

**Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Leadership Teleconference**  
**Thursday, August 14, 2025**  
**2:00 – 4:00 pm, EST**  
**Meeting Notes**

**Attending: denoted with ✓**

✓	Cameron Kergaye, Chair		<b>Task Force Co-Chair</b>		<b>Ex Officio (FHWA except where noted)</b>
	Cindy Smith RAC / VC	✓	Sharon Hawkins – RAC Support Co-Chair	✓	Alasdair Cain – OST/R
✓	Giri Venkateela, Chair R1/Technologies Co-Chair	✓	Tyson Rupnow, RAC Support Co-Chair		Abdul Zineddin
✓	Curtis Bradley – Chair R2	✓	Amanda Laib - Implementation Co-Chair		Craig Thor
	Vicky Fout – Chair R3		Patrick McVeigh, Implementation Co-Chair		Joey Hartmann
✓	Kevin Pete – Chair R4		Jason Tuck, Implementation Co-Chair	✓	Heather Shelsta
	Glenn Page - AASHTO		Dara Wheeler, Technologies Co-Chair	✓	Connie Tang
✓	Ashlie Mercado VC R1	✓	Jenni Hosey – CV Co-Chair		Raju Mooney
✓	Jade Watford VC R2				Tricia Sergeson
✓	Evelyn Bromberg – WisDOT Co-VC R3				Janet Frenkil
✓	Catherine Walker – MnDOT Co-VC R3				
✓	Rebecca Ridenour -VC R4 & CV Co-Chair				Waseem Dekelbab – TRB/NCHRP
				✓	Dave Jared – TRB/NCHRP
				✓	Deborah Irvin – TRB/NCHRP
					Monique Evans – TRB/CRP

**Additions to Agenda**

None.

**Notes from Previous Meeting**

There were no meeting notes from July due to the RAC Summer Meeting.

**AASHTO Report - Glenn Page**

No report given.

**TRB Report - David Jared (for Waseem Dekelbab)**

- USDOT approved FY 2025 funding for CRP, and most state DOTs have made their contributions. Projects that were on hold due to realignment activities are now moving forward with a goal of all remaining subawards for FY 2025 projects being underway by the end of CY 2025.
- The formation of project panels for FY 2026 projects are nearly complete, with a target date of Aug. 31 for 100% completion. AASHTO staff provided references on gaps for some projects. NCHRP aims to have all first panel meetings held by early December to avoid proposal submittal during winter holidays and the 2026 TRB Annual Meeting.
- Problem statements for FY 2027 are due on Nov. 3 if you need to coordinate further with submitters. Use of the Open Water platform has facilitated problem statement review and keeps submittals briefer and more consistent.

**OSTR – Alasdair Cain**

- Alasdair discussed and provided a pdf attachment regarding the solicitation for the ARPA-I Ideas and Innovation Challenge. See esp. page 9 (pdf p. 10) under rules:

To be eligible to be awarded a prize under this Challenge, a participant:

1. Shall register to participate in the Challenge under the rules as outlined in this document.
2. Shall comply with all the requirements under this announcement and any subsequently announced rules for the Challenge prize competition.
3. In the case of a private entity, shall be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the U.S. or U.S. territory,
4. In the case of an individual, whether participating singly or as a part of a team, shall be a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. or U.S. territory; and
5. Shall not be a U.S. DOT employee.
6. Shall not be another federal entity or federal employee acting within the scope of their employment (all non-U.S. DOT federal employees must consult with their agency Ethics Official to determine whether federal ethics rules limit or prohibit the acceptance of a cash prize stemming from a Federally sponsored prize competition).

These two restrictions also apply to recipients of other federal funds:

1. Federal grantees or recipients of federal cooperative agreements may not use federal funds to develop submissions for this Challenge unless consistent with the purpose of their grant award or cooperative agreement; and
2. Federal contractors may not use federal funds from a contract to develop prize competition applications or to fund efforts in support of a prize competition submission.

State DOT employees can submit, Alasdair believes, caveat the rules above on federal funding.

