

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAYS
AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS



COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

October 4, 2002

Address Reply to

Tommy Beatty, Secretary
Highway Subcommittee on Construction
FHWA - Office of Asset Management
400 7th Street, S.W. (HIAM -20)
Washington, D.C. 20590

TO: Members, AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Construction

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the minutes from the 2002 meeting of the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Construction in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Once again, this year's meeting was a tremendous success. Our thanks to Mr. Rob McCleary and his Delaware Department of Transportation staff for the excellent accommodations and generous hospitality.

This past year we developed, refined and approved four resolutions dealing with Environmental Stewardship Best Practices, National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, Reorganization of the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Construction and with Delaware Department of Transportation Hosting the 2002 meeting. (See Attached File) All four resolutions will be presented to the Standing Committee on Highways later this year. Please mark August 3 - 7, 2003 on your calendars for the 2003 meeting. Len Sanderson of the North Carolina DOT will be our host and based on experiences from past meetings I am sure everyone will benefit from a visit to Asheville and the mountains of western North Carolina.

I would like to thank each and everyone for your support and participation. The objectives in the Construction Subcommittee can only be accomplished through active participation by all of our members. In addition to the SOC Presentation Notes others are also attached, FHWA Minutes, Task Force Minutes and Work Plan, List of Presentations, Resolutions etc. If you have any questions or comments, please give me a call at (202) 366-0392. Chris Newman, on my staff, is also available to provide assistance to members. He can be reached at (202) 366-2023, fax (202) 366-9981 or at Christopher.Newman@fhwa.dot.gov. We have also attached the latest Subcommittee Membership Roster that was last updated on September 24, 2002. Please let Chris know of any changes in the roster that may need to be made.

Sincerely yours,

Tommy Beatty, Secretary
AASHTO Highway Subcommittee
on Construction

Enclosure

Cc Art Hamilton, 3 DFO
Hwy Ops
HIPA, HIBT, HIPT
K. Kobetsky, F. Gee, L. Sanderson

**AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Construction
2002 Summer Meeting
August 4-9, 2002, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware
MINI AGENDA
As of June 4, 2002**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

Open Registration & Hospitality

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

Opening Session

Welcome B Chairman, Subcommittee on
Construction & Delaware Department of
Transportation

FHWA Issues – General Discussion

Opening Session Presentations

Accelerated Construction
Department of Justice Update
AASHTO SOC Reorganization Efforts

General Question and Answer Session

General Topics, Attendee Questions

Task Forces Meetings

Discuss Annual Accomplishments

Task Force Chairmen Reports

Year's Accomplishments
Initial Discussion of New Work Plans

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

Research Advisory Group - Breakfast Meeting

Pavements and Structures Task Force

TIG – Precast Substructure Elements
Bridge Replacement I-65 / I-59 Interchange
Pavement Smoothness
Soil Freezing
Superpave 2005

Quality Construction Task Force

Performance Related Specifications
Committee Update
Work Zone Quality
Transportation Curriculum Coordination
Council
Customer Satisfaction in Construction

Environmental Task Force

Context Sensitive Solutions
Context Sensitive Design During Construction
Work Zone Safety (NPRM)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

Computers in Construction Task Force

National Highway Specification Website
Technology Innovations for Const. Admin.
AASHTO ScOC Website
Update on SiteManager(SiteExchange)
Field Manager Suite of Software
SitePad Version 1.0
EPEG

Research Steering Group

Update on NCHRP
NCHRP 20-58(1) Renewal
Precast Concrete Pavement Experimental
Project

Delaware Technical Tours

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

Contract Administration Task Force

Cost Growth on Highway Construction Projects
Six State Survey of Construction Administration
Practices and Procedures
AASHTO Design Build Task Force
Surety Issues in Design Build

Chairman and Vice Chairman Topics

NPHQ Update & Awards
SCOH Reorganization and Planning Process
Open Discussion on SOC Reorganization

Task Force Meetings & Final Work Plans

Schedule and Assignments for Task Force
Work Plans

Final Business & Wrap-Up Session

Selection of the 2004 Meeting Location

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

FHWA Meeting

**AASHTO HIGHWAY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSTRUCTION
2002 MEETING
REHOBOTH BEACH, DELAWARE
AUGUST 4 - 10, 2002**

