



# RAC 2025

## 2025 AASHTO RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING MEETING AGENDA

July 13–17, 2025  
Billings, Montana

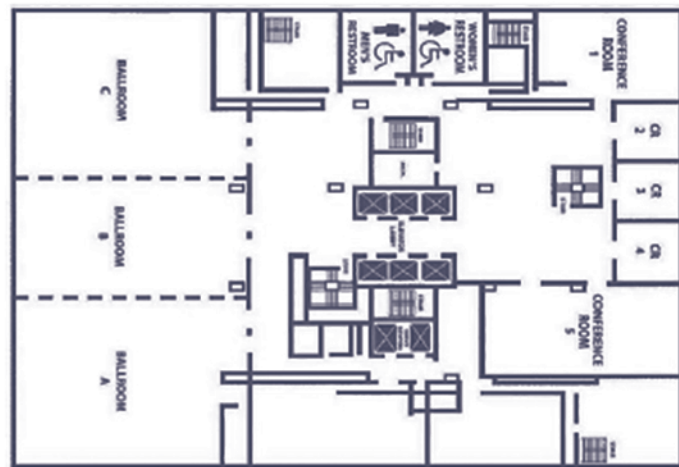
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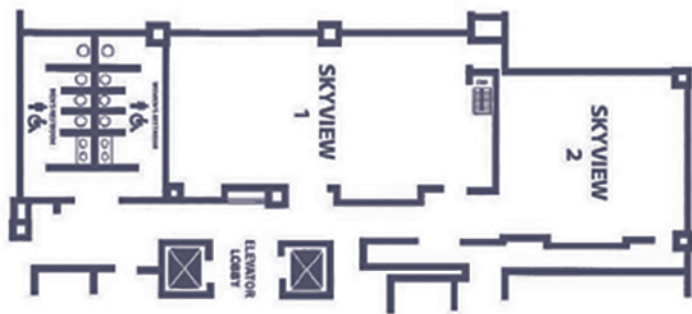
# Hotel Floor Plan



2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Facilities



3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Meeting Facilities



20<sup>th</sup> Floor Meeting Facilities



# Research and Communications for Transportation Professionals

- Serving state DOTs, pooled funds, local road agencies, associations, universities and national research programs
- Partnering with the AASHTO Research Advisory Committee and its members since 2002
- Helping clients drive change with effective research, management and communications

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Research Management · Technology Transfer · Synthesis Research · Pooled Fund Management  
Program Communications · Peer Exchanges and Meeting Facilitation · ADA and Section 508

## SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025

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2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.  
**Registration Open**  
*South Foyer*

4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.  
**TRB Committee Meeting**  
*Grand Ballroom B*

*Following the TRB Committee reorganization, we are holding the traditional time on pre-RAC agenda for a TRB-related meeting. Expect more details.*

**Moderator**  
Emily Parkany, Vermont AOT

5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.  
**Welcome Reception**  
*Skyview 1 & 2*

## MONDAY, JULY 14

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8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
**Registration**  
*South Foyer*

7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m.  
**Breakfast**  
*Grand Ballroom A*

8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.  
**Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
*Grand Ballroom C*

**Moderator**  
Kevin Pete, Region 4 Chair

**Speakers**  
• Christopher Dorrington, Director, Montana DOT  
• Cameron Kergaye, AASHTO RAC Chair

9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.  
**Task Force Focus**  
*Grand Ballroom C*

**RAC Support Task Force**  
**Moderator**

Tyson Rupnow, Louisiana DOT

**Ahead of the Curve Pooled-Fund Update**

- Tyson Rupnow, Louisiana DOT
- Jason Bittner, Applied Research Associates

**Communicating Value Task Force**

**Moderators**  
Rebecca Ridenour, Montana DOT;  
Jenni Hosey, Missouri DOT

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.  
**Break with Region 1 HVR Highlights**  
*South Foyer*

10:30 a.m.–Noon  
**Region Meeting Breakouts**

**Region 1 Meeting**  
*Grand Ballroom B*

**Region 2 Meeting**  
*Conference Room 1*

**Region 3 Meeting**  
*Conference Room 5*

**Region 4 Meeting**  
*SkyBridge 5*

Noon–1:00 p.m.  
**Lunch**  
*Grand Ballroom A*

1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.  
**AI Research and Implementation in DOTs**  
*Grand Ballroom C*

*This session explores the impact of AI in State DOTs. The panel will discuss cutting-edge research, practical implementation strategies, and challenges in integrating AI technologies.*



