



Transportation Library Pooled Fund Study

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Transportation Library Connectivity

Pooled Fund Study - TPF-5(105) Teleconference – July 24, 2007 - 10:30 to 12:30 CDT

Participants: Lisa Autio, Montana DOT (MDT); Jerry Baldwin, Minnesota DOT (Mn/DOT); John Cherney, Wisconsin DOT (WisDOT); Ruth Letson Tennessee DOT (TDOT); Marie Manthe, Kansas DOT (KDOT); Caitlin McKee, Ohio DOT (OhDOT); Leni Oman, (Washington DOT); Ann Pahnke, (WisDOT); Kathy Szolomayer, (WsDOT); Laura Wilt, Oregon DOT (ODOT); Christi Powers, Outreach/marketing services; Pat Casey & Maggie Sacco, Technical services; CTC & Associates.

I. Check-in/updates from TAC members

TDOT – Ruth Letson is working with librarians Ken Winter (Virginia DOT librarian) and Mary Ellen Tucker (University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research [Center](#)) to develop a southeastern transportation knowledge network (TKN). Using the Midwest Transportation Knowledge Network (MTKN) and Western Transportation Knowledge Network (WTKN) foundational documents, they are drafting their own articles and plan to meet in November in North Carolina. Ruth expressed that VDOT has strong objections to pooled fund study involvement in this regional TKN effort. Ann Pahnke indicated that she would like to follow up with Ken and Maureen Hammer (VDOT Knowledge Management Officer) to hear their concerns and determine how the pooled fund study could be of support. Marie Manthe added it might be helpful to seek input from Gary Allen (VDOT Chief of Technology, Research and Innovation) on this topic. Ann indicated that she will try to contact Gary at the 2007 AASHTO RAC Annual [Meeting](#) in Seattle.

Discussion ensued about appointments to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) TKN Special Task Group that is now being formed. TAC members noted that the pooled fund study can be used as a “no strings attached” funding mechanism for certain TKN-related endeavors. The study could be of support without steering the direction of TKN projects. Janet Bix pointed out that state program and research allotments are one way of funding projects, however, not all transportation libraries report directly to DOT research units. Such is the case with Ohio DOT and Oregon DOT; they are sponsored by research/development & training but don’t directly report to those research managers.

KDOT – Marie Manthe said she has spent considerable time drafting a position paper for T.A.L.E.N.T. She explained that this paper will not only assist transportation libraries during reauthorization but will also help substantiate the need for TKNs. Prior to distribution, the paper will be routed through several organizations to seek endorsements. Those organizations would include the American Public Transportation Association ([APTA](#)), the American Road & Transportation Builders Association ([ARTBA](#)) and the Council for University Transportation Centers ([CUTC](#)) for endorsements. Additionally, she is drafting minutes for MTKN teleconferences and expressed excitement about the formation of the AASHTO TKN Special Task Group. Dick McReynolds (KDOT research director) is nominating her for participation. More information on AASHTO TKN Special Task Group membership will be available after the Seattle meeting.

Mn/DOT – Jerry Baldwin said he is now operating with 33 percent less staff. He is gearing up for retirement, however, his position has not yet been posted. No firm retirement date is set as he intends to leave when a successor is named and gets acclimated.

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Oregon DOT – Laura Wilt announced that their state transportation building is undergoing renovation. All staff will be moved with a new location still being decided. Facility plans may include increased space for the library. Her Web-hosted catalogue/reference system is working well. She also participated in the WTKN teleconference on July 18. During that teleconference it was announced that the National Transportation Library (NTL) is still interested in hosting a face-to-face WTKN meeting in Irvine but perhaps not until next year when firm deliverables have been outlined and selected.

Ohio DOT – Janet Bix returned to part-time work after a medical leave of absence. The state has recently implemented a new Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (OAKS). As a result, adjustments and delays have occurred due to this transition. Ann Pahnke mentioned that Wisconsin is headed in a similar direction for a statewide accounting system and she would like more information as it becomes available. Caitlin McKee reported that she is working on a revision of the Web site and is using the 50-state Google metasearch engine to help locate DOT-related information such as organizational charts similar to the one located on AASHTO's [site](#).

WsDOT – Kathy Szolomayer reported that she is in her second month as Washington DOT librarian and getting oriented to her new duties. She is working on a collection development policy and assisting Leni Oman (WsDOT research director) with 2007 AASHTO RAC Annual Meeting plans. Secretary Doug MacDonald is retiring and Deputy Secretary Paula Hammond has been named for an interim appointment.