#### **FHWA Report - Raju Mooney (by Connie Tang)**

- FHWA's Executive Director, Gloria Shepherd, has announced her plans to retire by the end of CY 2025.
- TFHRC's Concrete Laboratory was visited by members of the Cement and Concrete Reference Laboratory (CCRL) and passed its assessment with flying colors to maintain its accreditation.
- TFHRC staff will be reaching out to state DOTs and Federal Aid Division Offices to coordinate informal one-on-one meetings between new Division SPR Part B coordinators and their state DOT colleagues.

#### **Region Chairs/Vice-Chairs Updates & Issues**

#### **AASHTO Region 1 – Giri Venkateela**

- Reviewed the RAC Evaluation Survey
- Preparing for next year's RAC summer meeting (location TBD). Plan to have an initial meeting with RAC chair and gather a planning group

### **AASHTO Region 2 – Curtis Bradley**

- New Officers: Curtis T. Bradley (NCDOT) – Chair, Jade Watford (SCDOT) – Vice Chair, Stacy Carter (TNDOT) – Secretary
- Sincere thanks to Tyson Rupnow and Cindy Smith for their past and continued R2 support and leadership.
- Update meeting was held on July 30, 2025.
- Southeast Transp. Consortium Peer Exchange – Tallahassee, FL (4/26)
- Working on identifying a location for 2027 RAC summer meeting – Asheville, NC or Greenville, SC (to discuss more)
- Working on RAC winter meeting agenda (at the TRB Annual Meeting)
- Next Region 2 Meeting: October 16

### **AASHTO Region 3 - Vicky Fout**

No report given.

### **AASHTO Region 4 - Kevin Pete**

- R4 convened in Montana during the RAC summer meeting, where Rebecca Ridenour hosted and did an excellent job. The next R4 meeting is scheduled for September 18. R4 is currently preparing for officer nominations and voting, which will occur in November-December. The new officers' terms will begin in July 2026 during the RAC summer Meeting.
- R4 is pleased to welcome a new member representing New Mexico, Randy Trujillo. Additionally, we are seeking a mentor for Kyle Creswell from Wyoming DOT. Following the Western Transportation Research Consortium (WTRC) pooled-fund meeting and peer exchange in May 2025, WTRC selected five research projects out of 15 proposed.
- Next R4 planned meeting October 20.

### **Task Force (TF) Updates:**

#### **RAC Support - 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.***

- TF has met informally once since the RAC summer meeting.
- Website technical issues are being investigated with a potential new contractor for RPPM and other RAC information.
- RAC Chat Save-the-Date is forthcoming (Sept. 10, Dec. 10).  
Working on convening the TF to address needed updates to RAC 101, etc.

**Technologies – Dara Wheeler & Giri Venkiteela**

- First meeting was held at 2025 RAC summer meeting.
- TF scope is under preparation.

**Implementation - Amanda Laib/Patrick McVeigh/Jason Tuck**

***This task force will focus on how research implementation and research performance measures can support the management and quality of transportation research programs.***

- There was a short presentation at the RAC summer meeting to announce the new TF, and the first TF meeting date/time are pending, likely mid-September.
- Amanda Laib will be co-leading with Patrick McVeigh (PennDOT) and Jason Tuck (FDOT). They will determine their specific roles (co-chairs or chair & vice chair, etc.) before the first meeting.

**Communicating Value - Jenni Hosey/Rebecca Ridenour**

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

- The name of the TF has been updated to better reflect its mission and activities: communicating value. This was announced at the 2025 RAC summer meeting.
- Much time and emphasis has gone to the High Value Research Awards, which will continue. With the name change, CV is hoping to bring people together under how to communicate the value of research.
- Rebecca Ridenour is stepping down as co-chair, and Katie Walker has agreed to co-chair with Jenni Hosey.
- CV leaders are planning to meet with those interested in the updated CV task force. Details are forthcoming.

**Other:**

- None

**Adjourn:**

- Next meeting: September 11, 2025.