



GPTQ Steering Committee May 13, 2009

MEETING NOTES

Present: Terry Gable, Roger Dill, Allan Childers, Kathy Stansell, Melany Reynolds, Greg Mayo, Darrell Richardson, Mark Tilden, Rick Smith, Randy Hart, Tommy Crochet, Adjo A. , Ralph Volpe, Lillian Jackson, Scott Gero, Joe Macrina, Paul Cook, Angela Alexander, John Heath, Ben Buchan, Georgene Geary, and Peter Finsen..

- Ben Buchan welcomed all attendees to the meeting and asked for the Standing Committee Reports to be presented.

- *Annual Meeting Program Development Committee* – Lillian Jackson passed out a copy of a summary of the Participant’s Evaluation results for the 2008 Workshop. In general the survey came back with relatively positive comments. One area that did stick out was some negative feedback on the *type* of presentation that was given by the Guest Speaker. Several respondents felt that a motivational type presentation is much more effective than the technical presentation that was given. Lillian introduced Melany Reynolds from communications who will be shadowing with her this year to possibly fill the Chair position next year. The committee’s first meeting will be today, she plans to start discussing plans and topics for the 2009 workshop (Tentative dates of workshop 12/9-12/11).

****** Special Note to the minutes: following this Steering Committee meeting a decision was made by the Department to cancel this year’s GPTQ Workshop in Athens due to the challenging economic times. Ben Buchan has written a letter addressing this which is attached.***

- *Consultant Relations Committee* – Tommy Crochet said that Al Bowman would not be the Industry Co-Chair for the Committee this year. No one at this time had been selected for the position but Tommy stated it would be soon. He said that the committee had met on January 20th and March 17th and gave a brief summary of the last meeting. *Minutes from both meetings will be posted on the GPTQ web page.* A few highlights of the subcommittees:

- Environmental – Continues to focus on training required for consultant prequalification in environmental classes. They are working with Rick Smith to try and schedule some classes in Georgia. Some have had to go out of state to get the classes.
- Plan Presentation – Inroads/Microstation development is going well and the Engineering Software TEAM is devoting as much time as possible towards phase I release.
- Cost Estimating – The Department plans to discontinue the use of DETEST later this year and begin using the Trns*port CES module for cost estimating on a limited basis and will fully transition to the new program later this year.

The committee's next scheduled meeting is on May 19th.

- *Contractor Relations Committee* – Randy Hart stated that Steve Swan would not be the Industry Co-Chair for the committee this year. Roger Dill (GAPA) said that Steve Parks had resigned as Executive Director for the Contractors Association and that David Moellering would be the interim Executive Director. Roger will call David and discuss the vacant Co-Chair position. Roger also said that the GHCA would like to propose a change in the format of the workshop. They would like to see breakout sessions added that are similar to years past when contractors would have meetings with GDOT to discuss problems and issues involving GDOT construction projects. Some discussion took place on this issue but no actions or decisions were made by the Committee.
- *Workforce Training and Certification Committee* – Rick Smith stated that the committee had its first meeting on April 21 (minutes are posted on GPTQ website). He gave an summary of the meeting, below is a few specific items that were mentioned:
 - The committee needs a representative from the Contractors Association, GDOT Preconstruction Office, and FHWA to attend their meetings.
 - A suggestion was made to possibly add a representative to the Committee from the Surveying industry.
 - Moving forward, a major effort for the committee could be a central clearinghouse added to the GPTQ website that lists all potential training events for Engineers, Contractors, Surveyors, and Environmental professionals. More information will be provided at the next Steering Committee meeting on this subject.
 - Training may be available for surveyors this fall regarding the InRoads software program.

Rick said that their next scheduled meeting will be in June.

- *Awards and Recognition Committee* – Georgene Geary stated that the committee had not been able to meet this year. She made a few comments concerning the Awards for the 2009 Workshop in Athens. She also expressed the need for a representative from the Contractors Association to start attending the meetings.
- *Old Business* - None

- New Business: Several topics were discussed:
 - A brief discussion took place regarding the GPTQ Charter and the need to update the Charter and specifically the member list for each of the Standing Committees. Tommy Crochet said that he would update the section for the CRC and email a draft to Ben and Terry. Tommy also suggested that we consider adding another standing committee for Local Governments and the Stone/Aggregate Industry. No final decisions were made regarding these issues. Ben will schedule another meeting with all the Co-Chairs to review the entire Charter for needed updates and revisions. The recommended changes will be presented to the Steering Committee for approval at our next meeting.
 - The Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) presented a formal application to the Steering Committee to join GPTQ as a Member. The application package contained all the required documents as stated in the Charter. Steve Parks, previous Executive Director of GHCA, also had written a letter of recommendation to the Steering Committee, dated November 4, 2008, for GRTA's application. A motion was made by Greg Mayo to approve their membership and Allan Childers seconded the motion. The Committee then voted to approve GRTA as a new Member.
 - The amount of participation in our Steering and Standing Committee meetings has been slowly decreasing over the past few years. Based on past history less than half of the current Members are attending the required number of meetings as stated in the Charter. Ben expressed his concerns for this and asked that all Members at least meet the minimum requirements and obligations as stated in the Charter. He also asked all standing committee Co-Chairs to update their rosters and send the list to Terry. He asked them to contact any Member that was not attending meetings on a regular basis and to get him involved if needed.

- The next meeting will be in August. Specific date to follow.

- No other items were discussed and the meeting was adjourned.



June 9, 2009

TO: GPTQ Steering Committee:

Due to continued budget and funding constraints, the Department has decided to cancel the 2009 Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality (GPTQ) workshop in Athens. This was not a decision made lightly considering the benefits gained by having this workshop. This year however, the Department believes the citizens of the state will be better served by applying our limited financial resources directly to the products and services that we must provide.

In the coming year, we will take the time to go through the various forms of feedback from our previous meetings and use that information to improve the quality of our future workshops. We will also utilize this time to gather data and compile a comprehensive report that will be published at the end of the year. Look for notifications on upcoming meetings and watch for updates on the website.

It is important for the various committees to continue their very valuable work and we will continue to have Steering Committee meetings. I would also encourage each committee to look for avenues other than the workshop to exchange information.

I appreciate all the work each person does to make GPTQ a success. While I know some will be disappointed with this decision, I hope everyone will understand and appreciate that this decision is the right thing to do during these challenging economic times. I am sure that this will give us the opportunity to plan a very productive and informative workshop for 2010.

Sincerely,

James B. Buchan, P.E.
GPTQ Steering Committee Chair

JBB:ls