

S305 Structure and Finance Task Force

MINUTES

APRIL 9, 2012

2:30PM EDT

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, Chair, Structure and Finance Task Force</i>
ATTENDEES	<i>Eric Curtit, Bill Bronte, Ron Pate, Tim Hoeffner, Chad Edison, Michael Burshtin Support Staff: Steve Hewitt, Gordon Hutchinson, Ken Uznanski, Nancy Greene, Nico Lindenau, Ashok Sundararajan, Ryan Swick, David Ewing, Leo Penne, Shayne Gill, Larry Salci</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>DJ Stadler, Jeff Gordon, George Weber, Kevin Kesler, Al Ware, Vincent Brotski,</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

Roll call – Steve Hewitt

Steve Hewitt took the roll call of participants, and it was determined that a quorum of voting members was present. Attendance is as noted above.

Welcome – Eric Curtit:

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, and Chair of the Structure and Finance task force (SFTF) welcomed all participants to the call and thanked everyone for agreeing to the time change for the calls from here on out.

He acknowledged "there is a lot of work going on here" and more to come. In recognizing that Ron Pate, Washington State DOT is doing "some work in this area – on Section 6", Eric asked if Ron would like to brief the SFTF at a future date on the work they are doing along with Oregon. Ron provided a brief overview and noted that they are, in many ways, waiting on the "good work" being done by the SFTF in regard to Section 6, as well. He noted that not only are they (Washington State) working with Oregon, but also with Vancouver. He informed the group that John Sibold has been named as the Cascade Corridor director.

Eric agreed to take on the action of working with Chad Edison, FRA, and Ron Pate to talk this week about next steps for providing information to the SFTF on the activities of Washington and Oregon.

Action Items Review – Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt reviewed the status of action items from the last call.

- SFTF members are asked to send any additional membership suggestions to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt. **Status: None Received – still remains open item and a need.**
- David Ewing and Eric Curtit to look at the SFTF overall work plan and the more global aspects beyond the RFP and have something "put together" prior to the next call. **Status: This item is on today's agenda for discussion.**
- Chad Edison will re-look at the revised draft of the SFWG report especially in regard to disclaimers and provide FRA input to the task force. Once that input is received the report can be posted as a DRAFT Resource document. **Status: This item is on today's agenda for discussion.**

Approval of the Minutes from March 26, 2012 – Eric Curtit:

On a motion by Chad Edison, FRA, and a second by Tim Hoeffner, Michigan DOT< the minutes of the March 26, 2012 SFTF conference call meeting were approved without objection.

Status: RFP for Section 6 and Deployment – Eric Curtit:

Eric Curtit informed the SFTF members that the RFP has been posted on AASHTO and that Steve Hewitt had sent it out to the larger NGECC industry contact list.

Chad Edison provided a brief review of timelines and actions and some discussion in regards to establishing the evaluation team.

This section of the discussion remains confidential to task force members only.

FRA Review of SFWG "Draft" Report – Chad Edison:

Chad Edison noted that he has not yet had a chance to review this document, but will at a point in the future. Eric agreed that there is no real rush as there is so much going on that needs more immediate attention.

This item will remain an open item for future action.

Developing SFTF "global aspects" work plan – Eric Curtit/David Ewing:

Eric and David Ewing described some of the other items/goals and products that were a part of the Executive Board's charge to the SFTF, and David proposed some ideas for acting on the first item identified in the charge as "context".

David described the "context" or intro piece as in the "nature of supply and demand" with goals focused on rebuilding the rail equipment manufacturing industry, standardization, and building relationships with the rail supply industry.

To do the "context" piece, David proposed that there be two "commissioned essays" :

1. "To focus on industrial and supply side and on the Amtrak piece" as well as the standardization assessment report recently completed by Larry Salci, and approved/accepted by the Executive Board. This essay should include information derived from the Standardization report and from Amtrak's Fleet plan.
2. The second "essay", David suggested, "will look at the demand side". It will "focus on state demands". David acknowledged that the NGEN had done two unscientific surveys which showed "modest demand over time for equipment". This piece would "take into consideration the PRIIA Section 209 and the relationship with the states."

David noted that the two essays would be for "modest cost" with a price under \$25,000 "consistent with NGEN procedures."

Eric noted that he believed the next step should be for him and David to put together a draft work plan that better fleshes out the proposed activities so that SFTF members have something to react to.

Eric asked for any questions or comments, and it was generally agreed that the members would want to see something in writing to better understand what is being proposed, and to be able to comment on that.

It was agreed that Eric and David would flesh out the descriptions, and provide a draft work plan and circulate it through Steve Hewitt in advance of the next SFTF call of April 23, 2012.

Adjourn

With no additional business to come before the task force today, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00pm Eastern

Next call: April 23, 2012 at 3:30pm Eastern

Decisions and Action Items

Eric Curtit, Chad Edison and Ron Pate to discuss the Washington State and Oregon efforts and determine next steps for informing the SFTF members.

Eric Curtit and David Ewing will work together to develop a draft work plan with "fleshed out" descriptions of the proposed activities pertaining to the "context" piece of the SFTF charge. The work plan will be circulated to the SFTF members through Steve Hewitt in advance of the next call (April 23, 2012)

Chad Edison will re-look at the revised draft of the SFWG report especially in regard to disclaimers and provide FRA input to the task force. Once that input is received the report can be posted as a DRAFT Resource document. (Carryover item)

SFTF members are asked to send any additional membership suggestions to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt. (ongoing item)

VII. Developing SFTF “global aspects” work plan

Eric/David Ewing

VIII. Other

All

Next Call: April 23, 2012 – 2:30pm Eastern

ATTACHMENT

Status of Action Items from 3/26/2012 conference call

SFTF members are asked to send any additional membership suggestions to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt. **Status: None Received – still remains open item and a need.**

David Ewing and Eric Curtit to look at the SFTF overall work plan and the more global aspects beyond the RFP and have something “put together” prior to the next call. **Status: This item is on today’s agenda for discussion.**

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