

Notes from OAC Technical Council Teleconference Thursday, October 20, 2016 - 2 PM EST

Attending:

Jim Spalla, Chair
Barbara Wessinger, Vice -Chair
Bill Wright
Tim Hoesli
Melissa Staffeld
Rob Jessee
Lyle McMillan
Keith Platte
Kristin White
Clyde Johnson
Jill Hendrickson

Not available for call:

Matt DeLong
Wendy Knox
Evan Rothblatt
Ron Johnson
Dawn Horan
Melissa Corder
Rod McDaniels

1. **Welcome/Roll Call/ Minutes:** Meeting was commenced by Jim Spalla and roll call by Keith Platte. Motion was made by Jim Spalla to approve the September 15th minutes. The motion was seconded by Tim Hoesli with no objections.

2. **Pilot Project – Relocation of Nonconforming Signs:**

a. Barbara Wessinger provided an update on the SC Pilot Project. Preliminarily, the local FHWA is concerned that the pilot does not fall within Section 502 waiver requirements or the FHWA OAC Pilot Guidelines. Barbara intends to revise the pilot proposal to emphasize that the SEP-15 program will be used to waive any sections of the CFR and that the basis for the pilot is to enhance construction and highway acquisition practices. The revisions will be sent to Rob Jessee and Jim Spalla for consideration in the FL Pilot Proposal.

b. Jim Spalla provided an update on the FL Pilot Project and indicated that it had been submitted to FLDOT management but no response has been received to date. He does not anticipate any problems with its approval.

3. **Effective Control Standards Project (former NCHRP 20-7)** – Rob Jessee provided an update on the status of this project. Florida received a successful applicant (Florida State University – three professors from Engineering School) and is waiting on an initial kick-off meeting. The project is schedule for 1 year, but it is anticipated will be completed 2 – 3 months earlier. There are 3 deliverables contemplated at this time which will basically identify effective control factors from all states and compare and contrast them among the states. The project's goal is to assist in providing statistics and evidence to begin negotiations with FHWA on possible changes to the CFR. Clyde Johnson offered his services to assist the project team.

4. **ANPRM Project:**

a. Clyde Johnson provided comments on how the 2000 ANPRM was conducted.

b. Lyle McMillan provided a summary of the five topics of national signification derived from the results of the September 15, 2016 survey disseminated through

NAHBA by Rod McDaniel (Utah DOT). The five topics were: (1) cost recovery and recidivism; (2) dealing with the emergence of Unified Commercial Developments (UCD's); (3) content neutral regulations; (4) billboard acquisition & relocation costs; and (5) bonus state issues. Ancillary topics included setbacks, digital safety regulations, and religious sign clarification.

c. Dawn Horan and Melissa Corder could not make the conference call due to an unavoidable conflict so their presentation on how to do an ANPRM and also whether the council can use Transportation Planning Capacity Building (TPCB) funding for any workshop will be rescheduled for the next conference call.

d. As a preliminary step toward developing an ANPRM, the council members were tasked to review all five topics and provide details on what the problems are associated with these topics, examples of problems/issues, the costs or impacts associated with these problems, and possible solutions to rectify these concerns via regulatory changes to the CFR. Comments are to be sent to Barbara Wessinger. The council members were requested to return comments within the next thirty (30) days so that they can discuss further action at the next conference call. Once these topics have been distilled down to objective issues of concern, the council discussed the possibility of inviting input from stakeholder groups (OA industry and scenic) on these topics for any adjustments, if necessary, followed by presenting them to FHWA for ANPRM consideration.

5. **Updates from NAHBA:** Rob Jessee advised that NAHBA is hosting a conference call with OAC managers next week, October 27, 2016 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm (EST). On the agenda will be a presentation by Bob Black, FHWA Chief Counsel, on (a) Reed v. Gilbert decision; (b) FHWA/OAAA vs. Scenic America decision; and (3) HBA jurisdiction. Call in number is 877-336-1839, passcode is 5875482.

6. **Topics for 2017 Co-Located Conference:** Rob Jessee advised that NAHBA is in the process of gathering ideas for the next conference and soon would be submitting them to the OAC Technical Council in preparation for January 10, 2017 AASHTO/NAHBA Planning Meeting in Indianapolis. NAHBA is encouraging state representatives, who have not presented in the past, to be speakers and moderators at this conference. Currently, they anticipate sessions on (a) LED standard demonstrations; and (2) Reed v. Gilbert. Conference is scheduled April 30 – May 4, 2017 in Indianapolis. Jim Spalla mentioned that topics at the conference need to include cross training opportunities between the subcommittee disciplines (ROW, OAC and Utilities). For example, valuation of billboards will be of interest to both ROW and OAC representatives.

7. **Meeting adjourned.** Next meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 2PM EST