

**Resilient and Sustainable Transportation Systems Meeting Minutes**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**  
**May 25, 2016**

Meeting objectives: At this first meeting of the newly constituted Steering Committee, the objectives are for members to: share information regarding how various disciplines play a role in infrastructure resilience; gain a better understanding of the current resources available through research and other national and state initiatives; provide input on state needs and the tools and resources RSTS can develop to address these needs; and identify partnership opportunities with AASHTO Committees, TRB and others to facilitate development of additional tools and resources for the states. This input is critical as it will inform and direct the development of the RSTS strategic plan and annual work plan.

After Chair Leslie Richards welcomed members and guests to the meeting and briefly reviewed the agenda, Steering Committee members present introduced themselves. A list of attendees is appended at the end of this document.

Several excellent presentations were made, including

- **FHWA Presentation: Overview of Designing for Resilience and Emergency Response Activities** by Gloria Shepherd, FHWA. Gloria discussed green infrastructure pilots; O&M activities; emergency management recovery; TIM training program; and emergency relief.
- **DOT Presentation: Leslie Richards, PennDOT.** PA is doing a full resilience study; phase one to be complete this September. The study will include risks and vulnerabilities; work is proceeding collaboratively with RSTS, MPOs, universities and colleagues around the nation to enable the DOT to pursue design and construction in a sustainable and resilient manner. It will be web-based so that others can benefit from it as well.
- **DOT Presentation: Charles Hebson with Judy Gates, Maine DOT: A Resilient and Sustainable Transportation System.** Maine's issues are primarily local and regional in nature; the state has a coastline and rivers, but not many urban areas. Maine does have many assets to worry about, however: bridges, culverts, cross culverts. These cannot be replaced in response to predictions of future climate problems – only if and when they are actually failing. Most of the effort should be on planning; design/build follows from good planning.
- **DOT Presentation: Karla Sutliff, Caltrans:** Green stewardship is in Caltrans strategic plan goal number 3 on sustainability. "People, planet, prosperity." Strategies to mitigate climate change impacts start with planning activities. Mitigation activities can be specific and targeted: for sea level rise, move the road where re-occurring mud slides happen; for wildfires, replace wood posts for guardrail with metal posts. 2014 Document titled Safeguarding California –EO B 8-30-15: "Agencies Shall consider climate change in all planning decisions."

- **Transportation Research Board: Neil Pedersen, TRB:** There are committees at TRB that are directly related to RSTS, Climate Change and Energy being one example. NCHRP Studies – deploying sustainability practices in State DOTs. There will be a Peer Exchange on resiliency, co-sponsored by AASHTO and others. TRB wants to work with the RSTS Steering Committee.

The NCHRP 20-24 Panel met 6 months ago, decided to set aside \$500 K to develop a research roadmap for resilience. The goal is to build on the work of the first NCHRP study, drafting the roadmap and developing white papers, CEO primer, all on resilience. Hope to engage CEOs next year (2017). Hydraulics and structures committees (TRB Standing committees) should be noted, and this committee should be involved in developing problem statements for NCHRP.

**Steering Committee member input:** What would be most helpful and useful as this Steering Committee goes forward –what would help us get done what we need to get done? Chair Richards requested a discussion of ideas to lead to three focus areas for the Committee, to keep it moving forward. The goal was to identify three focus areas by the end of the meeting.

- The use of the AASHTO Climate Change website – perhaps an area could be found for RSTS postings by Steering Committee members?
- Need to define our role: clearinghouse? More? Not every state is ready to be more.
- Topics we discuss include
  - Greenhouse gases
  - Energy and alternative energy (solar, wind, etc.)
  - Climate change
  - Mitigation
  - Extreme weather events
  - Resilience
  - Sustainability
  - Efficiency (saving money)
  - Vulnerabilities
- Resilience = Sustainability (also requested: definitions of these terms)
  - FHWA has a definition and template; offered to send template
- Discussion must be egalitarian and non-political if possible.
- Consider all modes.
- How are states dedicating resources? Do states have best practices to share?
- What are our research needs? Identify and share gaps.
- Consider just natural disasters or also man-made disasters?
- What convening activities—peer exchange? Clearinghouse? Best practices?
- Take on an advisory role; to do this we must prioritize activities.

**Summary: Potential outcomes for this committee:** This issue/topic area crosses state lines, more so than what other committees might do, e.g., roads and bridges. “Air quality” does not know what state it is in. Start with information collecting and then select an area of common interest. What do we want to have accomplished in two years?

- Concentrate on Resilience and Sustainability
- Include all modes, not just stereotypical assets (e.g., bridge only)
- Clearinghouse but not just to collect data (what type of info do we want to gather)
- Provide guidance and recommendations — take an advisory role.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- *Strategic Plan:* Shane Marshall has volunteered to head a work group to develop a strategic plan for this steering committee and associated technical services program. We hope to have a plan to review and discuss at our next meeting at the AASHTO annual meeting.
- *Work Plan:* Steering Committee members to submit priority topics and activities for committee to engage in. Based on the May meeting and further input received, we will develop a draft annual work plan for the Steering Committee to review and comment upon.
- Need volunteers for the coordinating committee for the Sustainable Transportation Summit that will be convened in 2018 (through TRB/Neil Pedersen).
- Set up regular calls with the Steering Committee (Monthly/Bimonthly/Quarterly?)
- **NEXT MEETING:** November 11-15, 2016, Boston, MA

## Resilient and Sustainable Transportation Systems

### Membership Roster

Name	Affiliation	Role
Leslie Richards, Chair	PennDOT	DOT Secretary
Charles Zelle	MN DOT	Public Transit
Paul Mattox	RI DOT	Aviation
Tamara Nicholson	Iowa DOT	Rail
Kirk Steudle	MI DOT	DOT Director
Karla Sutliff	Caltrans	Highways, Chief Eng
James Barna	OH DOT	Highways
Don Arkle	AL DOT	Highways
John Halikowski	AZ DOT	DOT Director; Research
Matt Garrett	OR DOT	DOT Director; Env.
Gina Campoli	VT DOT	Environment
Kevin Walsh	MA DOT	Environmental Process
Tim Sexton	MN DOT	Air Quality
Tim Lane	AZ DOT	Operations
Derial Bivens	TN DOT	Emergency Management
David Juntunen	MI DOT	Bridges and Structures
Debra Nelson	NY DOT	Planning
Greg Slater	MD DOT/SHA	Asset Management
Charles Hebson	ME DOT	Design
Steve Sisson	DE DOT	Hydraulics and Hydrology
Sandra Larson	Iowa DOT	Safety
Shane Marshall	UT DOT	Center for Env. Exc.
Niles Annelin	MI DOT	Planning

