

## LRRB/RIC JOINT SUMMER MEETING

June 2-3, 2009

### LRRB Members Present:

Mitch Anderson, Stearns County  
Robert Johns, CTS  
Sue Miller, Freeborn County  
Linda Taylor, Mn/DOT  
Bruce Hasbargen, Lake of the Woods County

Deb Bloom, City of Roseville  
Steve Koehler, City of New Ulm  
Julie Skallman, Mn/DOT  
Rick West, Otter Tail County

### RIC Members Present:

Tom Behm, DSAE Mn/DOT  
Gary Danielson, Kandiyohi County  
Rick West, Ottertail County  
Rick Kjonaas, Mn/DOT  
Mel Odens, City of Willmar  
Mike Sheehan, Olmsted County

Tom Colbert, City of Eagan  
Jim Grothaus, CTS  
Cory Johnson, Mn/DOT  
Clark Moe, Mn/DOT  
Rich Sanders, Polk County  
Maureen Jensen, Mn/DOT

### Others Present:

Renee Kuehl, SRF  
Ann McLellan, Mn/DOT  
Shirlee Sherkow, Mn/DOT

Mike Marti, SRF  
Linda Preisen, CTS

Members Absent: Keith Shannon, Mn/DOT

### **Morning Session:**

#### **Chairman's Opening Remarks:**

The chair announced two new members: Mel Odens from RIC and Steve Koehler from LRRB.

#### **Conference Reports:**

Reviewed the list of the 2009 LRRB meetings, including the dates and the locations.

***Action Item: For 2010 Conferences, LRRB board members were asked to send Ann McLellan any additional conferences not on the list in the booklet. She needs these for the fall LRRB meeting.***

### **2010 LRRB Meeting Dates and Locations**

The meeting on Sept. 24, 2009 will be at Mankato State University instead of the City of Mankato. The March 4, 2010 meeting will be held at St. Cloud, Stearns County conference room.

***Action Item: Ann will reschedule the November 2009 and the November 2010 meeting to either MnROAD or St. Cloud instead of the video conferencing rooms.***

## **Conference Reports**

Maureen Jensen attended AAPT Conference. Highlights of the Modified Asphalt Conference will be given in the future.

There was some discussion concerning the CTS Conference. The highlight was the luncheon speaker, Tom Vanderbilt, who was entertaining. The slides and the presentation, overall, were very good. David Levinson and Kevin Krizek also gave a presentation on access/congestion. It was reported that over 300 people attended.

## **Research Development:**

Cory Johnson reported on the process and the calendar involving the problem statements. There were no focus groups this time, just solicitations. For today, we will be discussing the problem statements and the knowledge building priorities.

The LRRB process is locked down. We will be discussing 15 problem statements today. There may be additional ones.

## **Best Value Proposal (Clark Moe)**

Scope of work handout completed after the March meetings. Mn/DOT will be paying for guidance. RIC will look at the delivery and training. LTAP will define the cope and training will be one day. There is no training out there right now. Training should be made available on the state and local levels. Clark requested volunteers from the RIC and LRRB to help with the Best Value process. They will need to set up evaluation criteria. The RIC will deliver the training. Mike indicated that they need 9 cities or counties to participate. Someone asked about the timeline and that is available in the proposal.

*Action Item: Submit names to Clark Moe on who's interested in working on the Best Value project.*

## **Traffic Generators Proposal (Sue Miller)**

Sue Miller enclosed a handout in our booklet that includes a draft scope. Several people commented on the draft scope. There has been a review of the literature and there are models other states use. The audience for this is city and country engineers. It applies in rural and urban areas. Clark indicated that this was a good opportunity for joint funding from the LRRB and RIC. Details of the funding have not been established yet. Someone asked if they would need documentation for the legislature to recapture the costs. There will be workshops this fall on this topic. In answer to a question, Sue Miller

indicated that the League of Minnesota Cities would review it and hopefully the AMC will endorse it. She added that they will try to involve all of the entities that would need to be involved. Someone asked if neighboring states would be involved. Several people felt that there was a need to coordinate with neighboring states and it was a good idea to involve them. Sue will definitely get ideas from Iowa and perhaps other states.

### **Roads and Loads ( Maureen Jensen and Rick Kjonaas)**

Heavy farm vehicles on the bridges, etc. are a concern and they would like this discussed at the legislative level. There are roads without permits and that is a big concern because there is a negative effect on the roads. A study is going on at Mn/ROAD about this topic right now. The results will be available in 2010 and it was recommended that the results be presented to the Legislature in the next session. It was mentioned that there will be testing in 2009 and in 2010. This is a good study, but it will not be completed by the next legislative session.

Another study is a pooled fund study involving wide-based tires. They have a negative impact on the roads too. The RFP is just going out now for this study. It is led by FHWA and involves six other states. Garbage haulers also create problems because they are too heavy and they damage roads. These issues need to be addressed to the policy makers and the Legislature. There is also a Manitoba study of wide-based tires that is showing some results.

