



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
PEER EXCHANGE
July 31-August 4, 2006

Introduction

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities hosted a research management peer exchange July 31 – August 4, 2006 in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau. Invited members of the peer exchange team were:

- Dave Huft, Program Manager-Research, South Dakota DOT, Team Leader
- Gina Baas, Director, Communications and Outreach Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota
- Peter Forsling, FHWA Northern Region Liaison, Alaska Division
- Marci Kenney, FHWA Director, Office of Program Development and Evaluation
- Sue Sillick, Research Manager, Montana DOT

Host Alaska DOT&PF Research and Technology Transfer attendees included:

- Gary Hogins, Statewide Chief Engineer
- Jim Elieff, Research Manager
- Clint Adler, Research Engineer
- Dave Waldo, Training Specialist, LTAP Manager
- Steve Saboundjian, Research Engineer
- Patty Smith, Administrative Clerk



Contact information is in Appendix A.



Objectives

The objectives of the peer exchange were to explore:

- Project Selection: Models/modifications that might be considered
- Project Management: Highest value/best use of our two Research Engineers
- Research Implementation: Core Curriculum development and implementation strategies for research

Panel Activities

To prepare for the peer exchange, the team reviewed documentation describing the Alaska Department of Transportation's Research and Technology Transfer program and its information services component.

The panel spent four days collecting information, holding discussions regarding research, beginning on Monday, July 31, with briefings on the Research and Technology Transfer program. Participants also provided overviews of their programs. The panel also met with Billy Connor, Director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, University Transportation Center, and later toured the UAF Research facilities and library.

The exchange team gathered information through interviews with staff from Northern Region, Central Region, Southeast Region and Headquarters:

Northern Region representatives were:

- Andrew Niemiec, Regional Director
- Coleen Ackiss, Traffic and Safety Engineer
- Janet Brown, Design Group Chief
- Lon Krol, Construction Engineer
- Jerry Rafson, Chief of Planning
- John Ryer, Construction Group Chief
- Leo Woster, Materials Engineer

Central Region representatives were:

- Steve Horn, Construction and Operations Chief
- Newt Bingham, Materials Engineer
- Dan Breeden, Commercial Vehicles
- Butch Douthit, Central Region Design Group Chief
- Jack Fullerton, Central Region Maintenance Chief
- Scott Gartin, Quality Assurance Engineer
- Frank Richards, Statewide Maintenance and Operations Engineer
- Michael SanAngelo, Statewide Materials Engineer
- Jennifer Witt, Preconstruction and Planning
- Pat Wittrock, Construction Chief

Southeast Region/Headquarters representatives were:



- Bill Ballard, State Environmental Chief
- Jack Beedle, Preconstruction Engineer
- George Imbsen, Sr. Bridge Engineer
- Mark Miles, Statewide Hydraulics Engineer
- Mark Niedhold, Chief Design and Construction Standards
- Greg Patz, M&O Chief
- Rich Pratt, Chief Bridge Engineer
- Kurt Smith, State Traffic Engineer
- Vic Winters, Harbors Engineer

For a full list of invitees see Agenda, Appendix C

Field trips included

- Tour of Permafrost Tunnel – CRREL, US Army Corp of Engineers Cold Region Research and Engineering Laboratory
- Tour of UAF Research Lab
- Tour of UAF Keith B. Mather Library - DOT/UTC Transportation Collection
- Loftus Road Thermal Embankment
- Tour of Whittier Tunnel

The Peer Exchange concluded on Friday, August 4 with a presentation of the Peer Exchange Report to the Research Advisory Board and senior management.

Peer Exchange Team Observations

From discussions with research staff and customers, and through review of research procedures used in Alaska and the other states participating in this Peer Exchange, the Peer Exchange Team recorded a number of observations that could potentially be used in their respective organizations.

