

# TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD DBE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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JANUARY 24, 2011  
WASHINGTON, DC.

## Introduction and Opening Remarks- Eugene Johnson

- This is Mr. Johnson's last year as chair person
- He is appreciative of all the support of volunteers from all parts of the country in DBE programs.
- Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Mr. Johnson by Stuart Anderson.

## Approval of the 2010 Minutes

- 2010 Minutes will be sent out to all attendees and will be included in the record once received by all.

## TRB Staff Comments – Fred Hejl

- In the past years, DVDs containing all the papers presented at the meeting were provided however now, all the papers presented will be available online at the TRB.org website as well as all the PowerPoint presentations, posters and audio recorded presentations.

- Access to the TRB annual meeting online is free to meeting attendees others have access through paid subscriptions.
- Next year's annual meeting is January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012; spotlight theme is "Transportation; putting innovation and people to work."
- New Chair coming in (officially new chair on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011) is Olivia Fonseca from Cal Trans.

#### Committee Membership – Stuart Anderson

- Deadline for Synthesis Topics submission is February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011; anybody can submit a synthesis topic as long as its tied to your committee
- Research Need statements deadline goes somewhere between March, but final deadline is September 15<sup>th</sup> and have to be submitted by a DOT.
- Design and Construction group is going to provide more guidance on writing research needs statement and tools on databases and how to submit them.
- Special session every year called "Dialogue with leaders" within Design and Construction of Transportation facilities, purpose is to honor distinguished nationally recognized individuals with long length of TRB service.
- It is our turn to nominate at least one of the two nominees for this year's recognition; these nominations have to be in by June 1st.

#### Presentation - Patrick Casey

- Discussed race neutral measures and challenges DOTs experienced in implementing these measures in order to meet their goals

#### 2010 Sessions Recap

- Michael Cooper – Session 212
  - o Title: Tracking the economic progress of DBE's on US DOTs processes
  - o Presenters: Michele Carter from WI DOT, Warren Whitlock from NY DOT.
  - o Both talked about ARRA funding and its impact on DBE programs.
  - o Dr. Thomas Boston from Georgia Tech talked about personal net worth as well as the impacts on small businesses.
  - o Attendance: 33 people
- Scheryl – Session 264
  - o Title: Issues and impacts of the 2010 proposed rule making on the US DOT DBE program
  - o Presenters: Robert Ashby Assistant General Counsel discussed personal net worth, accountability, monitoring and state certification. Jim Theil from WI DOT, Terry Canales from North Carolina DOT and Collette Holt from Chicago talking about the Pros and Cons of what the impacts would be on DBEs and recipients of federal funding.
  - o Attendance: 52 people

Facilitators should send the presentations of their presenters via email to Eugene Johnson

#### Status of Triennial Strategic Plan (TSP) – Eugene Johnson

- Mr. Johnson did one for his first term but the 2008, 2009 and 2010 TSP is yet to be done and are due.
- This document records attendance at sessions as well as present and future topics and actions. It is submitted to the Construction Section which uses it to determine if there is continued justification for this committee.
- Olivia Fonseca will take over the completion of this TSP.

#### Membership Status

- We can have up to 25 people in a committee but an unlimited number of Friends of committee.
- Although the friends of committee are included in the DBE website, they are not included in the TRB website.

#### Subcommittee Reports: Olivia Fonseca

- Goal for the next 3 years: We involve our stakeholders from DBE firms
- We need a recruitment of additional DBE firms in our committees.
- We have two weeks to prepare some synthesis topics to submit to TRB; we need to flood TRB with synthesis topics, keep in mind the February 18<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- Research problem statements are due between March and September. We need topics to be submitted.
- We have to market ourselves to other TRB committees as well so they can help us leverage what we are doing and vice versa.
- Scheryl Portee - we have 20 members currently, if interested in becoming a member send me your bio, information and why you are interested in becoming a member and I will compile it and send to Olivia who will make a recommendation on who can become a member.
- If you are not interested in becoming a member, you can become a friend of the committee; anyone can be a friend of the committee; we currently have 400.
- 2012 Panel presentations Ideas:
  - o How to implement OJT support services from DOT perspective – Olivia Fonseca.
  - o DBE Termination and Substitution
  - o Putting people to work; accountability (how do DBE programs account (for whether they are putting people to work, and how do they provide that data). – Eugene Johnson, Michele Carter
  - o How do we get more DBE's in the game; what strategies can we use to attract the untapped DBE's that are currently not participating? – Warren Whitlock.
  - o Fraud trends; irrevocable trust: How do we maintain integrity of our DBE programs without knowing some of the new things that are coming up? – Michele Carter

- Interstate certification; is there some way there could be a legal certification to insure that that our civil rights and DBE staff are well trained? – Michele Carter
- Small business programs: Size threshold? Type of contract? State approval? – Michele Carter
- High Speed Rail: largest project in US DOT (involves all transportation modes, \$500 billion over next 20 years). DBE's are expressing interest in DOTs for this project. –
- Webinar about topics will be held sometime during the summer.
  
- Liaison Committee
  - Intersection of interests with other committees; for example working legal committee for environmental justice and tribal affairs
  - Co-sponsored workshops
  - Partnering with U.S High Speed Rail Association (USHSRA)
  
- New Business
  - FHWA will be conducting a webinar February 1<sup>st</sup> talking about the DBE outreach and workforce development.
  - Is there a limitation on information sharing as far as congressional proposals? No there is not.
  
- Adjournment