

Committee on Historic and Archaeological Preservation in Transportation (ADC50)
Transportation Research Board
Mid-Year Meeting 2017
Meeting Summary

July 16, 2017; 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM (Central)

Location: Aloft Hotel Minneapolis

- Introduction of Committee Members and Guests and Meeting Overview
Emily Pettis began the committee meeting by going over the agenda and beginning introductions; discussed agenda for meeting.
- FHWA Updates (David Clarke)
They are adapting to a new administration at FHWA under Secretary Chao, and they're still in a transition period with vacancies in the administration. David emphasized that the FAST Act is still active (he handed out a resources cheat-sheet), but that there are no new updates on the Act. A transportation and infrastructure bill is still a topic that congress wants to tackle, but they've taken no action yet.

David offered to answer questions throughout the conference about the FAST Act, to talk to states about their programs, etc. He emphasized that it is an opportunity to get questions answered in-person. David reports back to FHWA on the Meeting.

- ACHP Updates (MaryAnn Naber)
The ACHP staff is working with the incoming administration to suggest refinements in guidance, regulation, and potential legislation that could deliver identified infrastructure initiatives of interest.

The National Highway Institute (NHI) course on Section 106 compliance is on life support (David mentioned that they are trying to work on a more cost effective alternative). MaryAnn recommended other training: the ACHP course on Section 106 essentials (offered around the country, and can be offered by request and tailored) as well as the National Preservation Institute course on Historic Bridges.

The ongoing NCHRP project, Task 97 – Synthesis of Identification and Evaluation Practices – has been handed off to a new program officer at TRB and MaryAnn is assured that it'll be back on track soon.

There are a couple states who are, in the absence of a formal PA or MOA, issuing letters that say the DOT has been delegated their federal role in the Section 106 process. David cautioned that this carries a lot of liability. MaryAnn requested that those who may know about this talk to her and David.

MaryAnn introduced Sarah Stokley, who is working for the ACHP on surface and other transportation projects. Generally, Sarah has the states from the first part of the alphabet up to M (except for a few states with the NEPA assignments and a couple others).

- SCOE and NCHRP 25-25 Updates (Tony Opperman)

There are six NCHRP 25-25 studies that have been stalled. Four have been stalled for a few years, though two of them will be wrapped up soon. There are another four newly awarded studies. NCHRP staff have been overwhelmed by not having enough employees. TRB has added a few people. Ann Hartel will be helping to complete two studies. Velvet Fitzpatrick will be handling the new studies, including four that have been selected but not started.

The Standing Committee on the Environment has rebranded and is now the Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainability.

Tony clarified his multiple roles. He is the ADC50 Committee's Research Subcommittee Chair, the Resource Communicator for the Cultural Resources Concerns Subcommittee, and a 25-25 selection committee member.

- Upcoming changes to mid-year meetings
Mary and Emily have been notified by TRB that TRB will be overseeing all future mid-year meetings, but don't know what that really means for these meetings at this time. The plan is to still meet in Montana in July, if possible. ADC50 had previously voted to not participate in a mega-meeting in 2020, but we are not sure that they will be able to avoid this.

So as of now, we are moving forward as if Helena, MT is still an option. Meeting would be the week of July 15th or July 22nd.

States who had offered to host upcoming mid-year meetings should contact Mary or Emily about what this may mean.

Tony clarified that TRB offers no support for these mid-year meetings – they're conducted under the umbrella of TRB but TRB is not affiliated. TRB expects committees to hold mid-year meetings and has not gotten involved up to this point.

- ADC50 Subcommittee updates
 - Programs Subcommittee, chaired by Mary Alfson Tinsman
By the end of July, the committee needs to provide TRB with the proposed sessions for the Annual Meeting in January. We have cosponsored two workshops. One, submitted by Stephanie Stoermer on behalf of ABE80, is about the timely consideration of tribal concerns. ADC50 is also cosponsoring an ADC10 workshop. We also have two sessions. The goal is always to bring in people from other committees. By the end of July, we only need a working title and brief description. Ideas discussed and considered:
 - The cultural resources industry needs to stay current on technology. In ND they received a grant through UND to use LIDAR to discover stone monuments. The session could be about LIDAR and thermal imaging and other technological advances. The session may be a repeat, but it's a rapidly changing tool and it's becoming more affordable (and more widely used).
 - We're starting to see modifications on older highways that historically had an adverse effect on the surrounding neighborhoods – now, how do we heal old wounds? This session could be presented jointly with environmental justice and planning experts. There are many states with examples. In MN – the Rondo neighborhood. There's excess ROW in Edina (MN) and trying to use the space to help neighboring communities. District 7 CalTrans, acquired property years ago

and are trying to deal with disposal of the property during solution of Route 7/10. GA, Tampa, New Orleans, Houston, Syracuse NY, Baltimore, Colorado. . . The Big Dig in Boston is a (\$15B) model. This could be a double session, or it could start as a session and carried forward to a workshop.

There will be a poster session at the annual meeting, and the call for posters will be sent at the end of July/early August. The TRB deadline is at the end of September and proposals must be approved by the committee (not difficult to do). Mary offered to hang and staff a poster if you cannot attend the meeting.

Pending TRB oversight uncertainties, the future mid-year meeting venues:

- Helena, MT 2018
- Columbus, OH 2019
- Possible combined meeting in 2020

The annual meeting is January 7-11 in Washington DC. There will be a committee dinner at Carmine's on the Monday or Tuesday. Details will be provided as it gets closer.

- Communications Subcommittee, chaired by Hope Luhman
Hope noted that Berger provided a tick key in each attendee bag, and explained the growing concerns with safety and tick awareness.

The communications subcommittee team is live tweeting the meeting using #ADC50MN. They are also live blogging, led by Heidi Kroft which is dedicated towards building the history of the committee. LinkedIn is being led by Mandy Ranslow.

- Research Needs Subcommittee, chaired by Tony Opperman (meeting to follow)

- History of Committee

The project has morphed a bit to take advantage of the current participation. Essentially, they are putting a stake in the ground – what do we know right now? – and recording history more like a diary. Then try to work back and get information about past meetings. Heidi is helping with participatory history.

- Blue Ribbon Committee Status

The LIDAR webinar did not work out as planned, but there may be an opportunity to do this in the fall. Discussion about communications being the avenue that the committee would take to get to the Blue Ribbon status. We still want to get a webinar, have an updated website, blog, twitter, LinkedIn – all are opportunities to show the strength of the committee.

- Other Business

Mary mentioned the call for volunteers. There is always room for participants on the committee. Every 3 years, one-third of the committee has to rotate off the committee – opportunities for formal membership in the future.

Emily brought the meeting to a close at 3:15pm.