General Observations

- Alaska's Research & Technology Transfer staff members are well respected within the Department and recognized as a valuable resource. Duties include identifying research needs, performing research, managing research projects, providing technical assistance, conducting training, and facilitating technology transfer.
- The process of research, development and technology transfer is a valuable, but underused resource that can broadly address the agency's mission and objectives, including policy research as well as traditional engineering-related topics.
- The creation of the Alaska University Transportation Center, with its financial matching capabilities, presents a tremendous opportunity to extend Alaska's research program, to leverage research investments, and to help fulfill the Governor's vision of advancing education in Alaska.



- Opportunities to supplement or leverage Alaska's research funding, which now consist almost exclusively of State Planning & Research funds, include University Transportation Center match, grants or cost-sharing from other federal agencies such as the Federal Aviation Administration or the US Geological Service, pooled fund studies, and using operational units' funding for some activities.

Marketing

A recurring topic in discussions with research customers was the level of awareness of research topics and the research management process in the Department. The Peer Exchange Team observed that:

- Marketing can create awareness of available research services, the research management process, operational units' role in the research process, and the potential payoff of research.
- Executive-level involvement, such as that of Alaska's Research Advisory Board, represents a core of influential proponents for research.
- Managers of operational units in the departments offered several suggestions for promoting research awareness at executive and working levels, including:
 - research staff attending regularly scheduled meetings of peer groups (for example, design, materials, or planning) to inform them about research services and projects and to learn about potential research needs;
 - conducting focus group meetings with operational units for the specific purpose of identifying their research needs;
 - publishing brief (possibly 2-page) summaries of completed research projects;
 - including an overview of research and library services in the new employee orientation;
 - conducting joint meetings between Department staff and university researchers;
 - improving web page visibility and content;
 - creating posters to inform Department staff of research services.

Project Selection

Discussions centered on the process—including selection criteria—used to identify research needs and to choose which projects to perform. The Peer Exchange Team observed that:

- Alaska's currently identified research needs significantly exceed available funding and staffing resources.
- Current project selection criteria—which include size of project, statewide significance, and duration and appear to favor short term, low cost, statewide projects—may limit the ability to address important research projects, constrain project scope, limit implementation potential, and increase the workload of the research staff.



- Managers of operational units expressed the need for regularly scheduled Research Advisory Board meetings, whether annually or more frequently (possibly in conjunction with other meetings like the monthly Commissioner's meeting).
- To avoid the busy summer construction season and to better coordinate with universities' academic years, making project selections in spring might be preferable.
- Montana and South Dakota employ a two-stage project selection process, in which their research advisory boards initially screen projects based on one-page project suggestions and later make final decisions based on detailed project definitions.
- Consultant or University Transportation Center staff can possibly be used to help review and vet research suggestions.
- Alaska's less formal research processes, like the Rapid Response Program, Innovative Features Program, and the Experimental Features Program, provide excellent mechanisms for documenting and sharing the performance of innovative construction and maintenance techniques.
- Technical experts and those who suggest research projects value the feedback research staff offers following Research Advisory Board meetings.

Project Management

Discussions focused on the technical and administrative aspects of managing active research projects with available staff.

- Active involvement of technical staff throughout the research process—from needs identification through implementation—could improve awareness, strengthen project definition, increase the likelihood of successful implementation, and share workload.
- Including the research requestor, potential implementers, and representatives of affected external groups on Technical Advisory Committees can be very productive and enhance implementation.
- Videoconferencing, which has been successfully used by others to enable participation in research projects, could be especially useful in Alaska, where travel distances are great and staff time is at a premium.
- To make best use of time available from research staff, some project management functions could be outsourced—for example to a University Transportation Center or through contracts with experienced, retired Department employees—or by assigning certain research management functions to research administrative staff.
- Streamlining the contracting process by using standard contract terms and format, obtaining assistance from the Department's contracts office, and establishing a



master agreement with the University Transportation Center can reduce the workload of the research staff.

