30 min)
9. Roundabout Design Issues (30 min)
10. Adjourn at 5:00 pm

Wednesday Morning Session 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

1. Flexibility in Highway Design (1 hour)
2. Contracting-Consulting (30 min)
3. Highway Safety Manual Discussion (30 min)
 - This is a review of the presentation on the HSM
4. Break at 10:00 am
5. General Safety Issues (30 min)
6. General Design Issues (1 hour)
7. FHWA Issues: (30 min)
8. Programming Issues (15 min)

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SCOD Issues:

1. Task Force Participation: This is simply a continuation of an email discussion we had earlier. Attendance is down for SCOD as well as Task Force participation and we need to look at how we move forward in an era where travel is becoming more restricted. – **“Iowa DOT”**
2. Region Officers: Usually this is something we leave until the last day, but given recent changes I think we should start off the meeting by establishing our Region Officers for the next three years. – **“Iowa DOT”**
3. Federal Funding for Out-of-State Travel. We received email from Jim McDonnell on 5/21/09 indicating travel to SCOD can be 100% federally funded. Any states taking advantage of this? – **“WisDOT”**

ARRA-Stimulus Discussion:

4. Is the stimulus program putting pressure on the states capacity to design and deliver the desired work? If so are the states using any new approaches to respond? – **“Ontario Trans Dept”**
5. Stimulus Funding Projects-roundup – **“Minnesota DOT”**

Electronic Plans-Machine Control Grading:

6. Electronic Plan Deliverables – **“Kansas DOT”**
7. Machine Control – **“Minnesota DOT”**
 - Keywords-
 - 3D models, 3D grade control, Final grade machine control efforts, 3D design, Model creation, standards?, organizational impacts?
8. Machine Control Grading – **“Iowa DOT”**

What are other states doing? What is the interest from the contractors in your state? How do you provide the information? And what issues if any have you had so far with the quality or accuracy of the information you have provided?
9. Implementation of Automated Machine Guidance (AMG) – **“Wis DOT”**

Curious as to status/issues with Region 3 states on using AMG for: grading, base, paving, utilities, bridge? Are states providing 3D models? And, if so, are they contractual?

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Climate Change:

10. Climate Change - What short and long term strategies are states using to account for design changes particularly with respect to drainage? – **“Ontario Trans Dept”**
11. In climatic zones that have significant snow fall, what design accommodations are being made to facilitate rapid plowing of roundabouts? – **“Ontario Trans Dept”**
12. Climate Change\Greenhouse Gases: I was wondering what other states are doing related to climate change, greenhouse gases, etc. Does your state have reduction goals in place for GHG emissions and VMT? If so, how do you calculate that on a project by project basis or is it based on the STIP? Do you evaluate climate change and greenhouse gas emissions in your EA and EIS documents? Are you selecting projects with this in mind? Is the DOT part of a statewide climate change committee and is it focused on how the transportation system contributes to all of this? – **“Missouri DOT”**

Roundabout Design:

13. We have had a sharp increase in Roundabout designs, are other states finding this and seen any problems? – **“Indiana DOT”**
14. Roundabouts. – **“WisDOT”**
We continue to be very aggressive in constructing roundabouts. The 2 hot topics are accommodating trucks and visually impaired pedestrians. How are states dealing with the following:
 - o Are roundabouts designed to allow trucks completely stay in their own lane, or do trucks off-track into the adjacent lane?
 - o Strategies for dealing with OSOW loads?
 - o Aware of new pooled fund on OSOW loads in roundabouts (Kansas is lead state)? Other states willing to support/participate?
 - o Are visually impaired ped issues being used to oppose roundabouts? Lawsuits?
 - o How does your state accommodate visually impaired peds? Using specialized ped beacons?
15. Accommodation of oversize, overweight super loads through roundabouts and interchanges – **“Kansas DOT”**
16. Roundabouts-regional roundup – **“Minnesota DOT”**

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Flexibility in Highway Design:

17. Developing a practical improvements policy – **“Kansas DOT”**
18. Flexibility in Design – **“Minnesota DOT”**
 - Share info on what is going on in other states
 - Keywords-
 - Practical Design, Context Sensitive Solutions, Active Traffic Management, Design Standards- Interstate Design Standards, complete streets, multimodal systems
19. Are states reconstructing and rehabilitating their hwy's to a lower standard not withstanding the stimulus funding? – **“Ontario Trans. Dept.”**
20. Flexibility in Design, are there specific design elements or design strategies that other states have reduced and seen a significant money savings? – **“Indiana DOT”**
21. Have any other states found good ways of cutting costs? Techniques or methods? – **“Indiana DOT”**
22. Roadside Design on Pav't Rehab Projects. We continue to have challenge on how to deal with side slopes that become steeper with overlay projects. FHWA is suggesting we lower our standards off the NHS. Do other states have different/lower roadside design standards for non-NHS highways? – **“WisDOT”**

Contracting-Consulting:

