



2024 TOPIC SELECTION MEETING

Meeting Minutes

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

DATE OF MEETING: August 27, 2024 (1:00 PM to 3:00 PM)

ATTENDEES: See attached attendance roster

PRESENTATION: Refer to the presentation link under the 08/27/24 meeting

AGENDA:

- 1) Welcome/Introduction
- 2) Subcommittee Overview
- 3) Request for Topics
- 4) Topics Briefs
- 5) Topic of Interest Level Poll
- 6) Next Steps/Close

1) ORIENTATION / SIGN-IN / MEETING OVERVIEW

Orland Mott, SNC Civil, Consultant for County of San Diego

- Asked everyone to sign in on one of the sign-in sheets.
- Orland welcomed all to 2024 Building Better Roads Subcommittee Topic Selection Meeting
- Notified participants that this meeting was being recorded to produce meeting minutes to share with them afterwards
- Shared the meeting's agenda on the screen
- Mentioned that meeting would begin with everybody's brief introductions
- Covered logistics of topic selection: to give nominated participants 2-4 minutes to present their topics in depth, he would then gather the topics on Microsoft forms, and participants would scan poll's QR code on their phones to vote
- Explained that BBR management team would meet tomorrow to review topics presented to make final determinations of the 2024 topics then share with group.
- Each participant gave a brief introduction of themselves.
- Orland explain evacuation plan in case of emergency and building logistics and safety.

2) BUILDING BETTER ROADS SUBCOMMITTEE TOPIC SELECTION OVERVIEW

- Orland gave an overview of BBR subcommittee format
- Explained that changes were made to make smaller and more manageable subcommittees

- Shared that last year two new subcommittees were launched
 - Innovation
 - Sustainability
- Shared that goal is to limit 2-3 topics per subcommittee, and have a defined goal and schedule for each
- Explained that the new focus approach allows BBR to give topics attention needed
- Mentioned that topics are selected based on member interest and applicability to BBR mission
- Shared the goal is to complete each topic within one year of selection
- Orland reminded participants of the 2023 topics being closed out and serve as examples
 - Innovation Subcommittee Topics
 - Non-Destructive Testing of HMA Pavements (James Watkins). This topic explored alternate density testing without coring and if any participants are interested, this guidance document will detail benefits of this new technology and will be available on our BBR website soon, for anyone interested on a potential pilot testing.
 - Regional Mix Design (Alex Ochoa). This topic investigated creation of several regional mix designs that any agency could choose to use. Interest peaked from agencies but differences in our specifications between Caltrans and Green Book stalled this topic out. Summary of findings and verified mixes will be on the BBR website soon.
 - Sustainability Subcommittee Topics
 - AB 2953 compliance (Brandon Milar). Topic's final deliverable produced in December 2023, coinciding with inception of Senate Bill AB 2953, it is a straightforward guidance document so agencies can comply with new bill.
 - Waste Plastic Use in HMA (Adam Barber). His guidance documents details benefits of waste plastic use which will be on the BBR website soon. Adam is also working on a draft pilot study that agencies can use as baseline to determine if they want to participate. (Someone from SDSU is interested)
 - High Rap HMA 40% (Andrew Suarez). Andrew and his team produced at 40% rap product that meets all quality standards listed in the current CALTRANS specifications. Next step is to develop a specification and workplan to incorporate some of this material into an existing county paving project when the limit of 25% Rap is worked out to 40%.
- Orland explains that participants can nominate topics with relevance to either Innovation or Sustainability subcommittees
- Expressed desire of topics to be relevant to both agencies and private industries
- Asked that each topic be co-chaired by somebody across the aisle (partnering agency and private).
- Emphasized that after BBR selection of topics, some topics will be contingent on identifying a co-chair while others may proceed without a co-chair.
- Orland explains the order of today's topic selection process
 - participants will nominate a topic
 - Orland will gather topics into poll
 - nominators will have 2-3 minutes to present topic in detail