## MEETING AGENDA

### Moderator

Giri Venkateela, New Jersey, DOT

### Speakers

- Yin Hai Wang, University of Washington
- Kohinoor Kar, Arizona DOT
- Tara Cullum, Oklahoma DOT

2:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

### Break with Region 2 HVR Highlights South Foyer

3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

### Breakout Sessions

#### Room and session change at 3:55 p.m.

Join us for an informative breakout session featuring four engaging topics. Select one option to attend:

- **Option 1: Section 508 and ADA Compliance Tips and Tricks**

#### Grand Ballroom B

Don't know where to start with accessibility compliance, or don't know how to solve your most common problems? This session complements accessibility training and guidance provided by the Transportation Research and Connectivity Pooled-Fund Study and will help answer your questions on creating accessible digital files.

### Moderator

Brian Hirt, CTC and Associates

### Speaker

- Colleen Bos, CTC and Associates

- **Option 2: Strategies for Generating and Selecting Impactful Research Ideas**

#### Conference Room 1

Discover how Department of Transportation research programs turn innovative ideas into funded projects, from ranking proposals to crafting scopes and selecting winning requests, in this insightful panel discussion.

### Moderator

Michael Townley, Michigan DOT

### Panelists

- Curtis Bradley, North Carolina DOT
- Katie Walker, Minnesota DOT
- Tara Cullum, Oklahoma DOT
- Tommy Nantung, Indiana DOT
- Wade Odell, Texas DOT

- **Option 3: RAC 101**

#### Conference Room 5

RAC 101 is for new and not-so-new RAC members to network and discuss RAC's purpose, activities, and opportunities for engagement. Examples topics could include how RAC fits in with other research entities, how regions and task forces can help, and resources available to you. This is an informal discussion and is intended to be an ask-us-anything.

### Moderator

Cindy Smith, Mississippi DOT

- **Option 4: TRID and Research in Progress (RIP) for Maintaining, Distributing and Informing Your Research**

#### SkyBridge 4

An update and overview on using RIP to enter/maintain your projects and submitting final products for indexing in TRID. The usefulness of TRID and RIP for informing your own research will also be covered.

### Moderator/Speaker

Bill McLeod, Transportation Research Information Services Manager, TRB

6:00 p.m.

### Regional Dinners

Locations to be determined by each region.  
(Pay per customer/not included with registration).

## TUESDAY, JULY 15

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

### Registration

*South Foyer*

7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m.

### Breakfast

*Grand Ballroom A*

8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.

### Participating in AASHTO and TRB Committees—Why and How

*Grand Ballroom C*

*Overview of AASHTO and TRB committees outlining the value of engagement to participants and state DOTs.*

#### Moderator

*Emily Parkany, Vermont Agency of Transportation*

#### Speakers

- *Cameron Kergaye, Utah DOT*
- *Cindy Smith, Mississippi DOT*

9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

### Task Force Focus

*Grand Ballroom C*

### Implementation

#### Moderator

*Amanda Laib, Idaho TD*

### Technologies

#### Moderator

*Cindy Smith, Mississippi DOT*

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

### Break with Region 3 HVR Highlights

*South Foyer*

10:30 a.m.–Noon

### View from the Top Q&A Panel

*Gran Ballroom C*

*View From the Top is a forum where federal and state transportation officials answer various questions from an audience of peers concerning research programs and the conduct of research. This panel consists of representatives from AASHTO, Turner-Fairbank Research Center, Special Committee on Research and Innovation, Transportation Research Board, and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST-R). Questions will be submitted in advance of the session.*

#### Moderator

*Wade Odell, Texas DOT*

#### Speakers

- *Kevin Marshia, AASHTO*
- *Ann Brach, TRB*
- *Alasdair Cain, U.S. DOT*
- *Cameron Kergaye, Utah DOT and AASHTO RAC Chair*

Noon–1:00 p.m.

