



Building Better Roads Working Group
General Meeting No. 13
Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: County Operations Center / Kearny Mesa 5500 Overland Avenue Training Room No. 120 San Diego, CA 92123; and Virtual via Microsoft Teams Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: February 28, 2023 (1:30 PM to 3:30 PM)

ATTENDEES: See attached attendance roster

AGENDA:

- 1) Orientation / Sign-In
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Welcome
- 4) Meeting Overview / Poll
- 5) Industry / Organization Updates
- 6) Key Presentation
- 7) Round Table Results / Subcommittee Engagement
- 8) Next Working Group Meeting / Close

1) ORIENTATION / SIGN-IN

Rich Fitterer and Al Ochoa, Kleinfelder Construction Services

- Rich Fitterer introduced himself and his role as the Building Better Roads (BBR) Facilitator
- Welcomed participants and reviewed the agenda for this February 28 meeting
- Notified participants that this meeting is being recorded
- Reviewed housekeeping, facility orientation/building logistics and emergency/safety protocols for in-person attendees
- Al Ochoa reviewed virtual platform/Teams instructions, functions and protocols for the virtual attendees, including submitting questions via the chat feature, or by raising a hand
- Rich Fitterer covered attendance via sign-in sheet for in-person attendees and asked virtual attendees to enter name, organization, and e-mail address in the chat window

2) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rich Fitterer, Kleinfelder Construction Services

- The meeting was opened for any interested parties to make a public comment
- No public comments provided

3) WELCOME

Bill Morgan, County of San Diego, Deputy Director of the Engineering Services Division

- Bill thanked everyone for attending today's meeting in person and virtually and invited everyone to participate in the round table discussion with concerns, ideas, and ways to move the working group forward
- Stated this is the fourth year that the working group has been meeting with 12 meetings to date

4) MEETING OVERVIEW / POLL

Rich Fitterer, Kleinfelder Construction Services

- Rich introduced the agenda topics
- Rich reviewed the process for conducting polls during the meeting to guide round table discussion
- Rich explained how the survey could be accessed through Mentimeter and via a link in the Teams Chat for virtual attendees
- Rich conducted the online poll and guided participants through each of the polling questions for demographics and general interests
- The in-meeting poll was developed based on input from prior working group meetings

5) INDUSTRY / ORGANIZATION UPDATES

AGC San Diego Chapter Director of Engineering Construction and Industry Relations

- Mike McManus presented on construction trends from November 2021 - 2022 such as changes in employment by state (42 states are up with CA @ +4.2%), producer price indexes (numerous increases by double digit %'s), construction spending, and a slowdown in inflation
- Presented on the AGC outlook including expectations on headcount and hiring through 2024 (expect a bullish 2023) though some sectors will be affected by high interest rates and difficulty in finding qualified staff, but proposed acts/legislation will boost infrastructure projects over time
- Covered statewide proposed changes including proposed new regulations to convert 2009 and older fleets to EV by 2036 and a new construction general permit in September 2023
- Covered local proposed changes including transportation and other tax increases on ballot
- Stated to expect an upcoming construction project uptick
- Opened for Q & A

CALCIMA Director of Asphalt Advocacy and Technical Affairs

- Tony Limas began with a description of Assembly Bill 2953 (Salas) Recycling (AB 2953)
- Stated that Caltrans and the industry have an executive committee working on acceptance testing turnaround time demonstration projects to get quicker results to contractor within (3) working days
- Covered the Pavement and Materials Partnering Committee (PMPC) updates including statistical pay factor pilot projects, high RAP and RAS pilot projects, RAP in RHMA-G, post plant gradation, balanced mix design, CT125 and 306, large quartermaster study for aggregates, intelligent compaction, and a new PG grade binder.