**Len Sanderson, North Carolina – Chairman
Frank Gee, Virginia – Vice Chairman**

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2002

Opening Session

Welcome Address and General Announcements – Len Sanderson (NC DOT), Samuel Cooper (Mayor - Rehoboth Beach), Carolann Wicks, (DE DOT), Tom Myers (FHWA DE Division), and Rob McCleary (DE DOT): Subcommittee Chairman Len Sanderson began the meeting by welcoming the delegates to Delaware, and the Rehoboth Beach Area. Len discussed several quick changes to the program and introduced Mayor Samuel Cooper of Rehoboth Beach.

Mayor Samuel Cooper welcomed the delegates to Delaware and thanked them for coming to Rehoboth Beach. Mayor Cooper gave the delegates a brief history of the founding of Rehoboth Beach and discussed several current transportation changes affecting local communities. In closing he mentioned that Rehoboth Beach is a wonderful pedestrian town and encouraged everyone to get out and walk the boardwalks and to have a great time.

Carolann Wicks, Chief Engineer for the Delaware DOT discussed how new techniques such as BLITZ and Super BLITZ can be utilized to assist in getting projects done. Work Zone Safety is one of the main keys to getting projects done as well. Delaware DOT's reorganization efforts were discussed and the positive outcomes of doing so. Better solutions foster better communication and being able to grow and cross train. In order to "Make a Difference" we have to accept the challenge of reaching out to our customers during Pre-Construction.

Tom Myers, Division Administrator for FHWA's Delaware Division Office welcomed the group to Rehoboth Beach. He mentioned that after looking through the agenda everything we would be addressing is important. Real work and topics get addressed during this subcommittee meeting. Tom challenged everyone in asking, "Where are we going with the Interstate and as transportation providers?" How we need to meet our customers needs, do it with integrity, and reduce congestion. We need to continue to discuss the important issues, share knowledge and best practices.

Rob McCleary, Delaware DOT and Conference Coordinator gave a few opening remarks and welcomed everyone to Rehoboth Beach. He also introduced his staff

and mentioned discussed many of the conference logistics and layout of the hotel and Rehoboth Beach and encouraged everyone to get out and enjoy themselves this week.

Len Sanderson, Subcommittee Chairman, North Carolina DOT, introduced the Task Force Chairman and discussed what the Subcommittee on Construction is all about. Len also talked briefly about the Standing Committee on Highways Reorganization. He challenged everyone to look for areas of overlap and where to put new issues that arise. Restructuring the Subcommittee on Construction will involve reviewing and updating our Mission Statement, and completing our reorganization efforts.

General Session Presentations

Frank Gee (Virginia DOT): Subcommittee Vice Chairman

General Discussion of FHWA Issues, Tommy Beatty, FHWA Office of Asset Management & Pavement Technology, Subcommittee on Construction Secretary: Tommy discussed several of FHWA's personnel actions, reauthorization, and current restructuring efforts. Construction issues discussed included the Construction Quality Improvement Team, the National Highway Specification Website, FHWA's construction website <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/construction/>, OSHA Shear Stud Issue, Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council Pooled Fund Project, Accelerated Construction issues and the new Utility Delays in Construction video. For additional information Tommy can be reached at 202-366-0392 or at tommy.beatty@fhwa.dot.gov.

A5T60 AASHTO TIG "Accelerating Innovation" High Speed, High Quality, High Safety, - Ted Ferragut, TDC Partners: Ted discussed the Special Report 249 Building Momentum for Change, its objectives and methodologies. Two example projects were highlighted, one with Indiana DOT and the other with PENNDOT. Both were contrasted doing construction the "Normal Way" vs. the "High Speed, High Quality, High Safety" way. Workshops were used to get customers to think out of the box and many of the recommendations were utilized. In the end, mechanisms worked, the process invoked a spirit of cooperation and enjoyment, it emphasized DOT goal setting and identified barriers to implementation. For additional information Ted can be reached at 703-836-1671 or at tferragut@tdcpartners.com.

