

Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Leadership Teleconference Thursday, May 8, 2025 2:00 – 4:00 pm, EST Meeting Notes					
Attending: denoted with ✓					
✓	Cameron Kergaye, Chair	✓	Rebecca Ridenour - VC/R4 & VoR Co- Chair		Ex Officio
✓	Cindy Smith RAC / VC		Task Force Co- Chair		Tim Klein US DOT OST
✓	Brian Wall – Chair R1		Sharon Hawkins - Admin Co-Chair		Abdul Zineddin -FHWA
✓	Tyson Rupnow – Chair R2 /Admin Co-Chair		Vacant - C&C Co- chair		Craig Thor - FHWA
	Vicky Fout – Chair R3	✓	Joe Horton - PM&Q Co-chair		Joey Hartmann- FHWA
✓	Kevin Pete – Chair R4	✓	Amanda Laib - PM&Q Co-chair		Heather Shelsta - FHWA
	Glenn Page - AASHTO		Jenni Hosey - VoR Co-Chair	✓	Connie Tang - FHWA
	Monique Evans TRB/CRP – RAC Secretary			✓	Raju Mooney - FHWA
✓	Giri Venkiteela VC/R1			✓	Tricia Sergeson - FHWA
	Curtis Bradley -VC/R2; C&C Co-chair	✓	Janet Frenkl - FHWA		Lotse Townsend - FHWA
✓	Evelyn Bromberg – WisDOT Co-VC/R3				Waseem Dekelbab – TRB/NCHRP
✓	Catherine Walker – MnDOT Co-VC/R3			✓	Dave Jared – TRB/NCHRP
✓	Alasdair Cain			✓	Deborah Irvin – TRB/NCHRP

Additions to Agenda
None.
Notes from Previous Meeting
March meeting notes were approved.

AASHTO Report - Glenn Page

No report given.

TRB Report - David Jared (for Waseem Dekelbab)

The AASHTO R&I meeting was held April 9-11.

April 9. NCHRP sought approval from R&I on aligning NCHRP with new federal priorities. The actions are summarized below:

- 3 completed projects or with contracts expiring by June 2025
 - Review final deliverables and ensure all documentation is archived properly. Prepare for project closeout in coordination with relevant stakeholders.
- Pending projects (in development) cancelled
 - Record reasons for cancellation. Archive any relevant materials for reference.
- 11 active projects terminated or contract termination pending
 - Identify and document the reasons for termination. Ensure all closeout procedures are completed.
- 50+ active projects requiring scope review and modification
 - Collaborate with project panels to review and revise scopes as needed. Document changes and share outcomes with AASHTO for alignment and future planning.

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April 10-11. For the NCHRP FY 2026 program, R&I selected 60 new projects and five subprograms. Announcements for the FY 2026 projects are pending. However, for the FY 2025 program, funding has not been received from FHWA, so all new subwards are on hold. This funding delay could in turn affect NCHRP's ability to hold in-person meetings. RAC will be kept posted.

Topics for the NCHRP Synthesis program are due June 2.

OSTR - Tim Klein

No report given.

FHWA Report - Raju Mooney**General Updates**

- FHWA may see certain travel resuming but with limited attendance. There continues to be a pause on some speaking events.

FHWA Staffing Updates

- *Tricia Sergeson* has returned from her detail at Highly Automated Systems Safety Center of Excellence. Tricia is the TPF program manager.

Conferences, Meetings, and Research Updates

- *Using NDE to Assess UHPC Overlay Performance.* TFHRC is conducting a collaborative project between structural engineering, concrete materials, and non-destructive evaluation researchers to evaluate using nondestructive evaluation technologies to assess ultra-high performance concrete (UHPC) overlay performance. This project achieved a key milestone this week with the publication of a peer-reviewed journal article titled “Nondestructive Evaluation of Bridge Decks with Ultra-High Performance Concrete Overlays.” The work assesses the effectiveness of a suite of NDE technologies when applied to UHPC overlays: <https://authors.elsevier.com/c/1l0kO3O1E1c46C>.

SP&R-B and TPF Updates

- *2025 S&PR-B Virtual Forum.* The Virtual Forum was held on April 17 and was attended by over 100 FHWA Division and state DOT staff. The forum covered 2 CFR 200 updates, Peer Exchanges, and the research process review. Thank you to everyone that attended! We are always trying to keep on top of what is important to the Divisions and state DOTs; if you have any suggestions or ideas for next year’s forum, please send Connie Tang an email.
- *Coffee and TeaPF.* This event was held on May 7. It was an informal question and answer session held by Tricia Sergeson. This meeting was attended by over 50 FHWA and state DOT staff. Tricia plans to periodically hold these Coffee and TeaPF sessions.