- Establishing an integrated research project database can reduce the administrative burden of tracking progress, reporting status, and updating the national Research in Progress system. Some states use the same database to automatically generate research project web pages.

Technology Transfer & Implementation

Discussions addressed the need and means for moving research into practice.

- Managers of operational units strongly emphasized the need for implementation, not just research.
- Likelihood of successful implementation is increased when the project is designed and budgeted at the outset to develop products (such as specifications, drawings, standards, and methods) that are fully ready to use in normal practice.
- Successful implementation requires a systematic process to clearly define what is to be done, who is responsible, what time frame should be achieved, and what resources are needed. A process by which technical committees consider researchers' findings and formally recommend implementation actions to executive management can provide this definition.
- Alaska's well-designed Research & Technology Transfer newsletter could be used to more effectively raise awareness of completed research in the Department by increasing hardcopy and electronic circulation, specifically highlighting active and completed research projects, including a concise digest of contents, providing links to project web pages, and annually listing completed projects.

Planned Actions

Members of the Peer Exchange Team identified actions that they intend to take, either to improve the effectiveness of their own research programs or to assist the efforts of other team members.

Marci Kenney, Federal Highway Administration Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center

- Provide information and guidance about the University Transportation Center (UTC) program to FHWA Divisions (including list of UTCs, contacts, funding levels, match requirements, etc.) to share with State DOTs.
- Remind Divisions of resources available on web related to FHWA and State DOT research programs (esp. SP&R guide).



- Encourage Division staff responsible for research work plans to attend meetings of the AASHTO Research Advisory Committee and to participate in peer exchanges.
- Continue working with FHWA Finance and State DOTs to improve pooled fund tracking system and promote the use of the Transportation Pooled Fund program.
- Provide Alaska DOT with more information about Construction Career Days.
- Review the University of Alaska's UTC strategic plan.
- Share Alaska LTAP newsletter with FHWA R&T marketing and publications staff.

Gina Baas, University of Minnesota

- Delivering a successful research program in states with limited construction seasons presents challenges. Technical staff that are relied on to provide technical expertise for research projects have different priorities during spring and summer months. Need to remind researchers and staff coordinating research of this priority challenge and to factor it in when scheduling meetings and project reviews.
- Ask Mn/DOT if the research program and the library are covered during new employee orientation.
- Report on this peer exchange at the August partnership meeting between CTS and Mn/DOT's Research Services Section (RSS).
- Put Bill Ballard, AKDOT State Environmental Chief, in touch with U of M professor Bruce Wilson who worked with Mn/DOT to develop and deliver NPDES certification training.
- Put Janet Brown, Design Group Chief from AKDOT's Northern Region, in touch with Frank Pafko, director of Mn/DOT's Office of Environmental Services, to discuss environmental streamlining issues and initiatives.
- Present Alaska's speeding fines double in "Safety Zones" initiative to the Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths Program Team as a potential traffic safety idea for Minnesota.
- Continue discussions on implementation roles and activities with the CTS/RSS Technology Transfer, Implementation, and Outreach Subcommittee. Share what South Dakota and Montana are doing. Talk about implications for project process and project funding.
- Talk to RSS about the role of videoconferencing in getting more outstate district involvement in research and tech transfer activities.



Sue Sillick, Montana Department of Transportation

- Continue to work to get NCHRP contributions taken off the top of SPR.
- Consider exploring focus groups to identify future direction/research needs as a part of changes in research solicitation, prioritization, and selection process.
- Find out what research project tracking/management systems exist and whether MDT Research can implement one of these systems.
- Work with Preconstruction to incorporate Experimental Features Program into Design Manual.
- Formalize implementation plan, forms, etc.
- Obtain Experimental Features documentation from AKDOT.
- Add subscription option for various website information (i.e.: solicitation, newsletter, RFP mailing list, library patron, reports, research project summaries, etc)
- Revisit research projects to determine what implementation recommendations/decisions were actually implemented.
- Share wet mowing information with MDT Maintenance staff.
- Investigate whether the Research in Progress database can be modified to include project updates, including progress reports.