Mergers and Acquisitions in Aggregate, Asphalt Concrete, and Ready Mix Concrete Industries – Fred Parmenter (US Department of Justice): Prices charged by companies producing materials used for the construction of our highways have a direct impact on the cost to State DOT's to build and repair highways. Mergers substantially lessen competition and prices typically increase due to increased opportunities to coordinate pricing. It is also more difficult to get permits to open quarries and operate plants. Having the appearance to considerably raise production costs can stop some anticompetitive acquisitions. However State DOT and FHWA views count towards helping to stop these acquisitions, we must all work together. Reluctance to help out may produce higher prices that no one wants. For additional information Fred can be reached at 202-307-0620 or at fred.parmenter@usdoj.gov.

Price Fixing & Bid Rigging – They Happen – Micah Berman (US Department of Justice): The competitive process only works, however, when competitors set prices honestly and independently. When competitors collude, prices are inflated and the customer is cheated. Micha discussed price fixing, bid rigging, bid suppression complementary bidding, bid rotation, subcontracting and detecting other types of collusion. He mentioned to be on the look out for suspicious statements or behavior, and cautioned about indicators of collusion. To get involved you need to report your suspicions, and press your vendors to explain and justify their prices. For additional information Micah can be reached at 202-307-1044 or at micah.berman@usdoj.gov.

AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Construction Reorganization Efforts – John A. Perry (FHWA Office of Asset Management): John discussed the reorganization efforts and that recommended changes would ensure maintaining or enhancing the subcommittee's products it developed, the process to produce those products and the people involved while being flexible enough to absorb future task forces. Proposed changes included expanding three of the task forces to include important topics not already covered and removing the Quality Task Force, as it is already part of the remaining task forces. A resolution on the reorganization was prepared and passed by the subcommittee. The new organizational structure will become effective in August of 2003. For additional information please contact the new working group chair, Thomas Bohuslav of TX DOT at 512-416-2559 or at tbohusl@dot.state.tx.us.

Task Force Meetings

Monday afternoon was spent in individual Task Force Meetings, followed by Task Force Reports to the assembled group. The information from these sessions is included in the individual Task Force Minutes file.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2002

Pavement and Structures Task Force Presentations

David Graham (Idaho Transportation Department): Task Force Chairman

Prefabricated Bridges – Get In, Get Out, & Stay Out – Mal Kerley, Virginia DOT: Mal discussed the AASHTO Technology Implementation Group (TIG) and how the Prefabricated Bridge Elements and Systems, ITS Technologies in Work Zones and Accelerated Construction groups were formed. The purpose for prefabricated bridge elements and systems is to extend their use in bridge design and construction. Advantages include to minimize traffic disruptions, improve work-zone safety, minimize environmental disruptions, and to improve constructibility and quality. The AASHTO TIG Web Site was showcased as a location to get the latest in technology transfer. www.aashtotig.org (Focus Technologies). Focus elements & systems include superstructure, substructure and total prefab bridge elements. For additional information please contact Mal at 804-786-2635 or at mal.kerley@virginia.dot.org.

Bridge Replacement I-65 / I-59 Interchange – J.F. Horsley, Alabama DOT: J.F. discussed that this project was the result of the most damaging highway accident in the history of the State of Alabama. The accident occurred on January 5th 2002 on I-65 North under the I-65 South Bridge. The heat from the explosion exceeded 2,000 degrees, causing the steel girders in the overpass to buckle and bend the ramp into a V-shape. Bid results were received and the contract was awarded on January 16th, less than two weeks after the accident. Before and after photographs were shown of the damages, reconstruction of and finished bridges. The total bid was 2.1 million dollars, required 37 days to actually construct the bridge and the contractor received a 1.3 million dollar incentive for finishing 53 days ahead of schedule. For additional information please contact J.F. at 205-328-5820 or at horsleyj@dot.al.us.

Pavement Smoothness – How Smooth is Smooth Enough – Dan Frentress, American Concrete Pavement Association: Dan discussed the history of profile devices from the 10 foot strait edge to today's high speed vans and lightweight profilers. The concrete pavement challenge is related to IRI scale multiple wavelengths matching up with the profile wavelengths. The Michigan Ride Experiment was also highlighted. The goal was to determine if repeatability and reproducibility could be accomplished. Four different surfaces were tested with 14 different contact / non-contact ride devices. An objective repeatability assessment was performed and the results shared with the group. For additional information please contact Dan at 612-619-8399 or at dfrentress@pavement.com or www.pavement.com.