### Lunch

*Grand Ballroom A*

1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

### Post Project Activities: Research Implementation, Evaluation, and Tracking

*Grand Ballroom C*

*What happens after a research report is published is just as important as the research itself. This session will provide panelist perspectives on post project evaluation and tracking, and on best workflows for implementing research, including a preview of an implementation toolkit being developed through NCHRP 20-44(49).*

#### Moderator

*Steve Cohn, Colorado DOT*

#### Presenters

- *Curtis T. Bradley, Ph.D., North Carolina DOT*
- *Patrick McVeigh, Pennsylvania DOT*
- *Dr. Stephanie Ivey, University of Memphis*

2:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

### **Break with Region 4 HVR Highlights** *South Foyer*

3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

### **Breakout Sessions**

#### **Room and session change at 3:55 p.m.**

*Join us for an informative breakout session featuring four engaging topics. Select one option to attend.*

- **Option 1: Tech Transfer & Communication of Research**

#### *Grand Ballroom B*

*The final report is delivered, the invoices are paid, and the project panel is satisfied; so, what is next? This breakout is a discussion of the post-research activities intended to support the implementations of research findings and recommendations. Topics include communications, packaging the research, technology readiness, IT/IS handoffs, and ongoing tracking. Discussion will be in round-table format with audience participation.*

#### **Moderator/Presenter**

**Michael Bufalino, Oregon DOT**

- **Option 2: Best Practices for Coordinating STIC and EDC as part of the SPR-B Work Program**

#### *Conference Room 1*

*Interactive discussion to promote best practices and innovation for the integration of the State Transportation Innovation Council and FHWA's Every Day Counts initiatives within our SPR-B Work Program.*

#### **Moderator/Presenter**

**Brian Wall, Pennsylvania DOT**

- **Option 3: Research Work Program and Annual Report: Finding ways to streamline the process**

#### *Conference Room 5*

*Work smarter, not harder. What are ways that different states have found to make the mandated reporting*

*process more efficient and less burdensome. This breakout will be an opportunity for research staff to collaborate on ways they have streamlined the process. Hopefully you will pick up some suggestions on how to make the reporting requirements less time consuming and more helpful for managing your program.*

#### **Moderator/Presenter**

**Jen Harper, Missouri DOT**

- **Option 4: Collaborating regionally and the pooled fund program**

#### *SkyBridge 4*

*This opportunity will focus on regional collaboration such as peer exchanges, collaborative regional pooled fund studies, and the like. Additionally, a discussion on the pooled fund program will occur and how collaborative efforts within regions can be facilitated through the pooled-fund program.*

#### **Co-Moderators/Presenters**

**Tyson Rupnow, Louisiana DOT**

**Khyle Chute, Iowa DOT**

#### **Optional Evening Outing.**

#### **Baseball Game: Billings Mustangs vs. Rocky Mountain Vibes**

*Separate registration required and costs are individual, not paid by RAC registration.*

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

### Registration

South Foyer

7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m.

### Breakfast

Grand Ballroom A

7:30 a.m.–Noon

### Local Interest Field Trip Opportunities

This is facilitated through the Montana Department of Transportation only.

- **Option 1: Beartooth Plateau Field Trip**

If a road is well-maintained, no one ever wonders about the how. Attend this field trip and learn from Montana DOT professionals who keep the seasonal segment of US 212 open and operating during the busy summer tourist season. US 212 south of Red Lodge, Montana, is a steep route up the Beartooth Plateau and into Wyoming. During this field trip, you will learn about MDT's innovative and creative maintenance and preservation efforts to keep this very busy seasonal route open and free of hazards. You will also get a colorful and entertaining history lesson about how the route was selected and originally constructed by Montana DOT Historian and published author, Jon Axline.

#### Moderator

Rebecca Ridenour, Montana DOT

#### Speakers

- **Jon Axline, Montana DOT Historian**
- **Walt Houghton, Billings Division Maintenance Chief, Montana DOT**

This tour includes a bus ride lasting up to four hours. The bus will leave the hotel at 7:30 a.m. sharp. The road up to the top of the Beartooth Plateau winds and climbs; please note in case you are sensitive to motion sickness.

Tentative schedule of this tour includes:

- Restroom breaks—Red Lodge (20 minute), Beartooth Plateau (20 minutes)

- Historian and Maintenance lead discussions and interactive conversations via bus intercom

- Return to Billings Double Tree by 12:00 p.m. for lunch

- **Option 2: Billings Transportation Innovation—Then and Now**  
Grand Ballroom B

Billings, Montana has been a regional hub since the Great Northern Railroad transformed it from a frontier town to a commercial center. Come listen to a local historian talk about the innovations experienced by a developing Billings, some successful, some not so much, during its early days. Then fast-forward to modern day to learn how Billings UAV (unmanned aerial vehicles) are being used and studied and finding easier, better, and safer ways to support the transportation industry. Finally, you'll have an opportunity to try your hand at UAV operation at Billings' North Park. A short walk from the hotel, Montana DOT operators will have equipment set up for us to demo.