David Huft, South Dakota Department of Transportation

- Share information about the winter Maintenance Decision Support System with Alaska and Montana.
- Immediately share and discuss the Draft Peer Exchange Report with staff of South Dakota's research office.
- Emulate *Technology for Alaskan Transportation* format for publication of research activities in South Dakota.
- Establish automated links between South Dakota's research database and the national Research in Progress database to ensure that South Dakota projects are consistently entered.
- Provide information to Alaska about South Dakota's database that automatically populates research project web pages and obtain information about the University of Minnesota's project database.
- More rigorously apply SDDOT's established process for tracking and reporting to executive management on implementation progress of completed research projects.



Peter Forsling, Alaska Division, Federal Highway Administration

- Assist Alaska DOT&PF in developing Innovative Bridge Research & Deployment proposals.
- Review Federal Indirect Cost Allocation Program restrictions and field office practices.
- Get FHWA division office personnel involved in research projects.

Jim Elieff, AKDOT&PF Research & T2 Manager

Project Identification & Selection

<u>Opportunities</u>	<u>Planned Actions</u>
Communication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advertise our program to all functions and levels in the Department. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand Web page. ○ Use Newsletter to promote research services. ○ Attend regularly scheduled meetings in subject areas ○ Cultivate & foster relationships with University Transportation Centers. 2. Pursue video conferencing.
Project Selection Criteria	Revisit criteria with Advisory Board to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ greater focus on need objectives vs. time and cost. ○ Equitable consideration for Regional and statewide policy concerns.
Involvement of Subject Matter Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage active participation in AASHTO and TRB activities/committees. • Arrange focus meetings to identify research needs with staff.
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a 2-stage research need vetting process.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create budget line item to secure UTC match • Investigate alternate sources of funding for NCHRP, TRB, and AASHTO Program dues.



Project Management

<u>Opportunities</u>	<u>Planned Actions</u>
Research Engineer Duties	<p>Focus on highest value duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aid Department staff in identifying & preparing research needs. ○ Secure appropriate expertise and research providers.
Business Operations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modify roles of subject matter experts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First stage vetting ○ Second stage scoping ○ Project Technical advisory panel selection 2. Use available services in the department to our advantage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contracting & procurement services. 3. Secure consultant services to support the Research Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project management ○ Administration of Experimental/Innovative Features. ○ Any other other tasks 4. Secure master agreement with the UTCs that uses a simple work order for procurement of research services. 5. Encourage UTCs to provide research project management skills for their projects. 6. Reassign duties within all Research & T2 staff levels to perform routine information updates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Department's Web server. 7. Find an effective research project management/status/tracking system.

Implementation & Technology Transfer

Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Require fully engaged technical advisory committee with an overall objective-based focus on all research projects. ● For each research project, require the technical advisory committee to develop a formal implementation plan on completion of the research.
High-Value Programs	Re-energize the Experimental Features and Innovative Features Programs.
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use our newsletter and web pages to showcase completed research throughout the department. ● Provide a product based on completed research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specification, method, policy, program etc.



Appendix A:

Contact Information for 2006 Alaska DOT & PF, Research and Transfer Technology Peer Exchange Team Members and Key Personnel for the Exchange

2006 Alaska Research Peer Exchange Team Members

Alaska

Mr. Jim Elieff, P.E., Statewide Research and Technology Transfer Manager
Alaska DOT & PF
2301 Peger Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Email: jim_elieff@dot.state.ak.us
Phone: 907-451-5479

Mr. Clint Adler, P.E., Research Engineer
Alaska DOT & PF
2301 Peger Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Email: clint_adler@dot.state.ak.us
Phone: 907-451-5321

Dr. Steve Saboundjian, P.E., Research Engineer
Alaska DOT & PF
2301 Peger Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Email: steve_saboundjian@dot.state.ak.us
Phone: 907-451-5322

