

## Memorandum

To: Malcolm Kerley, Chair  
Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures

Gary Ridley, Chair  
Subcommittee on Construction

Carolann Wicks, Chair  
Subcommittee on Design

Jim Lynch, Chair  
Subcommittee on Highway Transport

Carlos Braceras, Chair  
Subcommittee on Maintenance

Grant Levi, Chair  
Subcommittee on Materials

John Campbell, Chair  
Subcommittee on Right of Way and Utilities

Delbert McOmie, Chair  
Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering

Scott Rawlins, Chair  
Subcommittee on Systems Operations and Management.

Bill Temple, Chair  
National Transportation Product Evaluation Program

Kevin Chesnik, Chair  
Technology Implementation Group

From: Neil Pedersen, Vice Chair, Standing Committee on Highways

Re: **Needed Subcommittee Action in Support of SCOH Strategic Plan**

Date: May 29, 2009

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As many of you know, we recently conducted a Strategic Plan workshop for the Standing Committee on Highways. It was the consensus of the committee that SCOH should become more strategic and that it should utilize the vast expertise of its subcommittees to help support a number of critical strategic objectives. SCOH prioritized 10 critical areas for inclusion into a pending new SCOH Strategic Plan. Nine AASHTO objectives and one goal of system preservation from the 1998 SCOH plan were adopted by SCOH. The results for inclusion in the new SCOH Strategic Plan are:

1. Provide a comprehensive framework for accelerated project delivery of all transportation projects  
Accelerate project delivery
2. Identify, develop and communicate standards, specifications, technical policies and other guidelines and facilitate use of emerging research, technologies, materials, processes, and programs (Goal 2 from the new AASHTO plan was enhanced to include strategic ideas from the Goal 1 of the 1998 SCOH Strategic Plan.)
3. Promote accountability through performance-based management to enhance the national transportation system, and work with strategic partners to develop a framework of goals, standards and metrics tailored to meet individual state needs.
4. Cut fatalities in half by 2030
5. Communicate the value of transportation to citizens, community, quality of life, and the economy  
Secure national support for sufficient, sustainable 'net new' revenue through a diversified portfolio of funding sources

6. Advocate transportation, energy, and climate change policies that enhance the national and state economies, improve national security and reduce greenhouse gases
7. Create a congestion-free America through improvements to the multimodal transportation system and improve system performance through advanced technology and operations
8. Assist states in addressing issues of workforce recruitment, retention, succession planning, core competencies and professional development in emerging areas
9. Improve the national freight network to keep America competitive in the global economy
10. System Preservation

We have formed 10 cross-cutting Work Groups to address these issues both within SCOH, with SCOH's subcommittees and with other Standing Committees as needed. It was our consensus that the expertise of SCOH can contribute significantly to these issues. However, we also recognized that to contribute meaningfully, SCOH will need to work cooperatively across its Subcommittees and frequently with other Standing Committees. As a result of this recognition, we are tasking each SCOH Subcommittee or Special Committee identified in the Memorandum to do the following if your subcommittee or special committee is meeting this summer:

1. Add to your agenda time for discussion of the 10 strategic objectives listed above;
2. Identify which of those are relevant to your committee or special committee;
3. Identify activities/efforts/products/research that your committee could take to contribute to the achievement of the objective;
4. Identify other subcommittees, standing committees or special committees that you would need to coordinate with in these efforts;
5. Establish general timeframes for accomplishment of the activities/efforts/products/research that you have identified;
6. Identify persons responsible for accomplishment of the activities/efforts/products/research;
7. Provide me by August 15 a memorandum summarizing your discussions, the objectives pertinent to your subcommittee/special committee and the activities/efforts/products/research you have identified, with dates and responsible parties;
8. Identify other major objectives that you believe SCOH should include in its Strategic Plan.

Bear in mind that the 10 objectives listed above will be only a portion of the SCOH Strategic Plan. Also in the plan will be the identification of strategic objectives relating to SCOH's critical roles regarding technical standards, policies, research, training, and specifications. In addition to those important traditional roles, however, we want to ensure that the vast expertise of SCOH and its Subcommittees is systematically and strategically tapped to contribute to AASHTO's overall Strategic Plan.

We will be working over the summer to complete a Draft SCOH Strategic Plan that can be considered, and hopefully approved, at our fall SCOH meeting in October. As elements of the Draft SCOH Strategic Plan are developed we will try to share them with you. We want to ensure that your subcommittee's expertise, its concerns, and its aspirations are captured in the SCOH Strategic Plan. Therefore, we do not want to develop a Draft SCOH Strategic Plan without identifying the elements which are critical to your subcommittee.

Let me stress an important point. In our new SCOH Strategic Plan we intend to act strategically, to break down stove pipes, to collaborate and to communicate more than we have in the past. Therefore, do not think narrowly within your subcommittee and only identify activities/efforts/products/research that are wholly contained within your subcommittee's jurisdiction. Think of how your membership's expertise can contribute to these larger issues in a coordinated and strategic fashion.

We look forward to receiving your memos by August 15.

I have attached below the chairs of the 10 work groups. You may be contacted by them or by the consultant team of Gordon Proctor and Shobna Varma who are assisting us with the SCOH Strategic Plan. Please extend to them all possible assistance.

- System preservation - Scott Christie, Pennsylvania
- Freight - Kevin Keith, Missouri
- Project delivery - Greg Johnson, Michigan
- Research, technology, etc. - Ken Sweeney, Maine
- Performance management - Paul Degges, Tennessee
- Cut fatalities- Khani Sahebjam, Minnesota
- Communicate value of transportation - Jim McMinimee, Utah
- Climate change - Kevin Chesnik, Wisconsin
- Congestion - Scott Rawlins, Nevada
- Recruitment - Pam Hutton, Colorado

CC – Amadeo Saenz – Ken Kobetsky – Jim McDonnell – Marty Vitale - Kevin Thompson,  
Vice-Chair Structures – Thomas Bohuslav Vice Chair Construction – Richard Land, Vice Chair Design –  
Jeff Honefanger, Vice Chair Highway Transport – Lacy Love, Vice Chair – Maintenance – Mark Feleg –  
Vice Chair Materials – Matthew DeLong, Vice Chair ROW – Thomas Hicks, Vice Chair, Traffic  
Engineering – Constance Sorrell, Vice Chair Operations – Tom Baker, Vice Chair NTPEP -