

Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Leadership Teleconference Thursday, June 12, 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		Alasdair Cain
	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
				✓	Deborah Irvin – TRB/NCHRP

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

AASHTO Report - Glenn Page

No report given.

TRB Report - David Jared (for Waseem Dekelbab)

Mr. Jared summarized a Cooperative Research Programs (CRP) update provided by Monique Evans on June 5 to staff. In summary, a total of 25 projects across CRP were either terminated, cancelled, or expired, which represents 4.5% of the CRP portfolio. These actions will release approximately \$8.6 M for reprogramming on other projects.

AASHTO review of scope realignments is still in progress; all projects are proceeding without stop work orders.

Panel nominations for NCHRP FY 2026 projects are due by June 30. Please remind your state DOT and, as appropriate, other colleagues of this opportunity. Thank you to AASHTO staff for proactively notifying pertinent committees. Panel membership selections are now strictly merit-based, though regional distribution of members is still targeted.

For questions on the TRB committee restructuring, please see <https://mailchi.mp/nationalacademies/changes-to-trb-committee-structure-and-activities-11503551?e=448ce23fa2>.

OSTR - Tim Klein

No report given. Alisdair Cain has been added to the list serve to provide OSTR updates in lieu of Tim Klein, who has assumed different duties at OSTR.

FHWA Report - Raju Mooney

General Updates:

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

Conferences, Meetings, and Research Updates

- FHWA staff from Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center and the Montana Division plan to attend the 2025 AASHTO RAC conference in Billings, MT, July 13-17.
- The Bridge Deck Preservation Tool (BDPT) is now available in [InfoBridge!](#) This tool was introduced at the General Session of the AASHTO Committee on Bridges and Structures 2025 Annual Meeting on June 5 in Dallas, Texas. This tool assists in selecting maintenance and preservation actions for concrete bridge decks by comparing various strategies based on costs, service life extensions, and the uncertainties associated with each action.

The BDPT was developed under a Transportation Pooled Fund project, TPF-5(474), Bridge Deck Preservation Portal study. The members of the pooled fund study include FHWA and the DOTs from Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Texas.

Region Chairs/Vice-Chairs Updates & Issues

AASHTO Region 1 - Brian Wall

- No report given.

AASHTO Region 2 - Tyson Rupnow

- Continuing to work on Southeast Transportation Consortium projects

AASHTO Region 3 - Vicky Fout

- Seeking mentors for three Region 3 staff. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.
- Met earlier this month for our collaboration call. Most of the discussion focused on TRB committee changes.
- Continuing discussions on the potential establishment of a Midwest Research Transportation Consortium like Consortia in other RAC regions.

AASHTO Region 4 - Kevin Pete

- Finalizing the agenda for RAC summer meeting.
- Three new members seeking mentors (Emily Hawley – ITD; Casey Walker).
- Hotel reservation for RAC summer meeting closes June 26. Seats are still available for the Beartooth Plateau field visit.
- WTRC met in May (Austin, TX). Several topics were selected for funding under the TPF. Also, a peer-exchange was conducted for Texas, Nebraska, and Wyoming DOTs.
- High Value Research (HVR) winners were Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, and Nevada DOTs. Honorable Mention: Alaska, Texas, South Dakota, and Nebraska DOTs.

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 restructuring the TF by setting up new working groups.
- Development of Ahead of the Curve materials is progressing.

Coordination and Collaboration - Curtis Bradley

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

- This task force has been sunset and will close its business at the RAC summer meeting. A wrap-up presentation at the meeting will include work accomplished and webinars conducted.

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.

- The final meeting of PM&Q as a task force is scheduled for June 18.
- The meeting goal is to sunset PM&Q and introduce the new Implementation Task Force. How to stand up the new TF at the RAC summer meeting will also be discussed.
- Existing PM&Q working groups will either be sunset or moved to other task forces.

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.

1. Preparing to recognize state DOTs at the summer RAC meeting that won HVR awards and awards in the supplemental categories of “Safety, Security, and Emergencies” and “Maintenance, Management, and Preservation.”
2. RAC is standing by for notification on how the TRB committee restructuring will impact RAC’s invitation for posters at the TRB Annual Meeting. Ms. Hosey and Ridenour plan to meet with the winning states after the RAC summer meeting. The original purpose of the meeting was to help participants understand their responsibilities and the timeframes for getting the poster information into the AM program. At present, without direction from TRB, the poster session may need to be cancelled or postponed.
3. This task force is to be rebranded as “Communicating Value” to better align with RAC member interests based on recent survey results. The plan is to kickoff the newly rebranded task force at the RAC summer.

Other:

- Cameron Kergaye thanked everyone for their participation and encouraged TRB to follow up soon with resources on committee restructuring.

Adjourn:

- Next meeting: July 10, 2025. This meeting is tentative, since the RAC Summer Meeting is being held July 13-17.