

MINUTES for BI-ANNUAL TELECONFERENCE

FHWA/NAHBA

Tuesday, May 17th, 2011

Participants:

Jean Todd- NE DOT	Jerry Kelly – AL DOT
Ken Payne – NE DOT	Roy Grasse – NC DOT
Brooks Glasnapp – IA DOT	Jim Barrett – VDOT
Wendy Elstun – Oregon DOT	Ron Krauss – FHWA- Michigan
Jessica Sawyer – MoDOT	Cheryl Malin & others – FHWA-New York
Joyce Musick – MoDOT	Janis Gramatins – FHWA –DC
Jenny Hall – MoDOT	Justin Luther – FHWA-NE
Keith Melvin – SC DOT	Christian Christoffers – FHWA PA
Beth Bender – PA DOT	Christy Currier – FHWA TX
Jeff Leonard – Del DOT	Neosho Price – FHWA OH
Juanice Hughes – FL DOT	Cathy O’Hara – FHWA DC
Personnel – NYS DOT	Mark Hasselmann – FHWA ME
Gus Cannon & others – TX DOT	Jared Johnson – YESCO
Melissa Staffeld – Michigan DOT	Kerry Yoakum – OAAA
Mike Heedy – AZ DOT	Myron Liable – OAAA
Mike Hoesli – IL DOT	Susan Rosetti – Cardno TBE
Connie Gilliam – TN DOT	

Meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm CST by Joyce Musick, Chairperson of NAHBA.

Items Discussed:

- (1) FHWA Update – Janis Gramatins of FHWA Washington Headquarters discussed the CEVMS Research just recently completed. FHWA is reviewing the information prior to releasing it verifying it is complete. They expect the results to be out shortly but did not provide a date. Also, discussed was the definition of Customary Maintenance of Non-Conforming signs. This too will be released shortly. This definition should be discussed with their state FHWA Division level to determine if they are in compliance or need to make changes.
- (2) Nonconforming signs – Brooks Glasnapp with IA DOT brought up two issues concerning nonconforming signs. A sign owner has initiated a zoning change to agricultural. What becomes of the permitted sign on this property; does it become nonconforming or illegal? States said that they would agree that the sign becomes nonconforming because the sign was at one time a lawfully permitted sign. Second issue is an on-premise sign on property that is subdivided. Sign no longer sits on business property; does the sign become nonconforming or illegal? States agreed it would become illegal according to their state’s rules since it was not permitted and it is not on-premise now.
- (3) Digital Ballpark sign visible from Interstate – Jean Todd with NE DOT placed on the agenda a ballpark sign is permitted to an Interstate but competing location owner says sign should not be considered billboard since it is intended for game functions. States agreed with their decision and felt that advertising visible from controlled routes should be regulated.
- (4) Distraction Issues - Jessica Sawyer with Missouri DOT brought up the distraction issue of signs as they pertain to on-premise vs. off-premise and also to conforming vs. nonconforming signs. Janis Gramatins with FHWA Washington discussed the purpose of the FHWA memo concerning the addition of wind turbines and solar panels. If the units power lighting to a previously unlit nonconforming sign then it should not be allowed but if the power goes into the main power grid then there is no problem. The memo should serve as a reminder as to not make substantial changes to a nonconforming sign.
- (5) NAHBA Annual Conference 2011 - Joyce Musick, Chair of NAHBA, mentioned that this year’s conference will be held August 7-11, 2011 in Charlotte, NC. She invited all states and interested parties to attend.
- (6) No further issues were discussed so the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm CST.

Minutes taken by Jessica Sawyer, Vice Chair.