Construction of a Ped/Bike Tunnel Using Soil Freezing – Ken Stoneman, Oregon DOT: Ken began by familiarizing everyone with the proposed project, and the original design and estimate. The new design was justified utilizing FLAC Analysis and noted that deflection of the arch would occur, that there would be no support from the pipe during installation and that soil properties were determined from literature followed by limited testing. Construction safeguards included installing instrumentation to check the horizontal and vertical alignment along the railroad tracks, for watering the fill during freeze up, verification of frozen ground by excavating the tunnel ends prior to pipe jacking. Soil freezing saved the DOT almost 50,000 dollars on the installation of this pipe vs. traditional methods. For additional information contact Ken at 503-986-3023 or at Kenneth.L.Stoneman@dot.state.or.us.

Superpave 2005, Status Report 2002 – Ted Ferragut, TDC Partners: Ted discussed that this is an AASHTO supported, TRB sponsored superpave committee to assist in steering program direction and the Superpave research agenda. Under Pooled Fund Study TFP 5(019) this project is proceeding and has goal areas to include further study in modified binders, mix design, moisture sensitivity, simple performance tester, performance model validation, performance related specifications, communication and training with a scheduled completion date of December of 2005. Several parking lot issues include moisture sensitivity, binder research topics and mix/aggregate research topics. For additional information please contact Ted at 703-836-1671 or at tferragut@tdcpartners.com.

Quality Construction Task Force Presentations

Lee Onstott (New Mexico SHTD): Task Force Chairman

Performance Related Specifications Committee Update – Ted Ferragut, TDC

Partners: Ted discussed needing to carry the message forward. The mission is to establish performance-related specifications as viable contract options. Tasks at hand include establishing a national TWG, developing a strategic plan, organizing ETG's, communicating and reaching out, development of a website and a draft national plan. Goal areas include management, performance, specifications, warranties and communication. Future research needs include in-situ testing, high speed process control, advance modeling, new specification book and a frame work for the future. For additional information contact Ted at 703-836-1671 or at www.tdcfiles.com or tferragut@tdcpartners.com.

New Jersey Annual Traffic Control Plan Review – Anker Winther, NJ DOT: Anker mentioned the need to pull together an expert review team, interview resident engineers, and review the condition of your barriers, drums, attenuator trucks, arrow boards, traffic control safety signs, temporary paint line, barricades, break away devices, and safety vests. Barriers should be matched, have minimal slack and anchorage systems intact with appropriate reflectors. Drums should be checked for drum array, integrity and dry sand. Traffic control signs must be clean, reflective, unobscured, give a clear message, conflicting signs covered, and be in good condition. Temporary pavement marking must be fresh. The latest 350 barricades must be utilized. Check for clear zone issues, are break away devices utilized and are safety vests and hard hats being worn? For additional information please contact Anker at 609-530-5523 or at anker.winther@dot.state.nj.us.

Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TCCC) – Jim Sorenson, FHWA Office of Asset Management: Jim discussed who the TCCC is and that their mission is to commit to national leadership and coordination, develop a curriculum for construction, materials, maintenance, project management and to improve the skills and abilities of inspectors, technicians, engineers and superintendents. The council gets its work done through the TCCC website, curriculum tracks and new course development, and through work plan activities. The TCCC web site can be found at www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/tccc. States are encouraged to assist in this effort to create core training materials to be shared at the national level and to support the AASHTO supported TCCC pooled fund project, TPF 5-(046). For additional information please contact Jim at 202-366-1333 or at james.Sorenson@fhwa.dot.gov or Howe Crockett at 360-619-7750 or at howe.crockett@fhwa.dot.gov.