The Mn/ROAD study includes partners from the private sector. They are looking at the effects of different vehicles on different sections. Different vehicles/loads/tires: they have completed 9 or so of these, so far, in the study. They are also looking at the speed of the vehicle. If the vehicle moves faster, there is less damage to the road. All of the testing will be completed by June of 2011.

With the Manitoba and the Illinois study, it is indicated that tire pressure does make a difference. Someone suggested that they would like something short written as an education piece, possibly a short report that discusses the findings of the study. It was suggested that a team needs to be put together before the Legislative session to start working on this educational piece. There are case examples that can be shared with the Legislature. There was some discussion about how to move forward on these ideas. Someone mentioned that there should be team work with the League of Cities and other similar entities. There seemed to be consensus about writing a five page report, an educational piece, for the Legislature. It was also mentioned that everyone needs to be delivering the same message on this topic. LRRB was interested in funding this next step for an interim report. Someone added that State Aid could perhaps participate in the lobbying effort that would be needed. It was mentioned that State Aid dollars to complete some written pieces are available. There is a necessity to put a team together to address these written reports/packets. It was recommended that at tomorrow's meeting, a motion maybe should be brought up in relation to these educational efforts.

## **Problem Statement Summary Sheet:**

Alan Rindels handed out the spreadsheet containing the problem statements. LRRB and RIC need to discuss at their separate meetings and bring back their thoughts to the joint meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, for discussion.

## **Afternoon LRRB Meeting**

### **Chairman Report: Approval of Minutes**

The March meeting minutes were approved by Mitch Anderson and seconded by Bob Johns and the **motion passed**.

*Action Item: Ann McLellan will reschedule the September 24, 2009 meeting to the University campus at Mankato and work with Jim Wilde.*

### **University Updates:**

Eil Kwan presented his slides about the University of Minnesota/Duluth engineering program. There is a new civil engineering building and it will be completed in Jan. of 2010. Eil also presented an overview of NATSRL.

Jim Wilde presented his slides about Mn/DOT projects at Mankato.

### **Knowledge Building Priorities Update:**

Linda Preisen went through her handouts concerning knowledge building. She indicated that on July 8, 2009, there would be a Knowledge Building Priorities workshop. The folder for the summer meeting has an insert about the workshop.

### **Administration (Ann McLellan):**

#### **LRRB Budget Update and Budget Categorization Results:**

Ann McLellan talked about highlights from her spreadsheet. On her sheet, the green texted items are newly completed. They will be deleted for the next budget.

Fiscal year 2010 programs were added.

Programs and administration were split for MnROAD and OPERA was split between administration and projects. Categories of administration, program and project are along the left margin as requested at the last LRRB board meeting. There are 14 Administrative categories, 23 Program categories and 54 Project categories.

\$280,000 was paid to MnROAD. \$136,915 was paid to the Office of Materials for tasks completed.

Fiscal year 2010 contingency funds will be decreased by \$7,000 plus tax for LRRB trinkets. This is added to INV 999, as approved by the outreach committee.

The LRRB Board requested that INV 885, Research Test Section Tracking, Phase 2, project total of \$130,000 should be reduced to \$55,000 on the budget spreadsheet.

Dr. Gupta's project, "Performance Based Transportation Construction Contracts" was added to the budget at \$30,000.

The following 3 projects were added to the budget after they were approved at the March 2009 Board meeting:

1. Outreach and Training program for a Thoughtful Street Tree Master Plan (INV 892) for \$20,000.
2. Best Value Proposal for \$30,000.
3. BMP for Large Traffic Site proposal for \$10,000.

At the end of the meeting, the RIC funded the "Best Value Proposal for \$30,000. Therefore, \$30,000 was removed from the LRRB budget.

For INV 999 project administration for fiscal year 2012, another \$30,000 was added due to the potential increase in attendance at the Low Volume conference that takes place every four years.

We are all right in the carry forward. We will not lose money.

For Fiscal year 2010, we have negative \$2,280.00. \$7,103 is remaining from fiscal year 2008, INV 999 and will be carried over, so spendable assets are \$4,823 for fiscal year 2010. Then, \$30,000 can be added back from the Best Value proposal. We have \$34,820 in spendable assets.

## **INV 999**

The balance as of this meeting is \$10,067.00 for fiscal year 2009. We will use this money up. \$8,833 will be spent for printing the annual report that was sent to all city and county engineers. This is acceptable because we are at the end of the fiscal year. About \$7,000 for trinkets will be moved from fiscal year 2010 contingency fund into INV 999, as approved by the outreach committee.

## **Annual Program Book:**

Ann McLellan handed out the Annual Program Book.