She also participated in the WTKN teleconference. Leni indicated that there was productive discussion and good participation. The WTKN formational documents, which have been posted on the blog, underwent group revision and are nearing completion. Significant discussion took place on broadening and defining terms. Other WTKN-related projects include a GIS map by Dale Steele (Arizona DOT) and Matt Barrett (Librarian, Dorothy Peyton Gray [Library](#)). In addition, Maggie Sacco is developing an RSS feed interface with the help of Louise Rosenzweig, Texas DOT/University of Texas.

WisDOT – John Cherney said he is on several space planning subcommittees that are now designing the new Wisconsin DOT headquarters. Increased library space is definitely being considered. John also indicated that he is setting up document archival space and seeks input from other TAC members who have experience in this area. In addition, John is interested in what other state DOTs are doing for Information Technology strategic planning and/or copies of IT plans.

MDOT – Lisa Autio took time off due to a death in the family. She recently attended a useful cataloging workshop in Bozeman and has arranged to borrow and copy safety videos from the Montana Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP). She inquired whether TAC members had access to other safety videos. Laura Wilt mentioned OSHA and Janet Bix said that there may be some available through the Bureau of Worker's Compensation office at Ohio DOT. Lisa also mentioned that she presented a Montana Research & Library online tour via [GoTo Meeting.com](#) during the WTKN July 18 teleconference.

II. Housekeeping

Minutes – The June 20, 2007 teleconference [minutes](#) were approved. It was also announced that Missouri DOT and the Center for Transportation Studies (CTS – University of Minnesota) are joining the pooled fund study.

III. AASHTO TKN Special Task Group

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Proposal, process & charter – After three teleconferences with Jerry Baldwin, Bob Cullen (AASHTO Information Manager), Ken Kobetsky, (AASHTO Program Director for Engineering), Amanda Wilson (NTL) and Maggie Sacco, a charter template was drafted by Christi Powers.

AASHTO RAC Officers/Seattle After several sets of revisions, Leni Oman agreed to present the charter and proposal to AASHTO RAC officers during their July teleconference. A list of “Top Ten” reasons was also compiled to substantiate the need for this special work group. Ann Pahnke participated on the call and indicated that the proposal was well-received and initially approved. More details and discussion will follow at the AASHTO RAC Annual Meeting in Seattle.

AASHTO TKN Special Work Group Membership – State DOT research managers will appoint and/or make recommendations for TKN work group members. Preliminary thoughts were to include a combination of transportation librarians, TAC members, representatives from the NCHRP 20-75 business plan, a representative from each TKN and the NTL.

IV. 2007 Library Connectivity Pooled Fund Annual Meeting, September 18 – 20, 2007

A third draft agenda for the annual meeting was distributed and reviewed. Details are being finalized and Doug Newcomb (Chief Policy Officer, Special Libraries Association) has confirmed his keynote participation on Thursday, September 20. The meeting will be held at the University of Wisconsin [Pyle Center](#) beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 18. Christi reported that MTKN, which is co-hosting their annual meeting from September 20 – 21, is finalizing its agenda and expressed interest in hosting a regional TKN Web cast. More details will follow as plans develop.

TAC members are encouraged to bring samples of reports, flyers, bookmarks and other marketing products for show-and-tell on Tuesday, September 18. In addition, TAC members need to submit preferred flight itineraries to Christi by August 1st. Jason Bittner and his assistant will book the flights for direct billing. Rooms at the [UW-Lowell Center](#) will also be paid directly by the pooled fund study to avoid extensive per diem reimbursements. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Evening meals will be held at local restaurants along State Street. TAC members’ direct costs that will need to be submitted for reimbursement include meals during transit, parking fees and mileage (38.5 cents/mile), taxi fares and evening meals.

V. Transportation Librarian Toolkit & Phase I Final Report

Library Toolkit - Maggie distributed a table of contents for review and comment. She reported that the Toolkit will be based on the 7 Keys of a Robust Research program and will be considered a Web-based living document to help the transportation library community. TAC member input is encouraged and will be sought. Maggie envisions the Toolkit to be general enough for a new transportation librarian but useful to veteran librarians as well. The Toolkit can also be used as incentive for those state DOTs that do not have libraries/librarians.

Final report – Christi distributed a table of contents for review and comment. She indicated that the report will provide an overview of the first two years of the project (phase one). She will work with Maggie, Pat Casey and Ann Pahnke on further updates and revisions.

VI. Close

The next TAC teleconference will be scheduled for August 29, 2007 from 10:30 to 12:30 CDT in preparation for the annual meeting.

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