Customer Satisfaction – Greg Xanders, Florida DOT: In Florida focus groups were formed to identify customer requirements. Common issues appearing on most surveys included roadway signs and markings, construction projects, travel time/congestion, safety and roadway conditions. Survey methods included, telephone, mail, hand-delivered and picked-up surveys. Overall observations included most customers being pleased with signs and visibility of striping, less

satisfaction at night. Higher satisfaction in work zones were found while lower satisfaction with access to local businesses and timeliness of completing projects was noted. These are now focus areas for improvements at the statewide level. For additional information contact Greg at 850-878-1971 or at greg.xanders@jacobs.com

Environmental Task Force Presentations

Task Force Chairman: Arthur Gruhn (Connecticut)

Context Sensitive Solutions in Connecticut – Art Gruhn (Connecticut DOT): Context Sensitive Solutions is a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach, that involves all stake holders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility. Qualities of excellence, characteristics of the process that will yield excellence, techniques to achieve CSS, sensitive and creative design, streetscape and median treatments, visualization and common misconceptions were also discussed. CSS challenges include working within traffic design, R.O.W., maintenance and construction constraints. In conclusion, Art discussed keys to achieving CSS and its benefits. For additional information please contact Art at 860-594-2680 or at Arthur.gruhn@po.state.ct.us.

Context Sensitive Construction in Kentucky – Don Hancher, (University of Kentucky): Many of today's transportation projects have major environmental impacts and associated restrictions. To better address these environmental issues, a new design movement called Context Sensitive Construction began. The objective is to increase the involvement of resident engineers and contractors in the total project development process. Goals include getting clear environmental requirements, and increased communication and understanding of the consequences. The expected benefits are an improved credibility for highway agencies and the contractor with the general public and other government agencies, plus a higher chance for success in achieving project physical and environmental goals. For additional information please contact Don at 859-257-4857 or at hancher@engr.uky.edu.

Work Zone Mobility and Safety, Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking – Scott Battles, (FHWA Office of Transportation Operations): Scott reviewed the context of his presentation, discussing trends and facts. He also gave an overview of the ANPRM and why it was issued. The current process and schedule were also presented. An overview of the ANPRM comments received was also discussed. ANPRM – 23 CFR 630 Subpart J major themes included transportation planning and programming, project design for construction and maintenance, managing for mobility and safety in and around work zones, public outreach and communications and analyzing work zone performance. For additional information please contact Scott at 202-366-4372 or at scott.battles@fhwa.dot.gov.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2002

Computers in Construction Task Force Presentations

Claude Oie (Nebraska): Task Force Chairman

National Highway Specification Website (NHSW) Beta Testing – Sid Scott (Trauner Consulting): The goal of the NHSW project is to create an electronic library containing the most current approved standard specifications and supplements from transportation agencies across the country, along with emerging specifications in the areas of performance-related specifications (PRS), quality assurance (QA), and other innovative practices. A pilot version of the NHSW has been developed by FHWA and AASHTO with input on format, organization, usability and content. The beta testing process includes a NHSW organization, search tool, downloading specifications, discussion forums, specification file upload and maintenance. Full implementation is scheduled prior to the end of 2002. For additional information please contact Sid at 215-814-6400 x6406 or at sid.scott@traunerconsulting.com.

Technology Innovations for Construction Quality Programs, D. Fred Martinez, ATSER: Major Design-Build transportation projects require an effective Quality Assurance System for Materials. System objectives should include electronic delivery of data to a single, comprehensive database, preliminary material test results available in a 24 hour time frame with final approved results within 3 days. ATSER has pioneered the development of “real time” quality assurance web-based systems (QMSTM) from its experiences on the two largest design-build projects in the U.S.: the I-15 Project in Salt Lake City, Utah and currently on the I-25 Project in Denver. Case studies of each project were presented. Benefits from the implementation of this new technology extend to both the Owner and the Design-Builder through significant reductions in administrative costs (reduced paper-flow and data re-entry), reliability in QC/QA data through statistical modeling, and a reduction in quality related construction rework. For additional information please contact Fred at 281-999-9961 or at dfm@atser.com.

AASHTO SOC Website – Jim McDonnell, AASHTO: Jim’s presentation involved a show and tell of the AASHTO Subcommittee on Construction website. Delegates were asked to submit comments and ideas for making the website user friendly and meeting the needs of subcommittee members. Delegates were asked to visit the web site at <http://construction.transportation.org>. For additional information please contact Jim at 202-624-5448 or at jimm@aashto.org.

