SUSTAINABILITY PEER EXCHANGE

Center for Environmental Excellence
by AASHTO

Transportation in Service of a Sustainable Society

MAY 27-29, 2009
Kellogg Conference Center
Washington D.C.
Welcome From AASHTO President Allen D. Biehler

May 27, 2009

Greetings!

On behalf of AASHTO, it is my honor to welcome you to this Sustainability Peer Exchange, being hosted by the Center for Environmental Excellence by AASHTO. The following days promise interesting dialogue, meaningful sharing of best practices, and discussion of the future of our transportation system and how we can get there together.

The theme for this peer exchange is “Transportation in Service of a Sustainable Society.” Sustainability is one of the three areas I am emphasizing in my role as AASHTO President, along with authorization and multi-modal freight strategy. The health of our planet, our energy security, and our place in the global economy are dependent on the choices we make today.

As transportation professionals, we need to model the way forward to achieving a sustainable future, including a focus on partnerships across modes and levels of government, planning and designing more efficient multi-modal systems, using “green” construction and maintenance practices, and learning about and sharing our successes. This peer exchange is a good step toward achieving our goals.

Best wishes for fruitful discussions,

Allen D. Biehler
AASHTO President
Secretary of Transportation – Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Peer Exchange Overview – At a Glance

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm  Reception and Dinner

Thursday, May 28, 2009

7:15 am – 8:00 am  Registration and Breakfast

8:00 am– 8:15 am  Welcome
  Allen D. Biehler, AASHTO President

8:15 am – 8:30 am  General Session
  Federal Perspectives on Transportation and Sustainability
  Gloria Shepherd, Federal Highway Administration

8:30 am – 9:15 am  General Session
  Framing the Issue
  Joshua Skov, Good Company
  Sam Seskin, CH2M HILL
  Joshua Proudfoot, Good Company

9:15 am – 11:00 am  Panel Discussion
  DOT Programs and Frameworks
  Margi Lifsey, Oregon Department of Transportation
  Gary McVoy, New York Department of Transportation
  Bill Petit, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

11:00 am – 11:15 am  Break

11:15 am – 12:00 pm  Panel Discussion
  Transit Perspectives on Transportation and Sustainability
  William Millar, American Public Transportation Association
  J. Barry Barker, Transit Authority of River City
  Joseph M. Casey, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  Luncheon

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  Discipline-Focused Breakout Sessions – Part 1
  Best Practices

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm  Break

3:15 pm – 5:15 pm  Discipline-Focused Breakout Sessions – Part 2
  Defining and Communicating Sustainability Internally and Externally

5:15 pm – 6:00 pm  Personal Time

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  Dinner
Friday, May 29, 2009

7:15 am – 8:00 am  Breakfast
8:00 am - 10:00 am  Discipline-Focused Breakout Sessions – Part 3
                   Measuring and Tracking Success
10:00 am – 10:30 am  Break
10:30 am – 12:00 pm  Large Group Discussion
                   Reports Back from Breakout Sessions
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  Luncheon
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm  Large Group Discussion
                   Cross Cutting Themes for Short-Term and Long-Term Sustainability
                   Agendas for DOTs
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm  Close
                   Allen D. Biehler, AASHTO President
2:30 pm  Adjourn
Peer Exchange Details

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm  Reception and Dinner, Kellogg Conference Hotel Atrium

The Kellogg Conference Hotel is located on the historic, gated campus of Gallaudet University. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the campus features architecture dating back to the early 1800’s and beautiful grounds. Today, Gallaudet University is the world’s only university where all programs and services are specifically designed to accommodate deaf and hard of hearing students.

Thursday, May 28, 2009

7:15 am – 8:00 am  Registration and Breakfast, Ballroom C&D

8:00 am – 8:15 am  Welcome, Ballroom A&B

Allen D. Biehler, AASHTO President and Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Allen Biehler is Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. He currently serves as President of the AASHTO Board of Directors. He also serves on AASHTO’s Executive Committee, Special Committee on Commissioners and Boards, Special Committee on Intermodal Transportation and Economic Expansion, Intercity Passenger Rail Leadership Group, and the Joint AASHTO-AGC-ARTBA Cooperative Committee. He has also served on several committees of the Transportation Research Board, the American Public Transportation Association, and the University of Pittsburgh.

8:15 am – 8:30 am  General Session, Ballroom A&B

Federal Perspectives on Transportation and Sustainability

Gloria M. Shepherd, Associate Administrator for Planning, Environment, and Realty, Federal Highway Administration

Ms. Shepherd will discuss the relationship between transportation and sustainability from a federal perspective. She will cover big-picture trends, including emphasis on system thinking and megaregions.

Gloria M. Shepherd joined FHWA in 1999 having served previously as the Staff Director for the Transportation Solutions Group, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Deputy Director of the Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering Maryland State Highway Administration, MDOT.
8:30 am – 9:15 am  
**General Session, Ballroom A&B**  
**Framing the Issue**

**Joshua Skov, Principal, Good Company**  
**Sam Seskin, Global Director of Transportation Planning, CH2M HILL**  
**Joshua Proudfoot, Principal, Good Company**

What is sustainability? What is driving a shift toward sustainable practices and solutions? How is it relevant to DOTs? The speakers will discuss global and national trends in population, economics, energy and natural resources and their relevance to DOT missions and visions.

Joshua Skov is a principal at Good Company. He supports partners in the development of sustainability indicators, assessment tools, and greenhouse gas inventories. He leads Good Company’s climate services practice.

Sam Seskin is Transportation Planning Director at CH2M HILL and has been involved for 30 years in transportation, land use, and economic impact projects at the local, regional, state, national and international levels. He has directed innovative and award-winning transportation plans, with an emphasis on sustainability.

