

Scott TRB 2021 Third Quarter Conference Call Agenda
AKR20

July 14, 2021

The meeting started at 1:02 Eastern

Welcome

In attendance:

Bold = Committee Member, *Italics* = Committee Friend, Neither = Guest

Scott Lucas , Ohio DOT, Committee Chair	<i>Sunil Repaka</i> , Caltrans	Matthew Quirey , The Ray
Mary Ellen Papin , NYSDOT, Committee Secretary	<i>Tom Hein</i> , Kansas DOT	Kristine Nemec , U Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center, Committee Communications Coordinator
Brian Smith - FHWA	Marci Lininger, Ohio DOT	Cheryl Daniels , Davey Resource Group
<i>Joel Hunt</i> , Ohio DOT	<i>Wilson McBurney</i> , AKD 40 Chair, Moffatt & Nichol	<i>Rick Mauer</i> , Gregory Industries
Yuzhe Guan, MN DOT	Kris Gade , Arizona DOT	Rhett Desselle , Louisiana DOT
Ehsan Zahed , VRX Global	<i>Christina Schaefer</i> , Wisconsin DOT	Ray Willard , WS DOT, Committee Research Coordinator
<i>Behzad Bamdad Mehrebani</i> , UC Louvain, Belgium	<i>Alissa Salmore</i> , Idaho Transportation Dept	<i>Jennifer Tiara</i> , Caltrans
Ken Murray , Caltrans	<i>Vonceil Harmon</i> , University of Oklahoma	<i>Lawrence Alongu</i> , Uganda National Roads Authority
<i>Nitin Tiwari</i> , Indian Inst of Tech	<i>Julius Rinosa</i> , Ferrovial Services	<i>Laura Greninger</i> , NYSDOT
Dave Bergner , Monte Vista	<i>Chris Standley</i> , NYSDOT	<i>Behzad Esmaeili</i> , George Mason University
<i>Cody Stolle</i> , University of Nebraska	<i>Martin Krebs</i> , Virginia DOT	<i>Juli Hartwig</i> , Wash DOT

Review of Minutes from the 2nd Quarter Meeting- one name correction was indicated.

Project 20-06 25-04 - Discuss how we need to ensure this project is complimentary to and coordinate with the projects we were approved for earlier in the year. Will discuss later in the meeting.

Comments from our section meeting-

- We had a section chairs meeting on June 10th.
- The section Chair for AKR00 is Anita Bush, reviewed a listing of AASHTO Subcommittee meetings that were to take place later in 2021.
- The Committee Research and Communications Coordinators were also invited to the meeting and were able to have a breakout session.
- The theme of the 2022 Annual Meeting, "Innovating a more just, resilient, sustainable and safe transportation system."
- The Annual meeting will be live, January 9th – 13th, 2022. There will not be a virtual component. We will offer the AKR 20 committee meeting remotely via Teams.

- Training sessions for Incoming chairs are still being offered by video. I have not heard if they are planning on the same training for incoming Communications and Research Coordinators. Scott Lucas also spoke with James Bryant – There are some online options for communications and research coordinators. If others are also interested in doing some cross-training, please let Scott know.

Annual Meeting

- What topics do we want to discuss during our committee meeting?
 - o We need to think about what we want to discuss during the committee meeting. As we only have one lectern session (1 hour 45 min) we may want to cover some things during the committee meeting.
 - o Ray Willard stated the committee meeting at the annual meeting is really a quarterly meeting. Should we have a break-out and do some writing for research needs?
 - o Cheryl Daniels suggested possibly including a litter study presentation. Ray Willard added maybe also something as to updates for the new panel studies.
 - o Graffiti abatement was suggested as a possibility.
 - o Something on homeless encampments.
 - o Kris Gade suggested something on fire/resilience.
 - o Scott Lucas will set up another brief meeting regarding planning the annual meeting topics and the Lectern session.
- If you want to look at posters and presentations from last year's meeting, you can find them at <https://annualmeeting.mytrb.org/OnlineProgram>

