

MINUTES
SEMI ANNUAL TELECONFERENCE
FHWA/NAHBA
Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Participants:

Tom Granda, FHWA	Jenny Hall, MODOT
Ed Kosola, FHWA	Bill May, OA Missouri
Mary Jane DaLuge, FHWA	Mary Tracy, Scenic America
Janis Gramatins, FHWA	Brooks Glasnapp, Iowa DOT
Jean Todd, Nebraska DOT	Jim Barrett, Future Law, Virginia
Ken Payne, Nebraska DOT	Lars Skugstad, Foster Media
Bob Frickles, Nebraska DOT	Gerry Johnson, YESCO
Ron Kraus, FHWA, Michigan	Gus Cannon, TXDOT
Bruce Davis, NY DOT	Juanice Hagan, FL DOT
Myron Liable, OAAA	John Garner, FL DOT
Kerry Yoakum, OAAA	Barbara Wessinger, SC DOT
Jessica Sawyer, MODOT	

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Barbara Wessinger, Chairperson of NAHBA.

Items Discussed:

(1) FHWA September 9, 2009 Guidance on Destroyed Signs – Ed Kosola of FHWA Washington Headquarters discussed the Guidance document and explained that it is intended as minimum guidance to the states and does not require a mandatory adoption. Any provisions utilized by states that differ from the guidance document need to be reviewed at the State FHWA Division level to determine if they are within effective control.

(2) On-premise signs – Barbara Wessinger discussed issues raised by several states on this issue. The direct question asked recently of the Board is: At what point do human features or physical features destroy contiguity between the business activity and the proposed sign site (ie., fee simple, single ownership property where road, river, building, corn fields, forest, etc., separate the business activity from the proposed sign? All participants agreed that you have to evaluate on a case-by-case basis. A state must perform due diligence to establish such criteria as underlying fee interest, easements, in-tact parcels, etc.

(3) Update on CEVMS research study (Effects of Commercial Electronic Variable Message Signs on Driver Attention and Distraction)– Ed Kosola relayed that the consultant has been selected and is laying the groundwork for the first phase of the study. FHWA will make a presentation on the progress of the Study at the 2010 NAHBA Annual Meeting.

(4) FHWA and the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (anticipated activities relating to modification to nonconforming signs) – Ed Kosola reported that FHWA is currently working on plans for a meeting in Washington in mid-November 2009 to discuss a guidance document on customary

maintenance. They are also looking at ways Scenic America and the Outdoor Advertising Association of America can be involved in the process.

(5) FHWA guidance to FHWA Division offices relating to procedures for OAC oversight reviews – Ed Kosola explained that FHWA does periodic process reviews of the State OAC programs. Staff has developed a format to be utilized by the Division offices. The review results in a report of findings with a response from the State and all follow-up on corrective items with established time tables. FHWA takes the position that the information contained within the reports is sensitive information and will not be published on the FHWA web site. This information can be secured through the FOIA process.

(6) Update on NAHBA Annual Conference – CMC & Associates has been secured as the conference planner and they have recommended that the 2010 conference be held in Madison, Wisconsin on August 15-18th. Additional information will be forthcoming.

(7) Update on AASHTO Right of Way Utilities Subcommittee – John Garner reported that the Subcommittee has received and reviewed the FHWA guidance document on destroyed signs and will be involved with the review of the draft guidance document on customary maintenance. John will continue to update the NAHBA Board on teleconferences and meetings of the Subcommittee to ensure there is strong partnership with NAHBA and FHWA.

(8) National Highway Institute OAC Training Courses/Webinar – Cathy O’Hara in the FHWA Washington Office will be available to provide OAC training to those states requesting it. In addition, she can coordinate the utilization of webinar training.

(9) Update on the proposed international scan relating to OAC – The goal of this scan will be to bring back ideas on the efficiency of the OAC program in the countries designated for review. The HBA has been in effect for a number of years and it is a good idea to evaluate new ideas and processes that could be integrated into our current practices. The scan group will be evaluating the level of regulation and the actual way the countries implement and carry out their regulatory control. Currently, dates of travels, countries and scan participants have not been identified. Additional information will be provided at a later date.

The floor was opened for questions:

(1) Texas reported they are having problems with wall murals in their larger cities. Several other states reported having the same issues. The NAHBA Board will monitor case law and the position of FHWA and discuss this issue with the membership at future meetings.

(2) A question was raised on the implementation and status of South Carolina pilot project. Barbara Wessinger reported that there have been no participants to date.

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

Juanice M. Hagan
Secretary/Treasurer