Update on Site Manager (Site Exchange) – Brad Parks, Info Tech: Brad gave an introduction regarding Trns.port licensing status and sitemanager suite status. He discussed agency licensees by modules and the sitemanager implementation status. Also discussed were sitemanager MSE status and the additional enhancements in 3.1a. Enhancements for June 2003 were also discussed. The sitemanager/fieldmanager interface was looked at and the material mgmt improvements and highlights. In conclusion Sitemanager/Champ interface, sitemanager future initiatives

trns.port intranet and trns.port sitepad were discussed. For additional information please contact Brad at 352-381-4400 or at brad.parks@infotechfl.com.

Field Manager Suite of Software – Kevin Fox, Michigan DOT: Trns.port FieldManager is an AASHTOWare suite of software used to manage and track road and bridge construction projects in the field. It can be used by DOT field offices, local government agencies and private engineering firms. Business functions, suite components and what it works with were discussed. In Michigan it is used by MDOT, County and City Field Managers to assist them with their work load. User acceptance is excellent at all levels. The number one benefit to the State of Michigan is that it saves them @21.9 million per year in reduced hands-on time. Based on reduction of 438,000 person hours per year. For additional information please contact Kevin at 517-322-6223 or at foxk@mdot.state.mi.us.

SitePad Version 1.0 - Brad Parks, Info Tech: SitePad is a SiteManager handheld data collector which exports contract and reference data files from SiteManager, an application for the inspector to collect all current SiteManager Daily Work Report (DWR) data except attachments and templates, imports DWR data back into SiteManager, is based on palm architecture and was warranty released in June 2002. For additional information on SitePad or SiteXchange please contact Brad at 352-381-4400 or at brad.parks@infotechfl.com.

Diary Automation in California - ePeg Construction Diary: ePeg is a tool that CalTrans has used to automate Contract administration functions. It provides web-delivered applications, using handheld computers for field-based data collection and data access. Supported functions include diary record, progress payments, progress toward schedule, safety issue tracking, dispute resolution, change order tracking, item adjustments, and others. For information on ePeg, please contact Lawrence Burne of Bear River Associates at lburne@bearriver.com.

Research Steering Group Presentations

Steve DeWitt, North Carolina: Research Steering Group Chairman

National Cooperative Highway Research Program, (NCHRP) – Crawford Jencks, NCHRP: A brief history of AASHTO's research program was given beginning in 1962 including State DOT support, applied research focus and contract research. The Transportation Research Board (TRB) and the National Academies were also discussed. Several select items of interest, NCHRP Reports, active syntheses, and pending projects were also highlighted. Recent highlights included NCHRP Peer Exchange, F-SHRP preliminary work, Security Research and the NCHRP administered pooled fund project. The FY 2003 research program has 9 million in continuation projects and 15 million for new starts. The website was briefly discussed and includes information on NCHRP, TCRP, a search engine, all research projects since 1988, project statements, anticipated projects, and CRP publication lists. It can be found at www.trb.org/trb/nchrp. For additional information please contact Crawford at 202-334-2379 or at cjenchs@nas.edu.

Future Strategic Highway Research Program (F-SHRP) NCHRP 20-58(1) Renewal – Tom Cackler (Iowa State Center for Transportation Research): This study of future strategic highway research programs was developed through committee of highway leaders, including strong representation from AASHTO. It was published in October 2001 as TRB Special Report 260: Strategic Highway Research: Saving Lives, Reducing Congestion, Improving Quality of Life. DOT's face critical issues whose solution requires a concentration of resources and an integrated systems approach. F-SHRP's objective is to develop a systematic approach to consistently perform highway renewal that is rapid, long-lived, and causes minimum disruption. For additional information please contact Tom at tcackler@iastate.edu.