Federal Highways Administration-Alaska Division

Mr. Peter Forsling, P. E., Northern Region Liaison/Bridge Engineer
P. O. Box 21648
709 West 9th Street, Room 851
Juneau, AK 99802-1648

Email: peter.forsling@fhwa.dot.gov
Phone: 512-536-5973



FHWA Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center

Ms. Marci Kenney, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Room T306, HRPD-01
6300 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101

Email: marci.kenney@fhwa.dot.gov
Phone: 202-493-3166

Minnesota

Ms. Gina Baas, Director
Communications and Outreach Center for Transportation Studies
University of Minnesota
200 Transportation and Safety Building
511 Washington Ave. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Email: baasx001@cts.umn.edu
Phone: 612-626-7331

Montana

Ms. Sue Sillick, Research Manager
Montana DOT
2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620 (FedEx Zip: 59601)

Email: ssillick@mt.gov
Phone: 406-444-7693

South Dakota

Mr. David L. Huft, Program Manager
South Dakota DOT
Office of Research, Rm. 122
700 E. Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-2586
Email: dave.huft@state.sd.us
Phone: 605-773-3358



Key Alaska Research Personnel for this Exchange

Mr. Dave Waldo, LTAP Manager
Alaska DOT & PF
2301 Peger Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Email: david_waldo@dot.state.ak.us
Phone: 907-451-4323

Mr. Gary Hogins, P.E. Chief Engineer
Statewide Design and Engineering Services
Alaska DOT & PF
P.O. Box 112500
3132 Channel Dr.
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Email: gary_hogins@dot.state.ak.us
Phone: 907-465-6958

Mr. Billy Connor, P.E., Director
Alaska University Transportation Center
Arctic Engineering Research Center
P.O. Box 755900
Room 245 Duckering, UAF
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5900

Email: ffbgc@uaf.edu
Phone: 907-474-555

[Appendix B:](#) [List of Acronyms](#)

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials
ADOT&PF	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
BTEP	Boarder Technology Exchange Program
FHWA-AK	Federal Highway Administration-Alaska Division
LTAP	Local Technical Assistance Program



MDT	Montana Department of Transportation
MN-LTAP	Minnesota Local Technical Assistance Program
NHI	National Highways Institute
PI	Principal Investigators
SDDOT	South Dakota Department of Transportation
RTT	Research and Technology Transfer
SD&ES	Statewide Design and Engineering Services
SP&R	State Planning & Research
T2	Technology Transfer
TP	Technical Panel
TRB	Transportation Research Board
UA	University of Alaska
UAF	University of Alaska Fairbanks
UTC	University Transportation Center



Appendix C:
Meeting Agenda

AGENDA

2006 Research & Technology Transfer Peer Exchange
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

FAIRBANKS

Saturday, July 29, 2006

Hotel: Bridgewater Hotel 907-452-6661
723 First Ave
Fairbanks, AK

5:05 p.m.	Gina Baas arrives from Minnesota	Fairbanks, Alaska
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11:47 p.m.	Sue Sillick arrives from Montana	Fairbanks, Alaska
	Dave Huft from So. Dakota	

FAIRBANKS

Sunday, July 30, 2006

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Arrivals:	Fairbanks, Alaska
	Marci Kenney 2:49 p.m. Virginia	
	Peter Forsling 12:30 p.m. Juneau	

7:00 p.m.	Welcome Dinner	Gambardella's Pasta Bella (next to the Bridgewater Hotel)
	Jim and Mary Ann Elieff, Sue Sillick, David Huft, Gina Baas, Marci Kenney, Peter Forsling	



FAIRBANKS

Monday, July 31, 2006

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Attendees: Jim Elieff, Sue Sillick, David Huft, Gina Baas, Marci Kenney, Peter Forsling, Clint Adler, Steve Saboundjian, Gary Hogins

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Welcome Introductions Jim Elieff	T2 Training Room 2720 Pickett Place
8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Overview of the Alaska DOT&PF Jim Elieff	
9:15 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.	Introduction to the Alaska Research and Technology Transfer Program Clint Adler and Dave Waldo	
9:35 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.	Break Discussion	
9:55 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Overview: University of Minnesota Communications & Outreach Center for Transportation Studies Gina Baas	
10:15 a.m. -10:35 a.m.	Overview of Montana Research Program Sue Sillick, Montana DOT Research Manager	
10:35 a.m.-10:55 a.m.	Overview of the South Dakota Research Program David Huft, South Dakota DOT Program Manager - Research	
10:55 a.m.-11:15 a.m.	Overview of the FHWA Office of Program Development Marci Kenney, Director, FHWA Office of Program Development and Technology	
11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH University of Alaska Transportation Center Billy Connor	Zach's Meeting Room
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Focus: Project Identification & Selection	Zach's Meeting Room



2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Field Trip** Fox Alaska
Permafrost Tunnel

FAIRBANKS

Tuesday, August 1, 2006

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Attendees: Jim Elieff, Sue Sillick, David Huft, Gina Baas, Marci Kenney, Peter Forsling, Clint Adler, Steve Saboundjian, Gary Hogins, Dave Waldo

8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. **Focus: Project Management** Keith B. Mather
Library
University of
Alaska Fairbanks

10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. **Break /Discussion**

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. **Focus: Core Curriculum Development & Implementation Strategies for Research**

12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. **LUNCH/Discussion**

1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. **Field Trip** University of
Alaska Fairbanks
UAF Research Lab
Loftus Road Thermal Embankment
DOT/UTC Transportation Research
Collection
(Keith B. Mather Library), Julie Triplehorn

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Northern Region Agenda:** 2301 Peger Rd.
Main Conference
Room

- Briefing on Focus Session highlights
- Open discussion:
 - Project Identification & Selection. Are we finding the best topics? Is there a better way to identify them?
 - Project management. What is the highest & best use for our two research engineers?
 - Implementation. Effective methods

Northern Region Attendees:
Andrew Niemiec, Director, Northern Region
Howard Thies, Director, Maintenance & Operations
Clark Milne, Maintenance & Operations Engineer



Jerry Rafson, Chief of Planning
Ethan Birkholz, Planning Manager
Dave Bloom, Preconstruction Engineer
Lon Krol, Construction Chief
John Ryer, Construction Group Chief
Collen Ackiss, Traffic & Safety Engineer
Leo Woster, Materials Engineer
Patty Miller, Design Group Chief
Janet Brown, Design Group Chief
Gary Tyndall, Design Group Chief

4:30 p.m.-5:00 pm **Announcements**
Travel Arrangements to Anchorage on Aug 2

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 pm **Dinner Cruise – Tanana Chief**

ANCHORAGE

Wednesday, August 2, 2006

Hotel: Courtyard by Marriott 907-245-0322
4901 Spenard Rd
Anchorage, AK

Attendees: Jim Elieff, Sue Sillick, David Huft, Gina Baas, Marci Kenney, Peter Forsling, Clint Adler, Steve Saboundian

7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. **Flight Check In** Fairbanks
Alaska Airlines International Airport

8:47 a.m. **Depart Fairbanks for Anchorage**
Alaska Airlines Flight 98

- Departs 8:47 a.m.
- Arrives 9:45 a.m.

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Central Region Agenda:** Anchorage DOT/PF
Main Conference Room
4111 Aviation Dr.