Lectern Sessions-

- Rough drafts were due in early May. TRB is OK with what we have now – Asset management, crosscutting with other groups. Stormwater practice assets, pollinator site assets, safety, etc, and the interrelatedness amongst all of these.
- We can host one lectern session this year.
- These are invited speakers, not just papers. (TRB is looking at some papers as posters)
- Ray proposed asset management project and crosscutting across most of the other groups. He continued the discussion at the Committee Research Coordinator breakout meeting.
 - o Collaboration with other sections and groups is important and needed. Need a good representation of the session details. It needs to be specific by the time the proposal is submitted, not just ideas. Have direct discussions with the other Group Chairs involved. These conversations need to revolve around not only on the topics, but on the possible outcomes as well.
 - o What other Lectern sessions do we want to have? They must have around 1.75 hours of content.
- Marci Lininger with Ohio District 6 said they are looking at slope erosion/invasive species control/pollinators/aesthetics. They are hoping to get a grant but have decided to proceed with this even if they don't. She'd be happy to use this as a case study but is not sure which meeting this would fit best in. Scott Lucas thought maybe a webinar. (Marci Lininger was going to fill in Scott Lucas on the details later.)
- Scott Lucas mentioned the hydraulics group also for a webinar.
- Alissa Salmore heard a talk on a group that was working with energy production (e.g. solar) in the ROW. Keep ears out for a more multi-goal aspect of ROW use. Scott Lucas mentioned the Biden administration's proposal on use of ROW for energy uses. Marci Lininger said this was a good idea to bring up. In OH they suggested to use retired rest stops for solar farms and habitat.

These are already paved areas. Marci Lininger said it would be good to talk with technical committees. Kris Gade also look at AMS 20 regarding solar overlap with pollinators. Brian Smith said there is a growing concern regarding Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) which may accumulate in the ROW if they were used for a fire. AMS 20 is also looking at this. Scott Lucas said that Ken Murray with Caltrans also mentioned this previously. Ray Willard thought there were concerns with fish kill due to high concentrations of the materials.

- Ray Willard said we need to remember we can do presentations any time, not just at the annual meeting.

Webinars-

TRB accepts webinar suggestion forms on a year-round basis. Forms are processed, and webinars are scheduled on the following annual cycle:

- Forms submitted from March 16 to July 15 are processed and webinars are scheduled from September 1 to December 31.
- Forms submitted from July 16 to November 15 are processed and webinars are scheduled from January 1 to April 30.
- Forms submitted from November 16 to March 15 are processed and webinars are scheduled from May 1 to August 30.
- Suggest a Webinar (mytrb.org)

AKR 20 was approved to hold a webinar this year. It will be held on August 16, 2021 between 2:00pm and 3:30pm EDT. The title of the webinar is, "TRB Webinar: Roadsides and Transportation Assets-Georgia Case Study." I hope that many of you will be able to attend. Please pass along invites to others.

Workshops-

- There will only be 50 workshops this year. Only two workshops will be held for each section.

New Members and Friends-

- If you know of someone who would be a good committee member, please direct them to sign up as a friend and let me know if they would like to become a committee member. Keep in mind our new proposed scope when recruiting friends of the committee and subcommittee. We need to work on making sure we have a good diversity, also young members (<30). If you know of any good candidates, please suggest them.

Call for Papers-

- June 1st the paper submission site opened for paper submission. The paper submittal deadline is August 1st.
- Papers can be proposed as part of a lectern session or poster session.
- The review process will start in mid-August. Each paper will need a minimum of 2 reviews, but three reviewers are preferred.
- The reviews will be due on September 15th and final recommendations on the papers are due on October 1st.
- If you would like to be a reviewer, please contact Scott Lucas. Bhaven Naik has volunteered to be the committees paper review coordinator.

Posters-

- Final details are due October 1st. We can have multiple poster sessions. Poster sessions can be on internal projects, papers and research.
- Ray is putting together a Roadside Assets Research Needs Poster. He needs volunteers to meet and flesh it out.

- Ray Willard explained that this poster is basically another version of the WSDOT zones/land use poster. There would be bubbles with our research priorities pointing to the relevant area of the ROW while also showing connections to other committees.
- What other poster ideas does anyone have?
We can have multiple papers, they're pretty good size.
Bob LaRoche is willing to send out the call on this.

Blue-Ribbon Awards-

- We do not have a deadline yet but stay on the lookout for Blue-Ribbon Awards. They did not offer an award for 2020 Our committee won a Blue-Ribbon Award in 2018.
- [Blue Ribbon Awards | About TRB](#)
- The focus on this is being revived a bit.