- Stated that Caltrans and agencies are focusing on sustainability and reducing carbon footprint
- Discussed decision documents updates for the industry, Caltrans, TSR requirements and durability of aggregate
- Explained Senate Bill 312 and incentives for using warm mix asphalt
- Opened for Q & A

6) KEY PRESENTATION

Rich introduced Al Ochoa, PE former Caltrans District 11 Senior Materials Engineer

- Rich continued introduction by stating that AB 2953 will take effect on January 1st, 2024, and will increase recycled materials use in: aggregate bases and subbases, asphalt pavement and concrete
- Rich wrapped up introduction by stating that Building Better Roads is a great working group to help local agencies understand, prepare for, and comply with these new requirements.
- Al presented on AB 2953 as it relates to the San Diego Region, which will require local agencies with a population over 25,000 and counties with a population over 100,000 to allow recycled materials at or above the levels allowed by the Caltrans standard specifications that went into effect on October 22, 2018
- Stated will require local governments to use advanced technologies and material recycling techniques that may reduce the cost of maintaining and rehabilitating roads and that exhibit reduced levels of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Listed the materials that will be affected include aggregate bases and subbases, reclaimed asphalt pavement and other materials that can be used in asphalt such as RAS (recycled asphalt shingles), and in concrete would include reclaimed aggregate, fly ash, returned plastic concrete, and other materials.
- Discussed applicable Standard and Greenbook specifications stating for those agencies using the Caltrans 2015 specifications, the only change in the 2018 specification is the addition of Returned Plastic Concrete (RPC)
- Ended presentation with San Diego area impacts and possible increased testing requirements
- Opened for Q & A

7) ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION / SUBCOMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT

Rich Fitterer, Kleinfelder Construction Services

- Rich reviewed the BBR Charter including its goals, member roles/responsibilities and anticipated meeting frequency
- Reviewed the previous subcommittees prioritized topics (RAP, Mix Types, Alternative Pavements and Contracting)
- Summarized status of guidance documents
- Discussed the pilot projects highlighted on the BBR website including fiber reinforced asphalt concrete, 100% RAP pavement seals and warm mix asphalt concrete.
 - Attendees noted the importance of pilot projects in helping define best practices, policies, and procedures
 - Andrew Suarez inquired about the results for the fiber reinforced asphalt pilot

- County stated results from the longer running pilots are becoming available with the newer pilots naturally taking some time to provide results
- A discussion followed regarding how long pilot projects should take to assess data
- Rich invited local agencies to provide an update on their paving programs, including current key issues, challenges, and priorities
- Discussed popular topics from the Working Group's previous round tables and survey results such as high RAP, warm mix asphalt, standardization of specifications and mixes, balance testing and use of concrete as an overlay
- Summarized these main topics covered during the previous round tables and poll, identifying the higher interest topics that will be priority moving forward
- Identified some new topics such as cost control/price increases, quality control, lack of qualified personnel, long life pavement designs, new technology i.e., Portland limestone cement, increased local agency involvement and environmental
- The County stated that this is just the starting point for the best understanding of what is important/priorities for the attendees of this meeting and will be updated and further refined and prioritized within the subcommittees
- Proposed reorganization of subcommittees by reducing to two wider encompassing subcommittees with leads and focus groups for Sustainability and Innovation. Rich stated that two subcommittees will be more manageable, and that success depends on participation
- A question was asked if regional candidates will be chosen to do pilot projects relating to the guidance documents. The answer is yes, but would require engagement/volunteers
- Rich directed attendees to the second survey of the meeting for subcommittee engagement/participation asking if attendees would participate in a subcommittee and which subcommittee would they prefer. Responses showed interest
- Mentioned subcommittee kick-off meeting dates for late March / early April

8) NEXT WORKING GROUP MEETING / CLOSE

Rich Fitterer, Kleinfelder Construction Services

- Rich thanked the presenters and attendees for contributing today both virtually and in-person, noting that the next step will be to finalize subcommittees and recruit participants to push items along and achieve goals in the upcoming March/April subcommittee meetings
- The next working group meeting will be held in June, and a save the date will be sent out.
- Rich announced/introduced Orland Mott as the new BBR facilitator

Bill Morgan, County of San Diego, Deputy Director of the Engineering Services Division

- Bill thanked Rich for his years of service as BBR facilitator
- Bill thanked the group again and noted the great takeaways from today in terms of refocusing the subcommittees and streamlining the issues that the Working Group can continue to address

- **<Meeting Adjourned>**