Region Chairs/Vice-Chairs Updates & Issues

AASHTO Region 1 - Brian Wall

- Region 1 elected new officers effective July 1. Giri Venkateela from NJDOT will become the Region Chair, Ashlie Mercado from Vermont will become the Vice-Chair, and Jeffery Pulver of Maine will be retained as Secretary, all for a two-year term.
- Region 1 is continuing its search for the location of the AASHTO RAC Summer Meeting in 2026. Jersey City, New Brunswick and Philadelphia have been ruled out. AASHTO is currently recommending either Annapolis or Pittsburgh. The region will continue to collaborate with AASHTO to make a final selection.

AASHTO Region 2 - Tyson Rupnow

- Region 2 held the Southeast Transportation Consortium (STC) pooled fund meeting, as well as a peer exchange for Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee, April 15-17, 2025, in Auburn, AL.
- In soliciting new ideas for STC, Region 2 decided to explore reassembling much of the old RAC site information. LDOTD has a contract for their website and

could host this information. Tyson suggested use of the rppm.org site, and Cindy checked with AASHTO to see if there were any legal claims on rppm.org; Glenn Page is not aware of any. Cindy is checking with Sid Mohan of TRB to see if TRB is considered the “owner” of rppm.org. Evelyn Bromberg and Katie Walker volunteered to help with the website effort.

AASHTO Region 3 - Evelyn Bromberg and Katie Walker (for Vicky Fout)

- Region 3 last met as a group on May 1 and will meet next on June 5.
- A major discussion point in the May 1 meeting was the establishment of a Midwest Research Transportation Consortium like the ones that other regions have.
- We are looking for mentors for three Region 3 staff from other regions. One person is looking for someone with experience in innovation and/or implementation specifically.

AASHTO Region 4 - Kevin Pete

- Region 4 meets next week on May 15. Planning for the 2025 RAC Summer Meeting is going well; meeting organizers are meeting on May 13. Session/presenter information is due by May 28. Field visit to Beartooth Plateau is pending.
- Region 4 High Value Research (HVR) selections have been completed and shared with VoR task force.
- WTRC meets May 20-22 to select from several ideas to study. Nebraska, Texas, and Wyoming are to co-host a peer exchange on "Measuring Research Success" and "Pool Fund Management."

Task Force Updates:

Administration - Sharon Hawkins & Tyson Rupnow

This task force will recommend administrative policy to the RAC Leadership Board, and identify, investigate, and manage RAC administrative matters as directed by the RAC Leadership Board.

- Working on RAC website takeover/upgrades.
- Updating all information with respect to ongoing potential changes within AASHTO RAC.
- RAC Chat is to be held on May 14.

Coordination and Collaboration - Curtis Bradley

Actively support, monitor, and develop methods, practices, and tools that allow for better coordination and collaboration of research efforts.

No update provided.

Program Management and Quality - Joe Horton/ Amanda Laib

This task force will actively monitor, support and encourage methods and practices designed to improve the management and quality of transportation research programs and projects.

- PM&Q has not met since March 13, immediately before the RAC officers meeting that day. The TF is scheduled to meet again on June 18.

Value of Research - Jenni Hosey/Rebecca Ridenour

This task force will actively monitor, support, and encourage methods and practices designed to demonstrate the value of transportation research.

- HVR voting has concluded.
- Region chairs were asked to send results to Jenni Hosey, Rebecca Ridenour, and Sally Meyer by May 16. Regions 1 and 4 have reported. Still waiting for results from Regions 2 and 3.
- This year the language used to describe the “supplemental categories” was changed. States are now recognized with “honorable mention” in a category. There was already an honorable mention for the Safety, Security, and Emergencies category, and the second category that will have an honorable mention this year is Maintenance, Management, and Preservation.
- At the 2026 summer meeting, all winners will be highlighted through a technical brief. An e-booklet will be shared with all attendees. The e-booklet will also be posted on at least the Montana DOT Research website through January 2027 or thereabouts.
- As in past summer meetings, each region will have a dedicated break where people can mix and mingle to discuss that region’s winners. There will, however, be no posters at the summer meeting.

Other:

- Cameron Kergaye thanked everyone for their participation.

Adjourn:

- Next meeting: June 12, 2025.