Triennial Plan and Name Change Update-

- They will not be due until April 2022. They have developed a new format and will send it out for review, so we can reformat our current plan. Our first draft will be due this fall, a bit sooner than was expected.
- A lot of this has been worked out in the past so hopefully a lot of it will be just plug and play. We will have questions for the committee.

Committee Communications Coordinator Update- Kristin Nemec

- We have new Committee Communications Coordinator, Kristin Nemec.
- Kristen has been working on updating the website. She is gradually adding information from the old site to the new one.
- Let Kristen know if there is anything that should be added in the way of webinar announcements, etc.
- <https://sites.google.com/view/trbmocommittee>

Committee Research Coordinator Update- Ray Willard

- Assistance with putting together research needs statements and lectern sessions.
 - NCHRP Needs Statements. We need a group of people willing to help write research needs statements.
 - WS DOT did a study on goats which had a 2016 report. – Ray will put it on the website or Scott Lucas will send it out. It ended up being more expensive than mowing. In some areas the Shepard was always required to be present on-site. Stormwater ponds were the best place for it in their study if the pond is just supposed to have bigger trees.
 - Ray showed a copy of the running summary he has been keeping. Some recent developments:
 - Two or our projects were recently funded. Panels are being assembled.
 - 14-47/F-01 Tools and Technology for Roadside Landscape Asset Management
 - 20-129/SP-01 BMPs to Address Encampments on State Highway ROWs (TTI is currently looking at another smaller project on the legal issues.) The study is looking at putting together a guidebook.
 - There are links in the RW's summary to the project descriptions.
 - Added a bullet for managing roadside vegetation for energy transmission and production to the future research priorities section of the summary.
- Brian Smith asked about the possibility of making an interactive poster on the TRB website. His thought was to have it illustrate how committees are interconnected. Ray Willard noted it would be very good if people could leave comments also. Scott Lucas will ask James Bryant about this.

Sub-Committee on Pollinators-

- Sub- Committee on Pollinator report by Kristine Nemec
- The subcommittee had their second meeting on 5/27:
 - Might be good to have a poster about the subcommittee or one about case studies that folks could learn from.
 - Cathy Ford from Idaho collaborated with WTI and Montana State University to map milkweed on the ROW. This could be useful in determining how to protect Milkweed populations.
 - They talked about seed and the issues of local supply.
 - Their next meeting will be in late August/early September.
 - If you want to be a committee member, reach out to Scott Lucas or Jennifer Hopwood. Marci Lininger is interested.
 - Kristine Nemec is the Sub-committee Communications Coordinator. Ray Willard is serving as the Sub-committee Research Coordinator, but they are looking for someone to take over that role. Ray Willard said he would be willing to help train a replacement. Matt Quirey and Christa Schaefer both expressed interest in this.

Additional positions on the committee that can be filled-

- Vice Chair
- Session Coordinator
- Paper Review Coordinator- Bhaven Naik has volunteered for this position.

Ray Willard showed what a research needs statement (RNS) needs to look like. He also showed the RNS database within the TRB website. Ray has made a Word template to mimic this database, he shared this (attached below).

Will do two breakouts next to work on two of these:

- Roadside Fire Prevention and Response
- Managing Roadside Vegetation for Energy Transmission and Production

The breakouts didn't work on Teams today so everyone still on the meeting stayed in one session for the Energy Transmission issue. Ray set a follow up meeting for August 19th to work on the RNSs in more detail.

Matt Quirey provide a link to a tool they have available for solar site selection.

<https://theray.org/2020/09/15/the-ray-ut-austin-unveil-solar-mapping-tool-for-interstates/>

Scott Lucas requested that folks use Ray Willard's template to prepare RNS for other research projects started.

Drainage/ stormwater committee is meeting next week.

Closing remarks

The meeting ended at 3:00 Eastern.

Insert RNS Title Here

RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT

- *Outline the context and describe the research gap in a series of bullet points*

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

- *Explain beneficial outcomes in terms of Roadside Landscape Asset Management*

RELATED RESEARCH

- *List connections with prior research (if any)*
- *List other committees with a stake in the issue*

SPECIFIC TASKS

- *Describe any products or process related tasks required*