

Minutes for the  
Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials (MAASTO)  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
July 21, 2011

Welcome and Opening Remarks – Kevin Keith, Vice-President MAASTO.

Introductions -

- Director Kevin Keith, MoDOT and Vice President of MAASTO
- Director Kirk Steudle, Michigan
- Secretary Mike Hancock, Kentucky
- Commissioner Michael Cline, Indiana
- Secretary Deb Miller, Kansas
- Director Paul Trombino, Iowa
- Director Jerry Wray, Ohio
- Secretary Mark Gottlieb, Wisconsin
- Chief Engineer Christine Reed, Illinois

Others in attendance -

- John Horsley, AASHTO
- Beth Nachreiner, Wisconsin DOT
- Dan Franklin, Iowa DOT
- Lee Wilkenson, Iowa DOT
- John Adam, Iowa DOT
- Russ Romine, Kentucky DOT
- Chris Hundt, Michigan DOT
- Jesse Borjon, Kansas DOT
- Jay Wunderlich, Missouri DOT

*Since the Minnesota state legislature did not agree on a fiscal year 2012 budget by the end of June, MnDOT employees were unable to attend the 2011 MAASTO Conference. Vice President, Kevin Keith presided over the board meeting, while Jay Wunderlich, MoDOT, was appointed to scribe notes.*

Secretary/Treasurers Report

Neither the MAASTO Secretary Serge Phillips nor Treasurer Linda Johnson, both MnDOT employees, was able to attend the July 21 board meeting. Therefore, it was decided by Vice President Keith, that the minutes from the previous MAASTO board meeting and an updated financial report be waived during the July 21 meeting. Once the minutes and financial reports become available, Vice President Keith will seek the board's approval by either electronic balloting or during the MAASTO board meeting to be held during the 2011 annual American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) meeting in Detroit.

Election of 2011-2012 President and Vice-President

Director Steudle, on behalf of the nominating committee, made a motion that Director Keith be nominated as President of MAASTO for 2011 – 2012 and that Secretary Gottlieb be nominated as Vice President of MAASTO for 2011 – 2012. The motion passed.

Discussion of AASHTO Policies

During the board meeting, two current AASHTO procedures or policies were discussed.

The first discussion surrounded AASHTO's procedure for adopting policies and resolutions.

As a result of the low attendance at the Spring and Annual Board of Directors meetings of AASHTO, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain the necessary number of votes required to adopt various policies and resolutions. After a lengthy discussion by the MAASTO board of directors on the importance of making sure an adequate number of votes are maintained during AASHTO board meetings, the board adopted the following resolution:

***Encourage the President of AASHTO to review how policies are currently developed and adopted by the association and encourage members of the AASHTO Board of Directors to participate in future meetings.***

The second discussion item surrounded the commercialization of rest areas along the interstate system.

Many state departments of transportation (DOTs) are looking for ways to free up scarce resources for maintaining their current transportation systems. One way to achieve this goal is to commercialize rest areas along the interstates. Unfortunately, it will take an act of Congress to allow the commercialization of rest areas to occur.

AASHTO currently has a standing policy that allows the association to seek congressional support to change federal law.

After much discussion, the MAASTO board adopted the following resolution:

***MAASTO encourages AASHTO to work with congressional leaders during the debate on the next reauthorization act to allow states the flexibility to commercialize interstate rest areas.***

#### Reauthorization Update

John Horsley, Executive Director of AASHTO, provided to the board an update on the current congressional discussions surrounding the transportation reauthorization act.

In summary, Mr. Horsley stated the differences between the House and Senate "outlines" of a proposed reauthorization act and what the proposals mean in terms of transportation funding for state DOTs. Mr. Horsley said that Congressman Mica is finding it very difficult to acquire floor time in the House to debate his bill; and unless floor time is allowed for this year, the Congressman may not introduce the actual text of his bill. Also, the debate on the debt ceiling crisis continues to hold many pieces of legislation at bay. Congress has set a deadline of August 2 to address the national debt crisis; just prior to the annual month long congressional recess.

#### Utilization of STIC

During the board meeting, many of the MAASTO board members were very complimentary of the work that has been done by the Strategic Transportation Issues Committee (STIC). (Note: STIC is a committee established under Section III of MAASTO's bylaws).

Once he becomes MAASTO President, Vice President Keith said he plans to utilize STIC as a way to keep MAASTO energized and engaged within the AASHTO organization.

Some of the items that were discussed by the board on what STIC can do to assist MAASTO include:

- Reviewing and recommending a policy to separate the secretary/treasurers position to ensure continuity is maintained within the organization. This would replace the current bylaw that requires the Secretary/Treasurers position to move each year to a different state with the President of MAASTO.
- Recommend a policy on how to spend conference carryover funds.
- Review and recommend bylaw changes.

Secretary Miller discussed the need for STIC to “self appoint” a chair for a term of three years. This action would allow continuity and leadership within the committee.

After much discussion on the importance of STIC and what the committee can do for MAASTO, the following resolution was passed by the board:

***The board of directors directs the Strategic Transportation Issues Committee (STIC) to look at the association’s governance structure (i.e. constitution and bylaws) and to continue the policy role of MAASTO. Also, STIC should appoint a chair to lead its efforts. Recommendations from STIC to the board of directors will be expected to be discussed at MAASTO’s next meeting during the October AASHTO annual meeting.***

#### 2012 MAASTO Annual Meeting Update

Secretary Hancock provided the board with an overview of what to expect during the 2012 MAASTO meeting in Lexington, Kentucky.

Secretary Hancock said the meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on July 17 to 20.

Vice President Keith and Secretary Hancock discussed how it would be easier if the host state was allowed to do everything that is required to conduct an annual meeting. Currently, the host state secures the hotel location and all the conference activities and the President of MAASTO creates the business agenda (breakout sessions) for the event.

Other board members agreed that it would be more efficient if the host state were allowed to set the meeting agenda, take care of the logistics of the conference, and have total control of the conference; and to simply allow the MAASTO President to preside over the various proceedings of the conference.

Secretary Hancock agreed this would make the 2012 conference run a lot smoother.

#### 2013 MAASTO Meeting Location

The meeting location for the 2013 MAASTO conference was discussed by the board. Secretary Gottlieb and Secretary Cline will meet in the near future to decide which state (Wisconsin or Indiana) will host the 2013 conference.

#### Closing comments

Director Wray gave a preliminary report to the board of directors that 408 persons attended the 2011 conference and about \$40,000 in net revenues will be deposited into the MAASTO conference account.

Vice President Keith and the other board members applauded Director Wray on a successful conference.

Incoming AASHTO President Steudle, offered to the MAASTO board that he is looking for ideas and issues that he may need to focus on as leader of AASHTO. Vice President Keith responded by offering to Director Steudle that he use MAASTO as an avenue to support his views and direction of AASHTO.

The meeting was adjourned.