

MINUTES
QUARTERLY TELECONFERENCE
FHWA/NAHBA
FEBRUARY 5, 2007

Attendees:

Jimmy Isonhood, Chairman, Mississippi DOT
Clyde Johnson, TBE Group
Myron Laible, OAAA
Kevin Fry, Scenic America
Keith Melvin, South Carolina DOT
Rod Boehm, Tennessee DOT
Joanna Campbell, Georgia DOT
John Garner, Florida DOT
Juanice Hagan, Florida DOT
Steve Westvold, Iowa DOT
Steve Gent, Iowa DOT
Cathy O'Hara, FHWA-Washington
Bob Black, FHWA - Washington
Janis Gramatins, FHWA-Washington
Robin Broils-Cox, FHWA-Washington
Gerald Solomon, FHWA - Washington
Marshall Wainwright, FHWA-Washington
Scott Wheeler, North Carolina DOT

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by NAHBA Chair Jimmy Isonhood .

South Carolina Pilot Program – Keith Melvin, SCDOT

Staff is currently addressing several issues raised by FHWA in their review of the proposed pilot project. South Carolina intends to submit their answers by the end of the current month. Keith explained that he and his staff have met with the affected billboard companies, local affected governments and interested third parties. Billboards in sensitive areas would be their first consideration for removal. Several questions were raised concerning the logistics of the program, and while Keith briefly described the goals of the program, he was quick to note that the pilot is still in a conceptual form and its "fine points" are still being worked out with FHWA. Several other state representatives indicated that they, too, would like to look at implementing such a program. FHWA indicated that a "pilot" program is implemented to try out a concept and while 1 or 2 other states might be considered for a similar research project, FHWA would like to watch the approved pilot very closely before opening up the concept to other states.

Status of FHWA Documents – Jimmy Isonhood, Mississippi DOT

Jimmy indicated that his staff continues to work on the indexing of the FHWA scanned documents. While the task is more tedious and time consuming than he had originally thought, they believe they can have it completed before the next NAHBA Conference in late August 2007.

Proposed Legislation by Congress – Jimmy Isonhood

The hurricane destroyed language contained in a bill before Congress has been removed for the time being. At the time the Democrats took control, they took out of the bill all earmarks and special language. NAHBA will continue to monitor the issue.

Update on Assessment Report – Cathy O’Hara, FHWA

Cathy asked Gerald Solomon to give an update on the Assessment Study. It was reported that the Institute is to distribute the final report to all participants in the Study, hopefully this week. Within a short period of time, FHWA will publish and open the report up for public comment. If the report is not received and a copy needs to be secured, please contact Cathy or Gerald at FHWA.

Outdoor Advertising Training Course – Cathy O’Hara, FHWA

Cathy, Marshall and Robin are spearheading the development of an outdoor advertising training course. This will be a very basic web-based course which lasts approximately four (4) hours and is intended for new employees at the federal, state and local government level. The story board concept has been completed and it is anticipated that the course will be ready for testing by April 2007. Cathy thanked Clyde Johnson and NAHBA’s training course team for their assistance. States who would like to participate in the pilot training are asked to contact Cathy O’Hara at FHWA.

Date and Location of 2007 Conference – Jimmy Isonhood

The Conference is tentatively scheduled for August 26-29, 2007 in Jackson, Mississippi. As plans are finalized, they will be posted on the NAHBA web page.

Other Items

Cathy O’Hara indicated FHWA has been awarded funds for two research projects which will be initiated in 2008. One project will deal with safety issues of electronic message signs on traffic, and the second will look at identifying the revenue impact of the outdoor advertising industry on surrounding counties.

There being no other items to discuss, the teleconference was adjourned at 3:30 pm

/s/ Juanice Hagan
Juanice Hagan, Secretary