#### Moderator

Rebecca Ridenour, Montana DOT

#### Speakers

- **Lauren Hunley, Community Historian, Western Heritage Center, Billings**
- **Catelina Muchnick, Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) Drone Club, Rocky Mountain College, Billings**
- **Mike Kuni, UAV Pilot, Montana DOT**
- **Paul Hilchen, UAV Pilot, Montana DOT**

This "Option" will take place at the conference hotel. Tentative schedule for this option is:

- Presentation by Lauren Huntley
- Presentation by Catelina Muchnick
- Break – 10:00–10:30 a.m.
- Walk to North Park
- Meet with MDT UAV pilots Mike Kuni and Paul Hilchen for demonstration and hands-on UAV.
- Walk back to hotel by 12:00 p.m. for lunch



## MEETING AGENDA

Noon–1:00 p.m.

### Lunch

*Grand Ballroom A*

1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

### Getting the Most from Research Partnerships—Private & Public

*Grand Ballroom C*

*This panel session will provide insights on how state DOTs, universities, and private companies work together to produce useful research that enhances transportation.*

#### Moderator

**Vicky Fout, Ohio DOT**

#### Panelists

- **Mustafa Mohamedali, Washington State DOT**
- **Jason Bitner, Applied Research Associates**
- **Larry Rilett, Auburn University**

2:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

### Timeliness and Quality of Research Deliverables

*Grand Ballroom C*

*This presentation will provide an update on the efforts of the Quality and Timeliness Working Group of the PM&Q Task Force and share findings from the most recent survey.*

#### Moderator

**Vicky Fout, Ohio DOT**

#### Speakers

- **Jen Harper, Missouri DOT**
- **Enid White, Wyoming DOT**

2:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

### Break

*South Foyer*

3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

### Research Program Therapy Breakout Sessions

*It's time to vent to your colleagues about processes that are a struggle and get some helpful suggestions and insights on ways to make life a little easier. You will have a chance to participate in two different breakouts. The*

*first round of breakouts will be from 3:00 p.m. to 3:55 p.m. A break will occur from 3:55 p.m.–4:05 p.m. for you to move to another room to sigh, scream, cry, and laugh about another issue. The second round of breakouts will be from 4:05 p.m.–5:00 p.m.*

- **Option 1: Strategies for Successfully Managing a Research Unit**  
—*Grand Ballroom B*

*Managing a research unit can be challenging due to various reasons: changing workforce, constrained resources, loss of institutional knowledge, adoption of new and rapidly changing technologies, project delays, etc. In this session, we will explore some strategies that could be employed to help today's managers successfully navigate through these challenges and achieve positive results.*

**Moderator: Alma Mujkanovich, Georgia DOT**

- **Option 2: Innovation Angle: How do innovation offices impact research programs?**—*Conference Room 1*

*In this therapy session, we will explore how innovation and research collide. There will be use cases, engagement with audience, and some data that support innovation and research's symbiotic relationship.*

**Moderator: Rebecca Ridenour, Montana DOT**

#### Panelists

- **Todd May, Indiana DOT**
- **Katie Walker, Minnesota DOT**
- **Sid Mohan, NCHRP**

- **Option 3: Therapy Session to Help You Build a Better Contract Toolkit**  
—*Conference Room 5*

*With the multiple changes to 2 CFR 200, contract language has made a drastic change. This session will allow you to discuss with your peers how you are navigating contract language to meet the requirements in 2 CFR 200. Please bring any questions you have. Let your peers help you out.*

**Moderator: Enid White, Wyoming DOT**

• **Option 4: Peer Exchange Best Practices—SkyBridge 4**

Peer exchanges can vary in complexity and provide State DOT research programs an opportunity to examine and evaluate their own programs. Hosting a peer exchange can be very challenging, but also very rewarding. During this session we will discuss ideas that have worked well for peer exchanges and ideas that have not worked out as well as desired.

**Moderator:** Thad Bauer, South Dakota DOT

## THURSDAY, JULY 17

8:00 a.m.–Noon

**Registration**  
South Foyer

7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m.

**Breakfast**  
Grand Ballroom A

8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.

**AI Strategies and Policies for DOT Applications**  
Grand Ballroom C

Explore the strategic and policy dimensions of AI in Department of Transportation applications in this insightful session. Experts will discuss the development and implementation of AI strategies, addressing regulatory challenges and opportunities for innovation. Attendees will learn how effective policy frameworks can facilitate the integration of AI technologies, enhancing transportation systems' efficiency, safety, and sustainability.