23. Unbalanced Bid Review - What process do you have for determining whether bids are mathematically unbalanced? What process do you have for determining where bids are materially unbalanced? Do you review all projects? Do you have screening criteria, if so what is it? What is the staffing level for the review process? Do you have a definition for materially unbalanced? – **“Michigan DOT”**
24. Consultant Liability Language - What language does your consultant contracts currently contain? Has there been any initiative by Consultants to minimize their liability in contract language? – **“Michigan DOT”**

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General Safety Issues:

25. Are other states using the newer high reflective sheeting for overhead signs which eliminates the need for illumination? – **“Indiana DOT”**
26. Implementation of Safety-Edge. – **“WisDOT”** Are region 3 states implementing FHWA's safety-edge to minimize edge drop at either edge of pav't or edge of paved shoulder? If so, any constructability issues?
27. Water-filled crash barrels and attenuators. – **“WisDOT”** We historically have not allowed them because of freezing concerns. For states that are using them:
 - o How big of an issue is it to monitor and maintain correct levels of anti-freeze chemicals?
 - o Any environmental concerns with anti-freeze spills after a crash?
28. Crash Costs for HSIP projects. – **“WisDOT”** What crash costs do your state use in the B/C computations to determine eligibility for HSIP funding? Do you have documentation on how they were determined?

General Design Issues:

29. Approach slab design for bridges with sidewalks – **“Kansas DOT”**
30. MEPDG implementation results. Here in Indiana we are finding significant savings through thinner pavement sections. – **“Indiana DOT”**
31. Erosion and Sediment Control design and construction continues to be a problem with violations in Indiana. What level of design does each state do or do they leave it up to the contractor to develop? – **“Indiana DOT”**
32. How do states apply design criteria for intersecting roadways leading up to a stop controlled intersection? – **“Indiana DOT”**
33. At-Grade intersections on 4-lane Divided Highways: The number of accidents at these intersections has been an issue for a number of years and we have conducted a couple of studies, but as yet no solid solution to the issue. We are looking at utilizing J-Turns at some locations, but I am curious what other states are doing to address this problem, and for those who have used J-Turns what has been your experience? – **“Iowa DOT”**
34. Sound Barriers, what types of barriers are being allowed and can we see your design specs? – **“Indiana DOT”**

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35. Design Visualizations: Is this something you are gearing up to do in-house? Do you limit the use of visualizations to certain types of projects? What has been the response by the public to your efforts? – **“Iowa DOT”**
36. Freight Accommodations. We have major initiative to improve freight accommodations, both for non-permitted, as well as, OSOW loads. A lot of focus on moving huge windmill loads across WI. Are other states trying to become more "freight friendly" ? If so, how? – **“WisDOT”**
37. Are other states using centerline rumble strips? Are there any lessons learned out there? – **“Indiana DOT”**

FHWA Initiatives-Programs Issues:

38. Project Management Plans - Have you developed a project management plan for a major project(s)? What level of detail has been required? Have you been able to do Preliminary Engineering work concurrent with the plan management plan development? Have you been able to solicit consultant proposals concurrent with the project management plan development? – **“Michigan DOT”**
39. Cash Flow Models for Financial Plans: We are in the process of developing an application to allow us to do cash flow models as required in the Financial Plan Guidance, and we were wondering what other states are using to create their models? – **“Iowa DOT”**
40. ADA Compliance and Transition Plan - Has your FHWA office indicated a need to define when all ramps/roadways are compliant? In Michigan we do not we do not own ramps in the ROW. We only own ramps at our facilities. – **“Michigan DOT”**
41. ADA – **“Minnesota DOT”**
- Keywords-
 - Status update- impacts to road design, traffic lights, multijurisdictional impacts- city and county, FHWA comments and directions
42. Congestion Pricing – **“Minnesota DOT”**
- Regional roundup- what’s going on in your state?
43. Possible Performance Measures as part of Re-Authorization. There is a strong possibility that Federal Re-Authorization will require some performance measures. Have the states been discussing and if so are

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their Design Related measures in the mix? Estimating, Pavement Performance, Safety Performance, etc. – **“Michigan DOT”**

- 44. Asset Management: We have been getting more pressure from our Region headquarters to do more in this area, how are other states dealing with this issue? – **“Iowa DOT”**
- 45. Staged construction under one environmental document? Are any states using this approach where the environmental document = ultimate, however the DOT stages the construction with needs and budgets? – **“Indiana DOT”**
- 46. Value Engineering – **“Minnesota DOT”**
 - Latest update from FHWA regarding what’s being recommended to the states

Programming Issues:

- 47. Existing or anticipated highway programs – **“Kansas DOT”**
- 48. Personnel issues: furloughs, downsizing, salary reductions, etc. – **“Kansas DOT”**
- 49. Active Transportation - To what extent are multi-use trails being incorporated into the states hwy programs? Are the states being pressured by municipalities, cities and towns to change interchange designs to accommodate cycling at the expense of motor vehicle capacity? – **“Ontario Trans Dept.”**