Precast Concrete Pavement Experimental Project in Williamson County Texas – Frank McCulloch, (Center for Transportation Research): Precast concrete panels are proving to be an effective solution for rapid repair / rehabilitation of PCC pavements across America. As a result the Center for Transportation Research initiated a precast pavement pilot project near Georgetown, Texas. Benefits included expedited construction, and controlled fabrication conditions. Panel fabrication, AC leveling course, full width panel placement, post tensioning grouting, and partial-width panel placement were highlighted during the presentation. Recommendations included doing additional pilot projects, real-world implementation, specification development and technology transfer. For additional information please contact Frank at bfmccullough@mail.utexas.edu.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2002

Contract Administration Task Force

Steve DeWitt (North Carolina): Task Force Chairman

Controlling Cost Growth on Highway Construction Projects – Steve DeWitt, (North Carolina DOT): The background on this issue was briefly discussed and was related to high profile projects, FHWA Congressional testimony, FHWA survey, SCOH and the Subcommittee on Construction. Reasons for cost growth include, inaccurate original estimates, scope creep, unknowns, design errors & omissions, construction errors, pay estimates, incentives and claims. For the cost growth survey projects that were looked at were between January 1, 2000 and May 1, 2001, had initial bid prices of greater than 10 million and excluded design build projects. Survey respondents included 37 State DOT's with an average increase in project cost of 11% from contract award to final cost and 3% from PS&E to final costs. This was based on approximately 400 projects each. The total dollar value of all of the projects was approximately 9 billion dollars. For additional information contact Steve DeWitt at 919-733-2210 or at sdewitt@dot.state.nc.us.

AASHTO Standing Committee on Quality Benchmarking Study – Brian Stritsky (New Jersey DOT) & Steve DeWitt (North Carolina DOT): The methodology for selecting benchmarking states was discussed and included national surveys (apples to

apples comparisons), determining national averages by region and geographic type (urban, rural), request of supporting data for states below average, screen supporting data and benchmark state process. The initial conclusion of the study is that, “You can **NOT** compare states based on a survey!!” Construction inspection costs depend on in-house salary, consultant cost, QA/QC testing, central lab, field survey/layout, training, overhead, field office, administrative and design support. What was being look for was manpower management, contractor payment system, QC, QA & independent quality assurance, construction inspection cost accounting and training. For additional information contact Steve DeWitt at 919-733-2210 or at sdewitt@dot.state.nc.us.

Six State Survey of Construction Administration Practices & Procedures, Sid Scott (Trauner Consulting), & Gary Angeles, Julie Brogan & Keith Geiger (Ohio DOT): The scope of work for the project included a best practices management study, training curriculum development and a specification rewrite. The study was undertaken because of new decentralized districts, elimination of bureaus, consolidation of others and a 25% drop in the number of employees. The six-state survey took place in Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. In summary ODOT witnessed a lot of creativity, a lot of different ways of doing things, witnessed great energy and an interest in finding ways to do the job better. For additional information please contact Sid Scott at 215-814-6400 x6406 or at sid.scott@traunerconsulting.com or contact Gary Angeles at 614-466-7057 or at gary.angles@dot.state.oh.us or you can find the results posted at the following website: www.dot.state.oh.us/contract/pdf/six_state_survey_final_report.pdf.

The AASHTO Design-Build Task Force – Steve DeWitt, North Carolina DOT: The overall objective is to assist Department’s of Transportation in the implementation of design-build contracting and to establish a national framework for design-build in transportation. Objectives included developing national guidance, information sharing, consistent Federal policies, education & training opportunities, performance measures, and liaison duties. The FY 2002 task force work plan was discussed as well as several design-build issues. The number of SEP-14 Design-build projects across the nation is on the increase. Several surveys were completed during the year and the results were presented to the group; Design-Build & Environmental Permits, Inspection Processes For Design-Build and Right of Way Procurement for Design-Build Projects. For additional information please contact Steve at 919-733-2210 or at sdewitt@dot.state.nc.us.

State of the Contract Surety Market and the Impact on Bond Availability – Rob Duke (Surety Association of America): Prior to 2001 the surety industry had enjoyed over 12 consecutive years of profitability, battle for market share, strong capacity / available reinsurance, soft pricing and flexible underwriting. Factors contributing to a turn in the industry began with a recession in March 2001, high profile bankruptcies, and the September 11, 2001, tragedy. Market responses have included unwinding the trend, tighter underwriting, restricted reinsurance/retention increases, judicious use of capacity and limits on duration because longer duration equals higher

risks. The impact on availability reflects that warranty bonds beyond five years are difficult to obtain leading to SAA and ARTBA policy statements. On design-build projects the duration of warranties is an issue, expect tighter underwriting and bonds are still available. For additional information please contact Rob at 202-778-3630 or at rduke@surety.org