- participants will vote their top three choices relevant to them via poll

3) 2024 Subcommittee Topics Nominated

- Eric Wolfe from DPW Solid Waste Planning and Recycling, co-chair would be Marie–nominated exploration of a new process to recycle asphalt shingles into the road pavement because under the climate action plan, the board has directed them to reach 90% diversion by 2040 and you can't recycle through traditional items to get to 90%. If chosen, they would be fully funded, and if there is any material that needs to be brought, they are willing to support and sponsor it.
- Dylan Jones from Road Soap - nominated using their 100% cold mix cold applied rap recycled asphalt material for in-place grind outs patching as a true surface layer, cold manufacturing cold application process, utilizing 100% recycled materials.
- Shani Sasson from Road Soup nominated the topic asphalt rejuvenator, he said they have a material called Road Renewal to rejuvenate existing asphalt and adding elasticity. He said this product has been used around the world since 1996 and with collaboration with All American Asphalt he is looking for local partners in San Diego area.
 - Orland thanked Shani for recommending this topic because BBR and the county has been looking for rejuvenator seals to follow up treatment of HMA placement.
- Ryan Merritt- Martin Mariotta brought up question about modified polymers, since half of the BBR program is typically modified binder. Mentioned that there are different ways to modify and that driving costs for material is that polymers are not local. Was curious if we could look at options for different modification that would be acceptable to the county.
- Orland noted about modifiers and specification, if an agency calls for a polymer modifier, the supplier or the producer of that material has great leeway in what modifier they're selecting, and these modifiers have different traits, different methodism for action that they purport to enhance the asphalt's ability.
- Ryan – nominated the topic of look at options for different modification (use of polymer modifiers in HMA) that would be acceptable to the county.
- Al Ochoa Klienfelder - nominated post plant gradation as a topic.
- Keith Kezer COSD – nominated high rap HMA pilot
- Keith – nominated the non-destructive testing pilot, Orland nominated James Watkins to take the lead on this.
- Ryan asked the question about sustainability, going back and looking forward, how do we know what's been put in place to date and the different iterations? Different mix designs, different additives and modifiers. How do we know that we're doing the right things? Since BBR started 2018, we know higher rap, but what about other modifiers, plastics, Chinese products, fibers? In some way, finding measurables.
- Orland admitted this was a good suggestion that may be outside of the subcommittees that could be brought up in a larger meeting, to see if their targets have moved and what we've done to work towards those goals and what to improve.
- Orland – nominated AI use in road maintenance and how AI technologies can be incorporated into pavement management road maintenance.
- Brandon Millar, CalAPA– nominated having an ideal CT testing to test materials used here [San Diego] to gather some data to develop a regional requirement that the county and other local agencies can use.

4) INTERACTIVE POLL RESULTS

- Recycled asphalt shingles had - 8 votes (most votes)
- Polymer Modifier use in HMA – 6 votes
- AI use in road maintenance – 5 votes
- High RAP HMA pilot study – 5 votes
- Post Plant Gradation – 4 votes
- The remaining topics on list had 3 and 2 votes
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5) BBR TOPIC SELECTION RECAP

- Orland explained that now as a team, topics will be selected
- Mentioned that four or five topics will be selected this year
- Stressed that the final order of topics selected will not necessarily match poll order because they will determine which are more relevant to the BBR, have a clear deliverable and fit best in the sustainability or innovation category
- Shared that topics not selected will move to the parking lot, in case some of these topics drop off from the pool, then another topic can be selected from that parking lot pool

6) NEXT WORKING GROUP MEETING / CLOSE

Orland Mott, SNC Civil, Consultant for County of San Diego

- Orland shared that the Next BBR Meeting would be October 8th, 2024 and an email would be sent early in September
- Thanked everyone for participating
- Mentioned that the success of the BBR is directly related to the efforts that each of us contribute.
- Reiterated that the BBR team would meet tomorrow to discuss and finalize these results and would share that information with everybody once they had spoken to the leads
- **<Meeting Adjourned>**