Joshua Proudfoot is a principal at Good Company, a leading sustainability consulting firm in the Pacific Northwest. His work focuses on management programs and market development for transportation, energy and water agencies and the environmental solutions vendors that serve infrastructure providers.

9:15 am – 11:00 am  
**Panel Discussion, Ballroom A&B**  
**DOT Programs and Frameworks**

**Margi Lifsey, Sustainability Program Manager, Oregon Department of Transportation**  
**Gary McVoy, Operations Division Director, New York Department of Transportation**  
**Bill Petit, District Executive, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation**

Peer exchange attendee surveys and interviews revealed that there is high interest in examining sustainability from a program and framework perspective. Panelists will discuss examples of DOT sustainability programs, followed by discussion with the larger group.

Margi Lifsey is the Sustainability Program Manager for the Oregon Department of Transportation. She serves in the Director's Office and leads the agency's efforts on sustainability and climate change. She has extensive and diverse experience as an environmental attorney, having served previously with the Natural Resources Division in the Oregon Attorney General's office, with the Stoel Rives LLP law firm, and with the Oregon Department of Human Services in the area of environmental health.
Gary McVoy, Ph.D. became Director Operations Division, New York State Department of Transportation in 2007 with responsibility for maintenance, traffic operations, modal safety, truck permitting, field equipment and facilities, employee safety, and emergency response. Co-author of Environmental Analysis of Transportation Systems, Gary has authored numerous papers and presentations on a range of transportation related topics including Environmental Stewardship, Computer Modeling, Expert Systems, Asset Management, Maintenance Management, and Sustainability.

Bill Petit is currently leading PennDOT’s Smart Transportation initiative and a new integrated project development process specifically focused on linking Planning and NEPA. He began his career with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, in 1983. He has held positions within all three major functional units within the District operations - Maintenance, Construction, and Design.

11:00 am – 11:15 am  
**Break**

11:15 am – 12:00 pm  
**Panel Discussion, Ballroom A&B**  
*Transit Perspectives on Transportation and Sustainability*

  **William Millar**, President, American Public Transportation Association  
  **J. Barry Barker**, Executive Director, Transit Authority of River City  
  **Joseph M. Casey**, General Manager, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Public buses, rapid transit and commuter rail systems are a critical component of the overall transportation system. Panelists will discuss transportation and sustainability from a transit agency perspective.

William Millar is the president of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). Prior to APTA, Bill served 19 years at the Port Authority of Allegheny County, the principal transit operator serving Pittsburgh, PA. He is the founder of Pittsburgh’s award-winning ACCESS paratransit service.

Barry Barker, a 33-year veteran of public transit, has been Executive Director of the Transit Authority of River City (TARC) since 1994. He is the Vice Chair of Governmental Affairs for the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), serves on the Executive Committee for the National Transportation Research Board, is Chairman of the National Transit Institute Board and Chairman of Transit Research Analysis Committee.

Joseph M. Casey, a career public transportation executive, is the General Manager of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA). Prior to becoming General Manager, he served as SEPTA's Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  
**Luncheon, Ballroom A&B**
Discipline-Focused Breakout Sessions – Part 1, Ballroom A&B

Best Practices

Breakout Groups:
- Planning and Multimodal, Room 1A
- Design and Construction, Room 1B
- Operations and Maintenance, Room 1C

The first facilitated breakout session will focus on best practices for specific DOT disciplines: Planning and Multimodal, Design and Construction, and Operations and Maintenance. Groups will participate in facilitated discussions regarding sustainability practices, including (but not limited to) economic efficiency, stormwater and habitat, materials, climate and air emissions and social well-being.

Break

Discipline-Focused Breakout Sessions – Part 2, Ballroom A&B

Defining and Communicating Sustainability Internally and Externally

Breakout Groups:
- Mixed Discipline, Room 1A
- Mixed Discipline, Room 1B
- Mixed Discipline, Room 1C

The second breakout session focuses on what sustainability means for a DOT, and how to communicate this to internal and external audiences. This facilitated session will answer questions such as: Who are the key audiences? How can language and communication build consensus? How can DOTs best discuss concerns and opportunities?

Personal Time

Dinner, Ballroom C&D

Friday, May 29, 2009

Breakfast, Ballroom C&D

Discipline-Focused Breakout Sessions – Part 3, Ballroom A&B

Measuring and Tracking Success

Breakout Groups:
- Planning and Multimodal, Room 1A
- Design and Construction, Room 1B
- Operations and Maintenance, Room 1C

The final breakout session will focus around measurement and tracking of sustainability success. Groups will discuss the benefits and challenges for DOTs. Facilitated discussion will include topics such as: What is important to measure? What decisions do metrics – or should metrics – inform? What measures are already in use? How should DOTs provide incentives for performance?
10:00 am – 10:30 am  **Break**

10:30 am – 12:00 pm  **Large Group Discussion, Ballroom A&B**
**Reports Back from Breakout Sessions**

The larger group will reconvene, and designated breakout group representatives will share their group experiences and findings. Emphasis will be on points of commonality, and shared best practices, successes, challenges, and needs.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  **Luncheon, Ballroom C&D**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm  **Large Group Discussion, Ballroom A&B**
**Cross Cutting Themes for Short-Term and Long-Term Sustainability Agendas for DOTs**

The larger group will address the opportunity and challenge of developing short- and long-term agendas around sustainability. Discussion may relate to defining sustainability at different scales for DOTs both agency-wide and by department. What will a “sustainable” DOT look like 10 years from now – 20 years from now – 30 years from now? What do DOTs need to do to get there?

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm  **Close, Ballroom A&B**

    Allen D. Biehler, AASHTO President

2:30 pm  **Adjourn**
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