***Action Item: Ann McLellan to do a financial breakdown of each category during one meeting a year for the budget and do a program split between implementation and research.***

**Problem statement decisions:**

1. Trucks and Roundabouts: HOLD
2. Minnesota Roundabout Experience to date: HOLD
3. Single lane v. Multi-Lane Roundabout Safety Characteristics: HOLD
4. Continued Performance Monitoring of Olmstead CR 117 and 104 and Aggregate Base Material Update: RFP
5. Transportation Planning for Wind Farm Construction: DONE
6. Phase 2—Implementation and Testing Dynamic School Bus Stop Ahead Sign: HOLD
7. Developing a Conversion Procedure between Pavement Quality Index and Pavement Surface Evaluation Rating: HOLD
8. Development of Performance Tests into Mn/DOT Mixture Design: RFP
9. Full Depth Reclamation, Where and When for Local Road authorities: Synthesis First, TERRA interaction and RFP
10. Quality Control of RAP: HOLD
11. Alternative Snowplow Blades – Performance: HOLD
12. Cold Patch Alternative Development: RFP
13. Prevention of Vandalism and Theft of Intelligent Transportation systems components: HOLD
14. Integration and expansion of equipment exchange between multi-jurisdictional governmental agencies: HOLD
15. Snow simulator for cities and counties in Minnesota: RIC and feedback from cities and counties

***Action Item: In the future, add more time to the agenda for problem statement discussion.***

**Funding Requests and Modifications:**

Maureen Jensen and Ann McLellan discussed INV 885: Test Section Tracking Phase 2. Maureen indicated that she was going to the Pooled Fund meeting and will discuss this. She indicated that Task 3 was done by the Lab internally. For Task 2, the Lab was making improvements to the database and the website. For Task 5, other states may add more functionality at no cost to the LRRB board. She will let us know how everything turns out with INV 885.

***Action Item: Maureen Jensen will give a future update on this project.***

## **Funding Decisions:**

Linda Preisen said of Dr. Gupta's "Performance Based Transportation Construction Contracts" that New York State is willing to put money in through Pooled Fund and also, that CTS has seed research funding available. Mn/DOT is looking again at all of this funding. Michigan is still considering this project also, so this project is moving ahead. Therefore, the \$30,000 should remain in the budget for this project.

BMP for Large Site Traffic proposal---the RIC funded the project for \$85,000. The RIC asked the LRRB Board to match the funding at \$85,000. Julie Skallman moved to take \$44,000 from fiscal year 2010, LRRB money, but \$10,000 of fiscal year 2010 LRRB money was already set aside in the budget for this project. Julie also moved to take \$41,000 from fiscal year 2012 LRRB money. Julie so moved and Sue Miller seconded and the **motion passed**. Therefore, \$823 is available for fiscal year 2010.

## **Day 2: Morning session**

### **Research Implementation Committee Update:**

Rick West updated our group. RIC approved funding, \$85,000, for the Traffic Generation Tool. The RIC will manage that tool. They reviewed the idea list and there is no funding for these.

Snow plow simulator was deferred to State Aide. They felt it was a good opportunity and a good training tool.

Base contract is well on the way.

As an overview for the RIC, they are interested in putting research into practice, not having research sit on the shelf. They are working with Jim Grosthaus to get all of the materials out.

### **Outreach Committee Update (Julie Skallman):**

Julie Skallman said they will continue the newsletter (2 per year). They will produce 3 Web stories a year. There will be up to 5 presentations a year. SRF will help the University with presentations, including slides, etc. Booths are not the best way to get the message out about the LRRB. At some conferences, there will be foam boards. They have ordered some trinkets. They would like to do something special this year since it is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LRRB.

Under the Outreach tab of the booklet, is a list of conferences. There are 14 on the list and they only want to present at 5. They are asking the LRRB Board to identify the 5

conferences for presentations. Also, Julie asked board members for projects that they are proud of and that includes RIC projects and LRRB research projects. There followed a discussion about the conferences. There were no final decisions made at this meeting and Julie said that she will be asking for help with this identification of conferences, throughout the year. There was a brief discussion about some future video broadcasts concerning road safety and training.

***Action Item: Add to all future agendas a time to discuss projects for the outreach committee.***

### **LRRB Web Site Redesign (Jake Akervik):**

Jake presented a slide presentation and also handed out printed copies of the slides. The slide presentation resulted in a discussion about several topics related to the Web site redesign. Students at the University of Minnesota critiqued the redesign and we also discussed some of their feedback. It was suggested that there be a Web subcommittee to further discuss these various ideas. Deb Bloom offered to lead this initiative. Other members would be Sue Miller, Jake Akervik, Maureen Jensen, Tom Colbert and some members of the outreach committee.

***Action Item: The website subcommittee should look at various ideas and bring back to the September meeting.***

### **INV 873, Foamed Asphalt**

Roger Olson went through his slide presentation. This was mostly an educational look at the meaning and results from this research project.

### **INV 852, Drainage Surface Manual for MN Pavements—Next Steps (Jim Grosthaus):**

Jim asked the board what they wanted to do with this manual, which is a very large book. The LRRB funded this project 3 years ago. Jim was asking if there still is a need for this book. It was decided that the TAP should reconvene and discuss this topic. Since the book will be available in a month, it was suggested that this topic be discussed at the September, 2009 meeting.

***Action Item: Alan Rindels to reconvene TAP to determine what they want and bring back to the board.***

### **Discussions and Closing Remarks:**

Deb Bloom reminded everyone to get their expense reports in ASAP for this meeting. Rich made a motion to adjourn and Gary seconded it and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned.