This Mid-Year Workshop Subcommittee Report is on the past (2008) and upcoming 2009 and 2010 meetings as well as what the Mid-Year Workshop Subcommittee will be doing over the next year.

**2008 Mid-Year Workshop**

As background, this mid-year workshop was a joint meeting with Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (ADA40), Ecology and Transportation (ADC30) and our committee. Thanks to CDOT for the great job that they have done. CDOT has done an outstanding job as our host, and has gone above and beyond in a lot of areas. Thanks to each of you and others not here for moderating, presenting and for all the other efforts that you have done to make the workshop a success. Thank you!

The stats for the 2008 meeting are as follows:

- A total of 127 people attended (on the smaller side—travel cost, restrictions an issue)
- In-state attendees comprised 43% and out-of-state attendees 57% of all people at the workshop
- Ratio of consultant to government representatives was 11:9
- However, only seven people attended the workshop from resource agencies
- The 2008 mid-year workshop came out in the black (i.e., we made a small amount of money)

In general, people indicated that they were pleased with the workshop. (We had a 9.5% response rate on the survey.) Average of all scores gave us about 4.3 out of 5 overall for the workshop. The highest marks went to the tour and banquet (which is typical) and the lower marks went to the accommodations and meeting rooms (also typical). The breadth of topics in the sessions also rated on the lower side. The greatest variation in responses came in the areas of:

- Association of Session Topics to the Theme
- Quality of the Accommodations
- Setting for the Evening Research Session
- Value to your work of the Evening Research Session

These responses are typical save for the last response—we expected higher research orientation given the anticipated audience at that session.

We also compiled of number of “lessons learned” that we will apply to the upcoming 2009 mid-year workshop in West Virginia. Notable among these lessons for the 2009 mid-year workshop is the positive value of having a guest program and the ability to process credit cards to ease registration.
2009 Mid-Year Workshop

Our 2009 Mid-Year Workshop will be in Shepherdstown, WV. Kris Hoellen and the Conservation Leadership Network will be our primary host. The workshop will take place July 13-16, 2009. The venue would be the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) located in Shepherdstown, WV.

The NCTC accommodations include 226 onsite lodging rooms, three computer labs, two science labs, a 250-seat auditorium, ten 8-seat breakout rooms, three 14-seat conference rooms, and 12 classrooms of various sizes (24-60 seats) all on a single campus. NCTC is located on 500 acres with five miles of paved walking paths, a mile of which borders the Potomac River. The center also offers a fitness center, full-sized basketball court, a bar, and library. Moreover, NCTC is a world-class premier training center having served as hosts to Mid-East Peace talks, and other important events. Each meeting room contains the most up-to-date technology on audio-visual equipment; buildings are built of red oak, and quarry contain floor to ceiling windows.

More information can be obtained regarding the meeting site at: http://training.fws.gov/. The NCTC is home to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. An advantage of this venue is that it could put us into a position to have a joint meeting with this resource (or other) resource agencies if mutually agreeable.

Regarding the planning of the meeting, we have achieved the following to date:

- We have a workshop planning group of eleven people who are actively engaged in the effort. People on the planning committee represent this committee, MD and WV DOTs, FHWA, USFWS, USFS, ACOE, and AASHTO.
- We have completed three meetings of the workshop planning group. In those meetings we have established the goals of the workshop, arrived at a theme, and developed the preliminary agenda. We previously issued a “save-a-date” for this workshop at the July meeting in Denver.
- We have established the workshop theme. The theme is “Looking Beyond the Transportation Footprint: Environmental Analysis – New Partners – New Scales”
- We have developed a preliminary agenda (handout) and would like to have your comments by the end of the month if possible.
- One goal of the workshop will be to encourage greater resource agency participation and thus have included the same in our planning group.

Our next steps will be to:

- Distribute the preliminary program and another “save-a-date” this month
- Select moderators and work on potential speakers next month
- Invite speakers, work on tour and develop registration materials in March
- Confirm speakers and distribute the registration materials in April.
2010 Mid-Year Section Workshop

Thanks to James Martin and CTE for offering to host our 2010 Section Workshop. Kate Quinn, our Section Chair is the primary organizer for the event. Kate is working closely with AASHTO and a number of committees within and outside the section to bring this workshop together. The venue will be in North Carolina and most likely be in Raleigh-Durham area. Kate is looking to have the workshop in the June-July timeframe. NCDOT is a likely co-host of the workshop. The workshop is likely to see between 350 to 650 attendees from 10 to 15 TRB Committee plus other organizations including AASHTO. Attendance will likely be on the lower side due to travel restrictions still in place in many state and federal agencies.

2011 and Beyond

- The Minnesota DOT has tentatively offered to host us in 2011. We will reconfirm this again after ICOET in about October of 2009.
- Arkansas (Lynn Malbrough) has tentatively offered to host us in 2012. We will reconfirm the interest in October 2009 and again as we get closer to 2012. The committee on Ecology and Transportation (ADC30) usually meets with us on the even years and indicated that they would like to have a joint meeting in 2012.
- The subcommittee is looking into potential venues for the mid-year workshops for all future years. Some of the other states we are talking with include Texas, California, Florida, Georgia and Oregon.

Future Elements that the Subcommittee will be working on:

- As you know, we have the Mid-Year Workshop Guidelines out and have been using them for this workshop. We have updated the document based on the 2008 meeting in Denver and will work with the website subcommittee to put the document on our webpage.
- We will be considering capturing digital video of parts of future workshops. We considered this for the 2008 mid-year workshop but the cost of staff to do the work was too high. We will think about this for the 2009 mid-year workshop. Want to balance cost, server capacity/speed, potential attendance issues, presenter reaction and type of presentation. We would likely focus on certain presentations to enhance the overall website experience. (e.g., workshop welcome and high interest presentations)
- We will continue moving toward using a registration system for the mid-year workshops that allows the use of credit cards. We will look at this very closely each time to judge the experience.
- We will continue shop for venues for future mid-year workshops. We will have more news on this at the upcoming mid-year meeting and will certainly be coming back to the states that have indicated an interest in hosting us to verify interest as time draws near.
- We will continue to work on participation and succession planning within the subcommittee to ensure a strong Mid-Year Workshop Subcommittee in future years. Many people have expressed interest in assisting with the Mid-Year Workshop and I appreciate their contributions.