- Briefing on Focus Session Highlights
- Open discussion:
 - Project Identification & Selection. Are we finding the best topics? Is there a better way to identify them?
 - Project management. What is the highest & best use for our two research engineers?
 - Implementation. Effective



methods

Central Region Attendees:

Gordon Keith, Director, Central Region
Steve Horn, Construction and Operations
Chief
John Tolley, Preconstruction & Planning
Chief
Jack Fullerton, Central Region
Maintenance Chief
Rob Campbell, Preconstruction Engineer
Pat Wittrock, Construction Chief
Scott Thomas, Traffic & Safety Engineer
Newt Bingham, Materials Engineer
Butch Douthit, Central Region Design
Group Chief

Statewide Materials Group Attendees:

Michael San Angelo, Statewide Materials
Engineer
Scott Gartin, Quality Assurance Engineer
Keith Korri, State Foundation Engineer
State Pavement Engineer
Dave Stanley, Chief Geologist
Greg Christensen, Statewide RSO

Stwd. Aviation Attendee:

Roger Maggard, Statewide Airport
Development Mgr.

Measurement Standards and Commercial

Vehicle Enforcement Attendees:

Aves Thompson, Director

12:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Lunch & Field Trip
Whittier Tunnel
Gordon Burton, Facility Manager

Portage Alaska



JUNEAU

Thursday, August 3, 2006

Hotel: Prospector Hotel 907-586-3737

375 Whittier St

Juneau, AK

Attendees: Jim Elieff, Sue Sillick, David Huft, Gina Baas, Marci Kenney, Peter Forsling, Clint Adler

6:00 a.m.-7:00 a.m.	Flight Check In Alaska Airlines	Ted Stevens Airport Anchorage
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7:39 a.m.	Depart Anchorage for Juneau Alaska Airlines Flight 62 Arrives 9:20 a.m.	
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10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Southeast Region/Headquarters Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Briefing on Focus Session Highlights• Open discussion:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Project Identification & Selection. Are we finding the best topics? Is there a better way to identify them?○ Project management. What is the highest & best use for our two research engineers?○ Implementation. Effective methods	Commissioner's Conference Room
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Southeast Region
Malcolm Menzies, Southeast
Region Director
Chuck Correa, Construction
Engineer
Jack Beedle, Preconstruction
Engineer
Pat Carroll, Design Group Chief
Andy Hughes, Planning Chief
Greg Patz, M&O Chief
Jim Evensen, PD&E Chief
Van Sundberg, Environmental
Coordinator
Carolyn Morehouse, Traffic &
Safety Engineer
Bruce Brunette, Materials
Engineer



Headquarters

Gary Hogins, Chief Engineer
Rich Pratt, Chief Bridge Engineer
Mark Niedhold, Chief Design &
Constr. Strds
Vic Winters, Harbors Engineer
Drew Sielbach, Sr. Bridge
Engineer
Mark Miles, Statewide
Hydraulics Engineer
Elmer Marx, Sr. Bridge Engineer
George Imbsen, Sr. Bridge
Engineer
Kurt Smith, State Traffic
Engineer
Rick Kauzlarich, State Right of
Way Chief
Bill Ballard, State Environmental
Chief
John Falvey, General Manager,
AMHS
Frank Richards, State M&O
Engineer
Jeff Ottesen, Director Statewide
Planning

12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Draft Peer Exchange Report

TBA Conference
Room



JUNEAU

Friday, August 4, 2006

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Attendees: Jim Elieff, Sue Sillick, David Huft, Gina Baas, Marci Kenney, Peter Forsling, Clint Adler

**10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Presentation of Peer Exchange Report to
Research Advisor Board & Senior
Management**

Mike Barton, Commissioner
John Torgerson, Deputy Commissioner,
Aviation
John MacKinnon, Deputy Commissioner,
Highways & Public Facilities
Robin Taylor Deputy
Commissioner/Director, Marine
Operations
Andrew Niemiec, Northern Region
Director
Gordon Keith, Central Region Director
Malcolm Menzies, Southeast Region
Director
Jeff Ottesen, Director, Division of Program
Development
Gary Hogins, Chief Engineer

Commissioner's
Conference
Room

12:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned
Depart for Home