National Partnership for Highway Quality, NPHQ – Bobby Templeton (NPHQ): NPHQ is a national forum involving major public and private industry organizations in improving highway quality. Continuing emphasis areas include, customer satisfaction, implementing a long range and communications plan, maintaining the website at www.NPHQ.org, promoting quality partnerships and the awards program. Today's concept of "Quality" includes, "Get In! Stay In! Get Out! Stay Out!", involving communities in the early and final project planning, "Think Beyond the Pavement", reducing project impacts on the public, accelerated construction and "Total Customer Focus". Benefits to partnerships include, understanding who owns the highways, cooperative partnering, and getting everyone involved to consistently do better at all the worthwhile work to be performed. For additional information please contact Bobby at 512-301-9899 or at btemplenphq@aol.com.

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AASHTO Update – Tony Kane, (AASHTO): In September 2002 the Reauthorization Steering Committee will meet to reassess other proposals AASHTO has put forth to the board when they meet in Alaska in October 2002. Environmental streamlining has been worked on pretty heavily to date. Nothing has been put together on changes in the statutes such as right of way acquisitions, design, and construction issues. Issues have been highlighted in security, safety, ITS and operations. On the finance side, new funding proposals will be forwarded. Any ideas for changes should be sent into Tony or Jim McDonnell by mid September. Sharing good practices or greater efforts in being efficient should be highlighted. AASHTO is also doing a through review of its technical services. A series of recommendations will be enacted in the technical services area based on results of a State Transportation Agency survey. For additional information please contact Jim McDonnell of AASHTO at 202-624-5448 or at jimm@ashto.org.

PENNDOT's Efforts on ISO; Quality Systems for Performance Excellence – Amar Bhajandas (PENNDOT) & Bob Bowen, (Bowen International): ISO is being done at PENNDOT because the agency has adopted the Malcolm Baldrige Model, it's a Quality Management Tool, and they strive to lead by example. Benchmarked ISO certified companies in the area and did several baseline assessments. ISO Motto: "Say what you do. Do what you say. Prove it". Key improvements included, customer focus, documentation, work environment, equipment calibrations, complaint management, training requirements, process mapping, teamwork and internal audits. PENNDOT's Lab was certified to ISO 9002 Standard in April of 2002. Future expectations include implementing ISO across the department. It's a Win/Win situation for everyone! For additional information contact Amar at 717-787-6989 or at abhajan@dot.state.pa.us.

Standing Committee on Highways Reorganization (SCOH) – Len Sanderson (North Carolina DOT): The Standing Committee on Highways’ mission is to be the leader for achieving and sustaining world class highway systems, optimizing the safe movement of people and goods, enhancing the environment, and sustaining national security. SCOH is currently in the process of reviewing its existing structure and reorganizing to better accomplish its mission. A number of organizational changes will be made and some groups are being reassigned to other committees within SCOH. Administrative and policy issues will be investigated and implemented as appropriate. Long-term activities will also be investigated and recommended for consideration. The new SCOH Organizational Chart was also presented to the group. For additional information please contact Len at 919-733-7384 or at lsanderson@dot.state.nc.us.

Task Force Meetings

For the remainder of the morning the Task Forces met individually to finalize their work plans and proposed resolutions. The information from these meetings is contained in the Task Force Minutes File.

Final Business and Wrap Up-Session

(Frank Gee, Virginia):

Subcommittee Vice-Chairman Frank Gee chaired the wrap-up session, in which the following issues were decided:

- The 2005 Subcommittee on Construction Meeting will be held in Kentucky.
- Four resolutions were passed by the Subcommittee, and are included as an appendix to this report. Environmental Stewardship Best Practices, National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, Reorganization of the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Construction and with Delaware Department of Transportation Hosting the 2002 meeting.
- Please mark August 3 - 7, 2003 on your calendars for the 2003 meeting. Len Sanderson and Steve DeWitt of the North Carolina Department of Transportation will be our hosts and based on experiences from past meetings we are sure everyone will benefit from a visit to Asheville and the mountains of western North Carolina.