**Moderator**

Giri Venkateela, New Jersey DOT

**Speakers**

- Ben McCulloch, Texas DOT
- Jesse Newberry, HNTB
- Enid White, Wyoming DOT

9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

**Interactive State DOT Game**  
Grand Ballroom C

Get your thinking caps on! This networking and team building session will match teams against teams to see who can amass the most prizes.

**Moderator**

Rebecca Ridenour, Montana DOT

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

**Break**  
South Foyer

10:30 a.m.–Noon

**Dashboards and Dialogues: Managing and Communicating Research**  
Grand Ballroom C

Effectively managing and communicating research is key to maximizing its impact. This session highlights innovative tools and strategies for tracking research progress and sharing results. Presentations include an update on the FHWA pooled-fund project TPF-5(467) to develop a research project tracking system, practical techniques for designing multi-channel communication materials, and insights from successful approaches for communicating collaborative research efforts—whether single- or multi-agency—designed for easy adoption by partner organizations.

**Moderator**

Amanda Laib, Idaho TD

**Speakers**

- **An update on TPF-5(467) “Research Project Tracking System”**  
Joe Crabtree, Kentucky Transportation Center
- **Designing Multi-Use Content for Successful Technology Transfer**  
Brian Garmon, Applied Research Associates
- **“Collaboration at Work”—Communicating Pooled-Fund Study Research Results**  
Brian Hirt, CTC & Associates, and Khyle Clute, Iowa DOT

Noon

**Invitation to Summer RAC 2026!**  
**Meeting adjourns.**  
**Box Lunch provided with Registration.**

# AASHTO CODE OF CONDUCT

To foster a positive environment built upon a foundation of trust, respect, open communications, and ethical behavior, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Board of Directors has issued a Code of Conduct that applies to AASHTO staff, Association members, and all AASHTO meeting and event attendees, for the duration of AASHTO events or when participating in other events representing AASHTO.

At all times, AASHTO staff, Association members, and meeting and event attendees, will be expected to abide by the Code of Conduct, specifically:

- 1 Contribute to a collegial, inclusive, positive, and respectful environment.
- 2 Consistently show respect to others and never take any inappropriate actions based on race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, political affiliation, presence of disabilities, or educational background.
- 3 Interact with others in a cooperative and respectful manner, never using insulting, harassing, or otherwise offensive language in their interactions. Disruptive, harassing, or inappropriate behavior toward other AASHTO staff, Association members, and meeting and event attendees, is unacceptable. Personal boundaries set by others must be observed. Harassment of any kind, including but not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances and other verbal or physical harassment will not be tolerated.
- 4 Obey all applicable laws and regulations of the relevant government authorities while acting on behalf of AASHTO; obey all applicable laws and regulations of the relevant government authorities while attending AASHTO meetings and events, and comply with all applicable safety guidelines.

## Violations

Violations of this Code of Conduct should be reported promptly to AASHTO staff for investigation, or can be submitted to [humanresources@aaashto.org](mailto:humanresources@aaashto.org), or reported to the AASHTO Executive Director or AASHTO President if appropriate. To the extent possible, AASHTO will try to keep the reporting individual's concerns confidential; however confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, and the reporting individual's identity may need to be revealed as the claim is investigated. Anyone, regardless of position or title, AASHTO determines has engaged in conduct that violates this policy will be subject to corrective action depending on the nature of the violation. Retaliation for reporting perceived violations in good faith or for cooperating in the investigations of any claims will not be tolerated.

*Approved by the AASHTO Board of Directors  
October 9, 2019*

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AASHTO

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Contact

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# NOTES

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The screenshot shows the AASHTO Store website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the AASHTO logo, a search bar, and links for FAQ, Contact Us, and My Account. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Publications' and 'Technical Training'. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'New Publications' with a list of recent releases, 'Featured Publications' with a list of highlighted titles, and a grid of category icons including 'AASHTO Archives', 'Administration & Economics', 'Asset Management & Planning', 'Bridges & Structures', 'Construction & Right-of-Way', 'Design & Traffic', 'Environment', 'Highway Transport & Trucking', 'Maintenance', 'Materials, Testing, & Pavement', 'Passenger Rail & Freight', 'PE Collection', 'Reports', and 'Safety'. A yellow arrow points to a blue 'Subscribe Newsletter' button located at the bottom left of the page.

The logo for AASHTO, featuring the letters "AASHTO" in a bold, sans-serif font. A thick horizontal line is positioned above the letters, extending from the left edge of the "A" to the right edge of the "O".

**AASHTO**

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