



**MAASTO Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday September 1, 2021  
Chicago, Illinois**

***MAASTO Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes***

**President Thompson called the meeting to order**

**MAASTO Board Members in Attendance:**

- IA – Director Scott Marler Present
- IL – Secretary Omer Osman Present
- IN – Commissioner Joe McGuinness Present (Online)
- KS – Secretary Julie Lorenz Present
- KY – Secretary Jim Grey Present (Online)
- MI – Director Paul Ajegba Present
- MN – Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher Present
- MO – Director Patrick McKenna Present
- OH – Director Jack Marchbanks Present
- WI – Secretary Craig Thompson Present

**AASHTO update - Jim Tyman**

- Full steam ahead for Annual meeting in person
- Committee meetings not as certain at the moment due to smaller size and registration numbers
- Congressional update
  - House set a vote to happen by Sept 27<sup>th</sup>
  - If not will need CR and infusion of funding to cover HTF expenditures
  - AASHTO supportive of the current bill. Optimistic it will pass and provide 5 years of consistent federal funding
  - Craig brought up the challenge of managing expectations and amount of new fed funding actually coming to states
  - How to manage increase in funding and project development with staffing? Do we have enough boots on the ground and consultants/contractors?
    - Ohio looking to increase staffing and talking to legislature about it
    - Missouri similar to Ohio looking to increase staffing
    - Minnesota looking to track ability to spend/utilize funding due to staffing
    - Jim Tyman brought up NCHRP program research ideas tied to this issue?

- Can be used for roundtable peer exchange ideas too.

### CAV Update – Elise Feldpausch

- Working groups and strategies tied to near, mid and long term
- Any thoughts to consultant assistance for this effort? Paul A
  - Director Marler – would like to see this as a possible project facilitated by consultant assistance with seeking a discretionary grant
  - Secretary Lorenz – look at funding available and evaluate options.
  - Director McKenna – Possible options under new IJA discretionary programs
- **Action item** motion by Director Ajegba to commit to some level of consultant assistance and set scope and budget to be reviewed by Board in October at AASHTO Annual Meeting
  - Second Director Marchbanks
  - Discussion
    - Reach out to AASTHO to inquire about any other efforts by other regions.
  - Motion carries
- **Action Item** motion by Commissioner Kelliher to add Director Marchbanks and Director Marler as members of CAV committee
  - Second Director McKenna
  - Motion carries

### Emergency Divisible load discussion – Director Marler (IA) and Geno Koehler (IL)

- Explored different views from states to find consistency among states
  - Used Mid-America Freight Coalition to research this and create the report
  - Concept to identify something that could be implemented under future emergency declarations
  - Trucking associations have been engaged in the conversations
- Initial steps made to create a baseline weight for these loads across MAASTO region
  - 88,000 lbs and 10% axle loads as a minimum
  - States could go above but would provide a regionwide base
  - 100% state participation in the review and creation of the baseline
- A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been developed out of this research and report for the board to consider
  - Use as a vehicle for states to agree to minimum baseline
  - **Action Item** – Distribute the MOU for review by states and consideration at the next board meeting in October at the AASHTO Annual Meeting
- Director McKenna asked about a possible “baseline +” looking at where MAASTO states wish to go in the future with weight limits across the states
- Director Ajegba asked about law enforcement and their stance on the issue
  - Illinois has been in communications
  - Not sure if other states have been

### **Diversity and Inclusion report – Commissioner Kelliher**

- The committee is generating a report based on survey responses to identify starting points and best practices for enhancing diversity and inclusion at state DOTs
- Plan to have the report ready for review by BOD at the October meeting.

### **Statement of Support to Louisiana and other states impacted by Hurricane Ida – Secretary Lorenz**

- **Action Item** Omer moved the Board send the statement to Secretaries of affected states and to SASHTO and AASHTO
  - Second by Director McKenna
  - Motion carries

### **Treasurer's report – Laura Mester**

- Expenditures for DC Fly in of \$12,708
- Interest earned over last 3 months \$15.94
- Current Balance after these items is \$288,714.48
- Laura will be meeting later with Illinois and Housman to identify if any of the balance will be needed to cover expenses of MAASTO Annual meeting
- 2 outstanding expenses totaling about \$500
- Will provide an updated report to Board at October meeting with the result of the MAASTO Annual meeting.

### **Chief Engineer's report**

- Attention on COVID impacts and responses to agency operations
- Work Zone safety importance

### **Officer elections**

- President nomination
  - Director McKenna nominated Secretary Lorenz for MAASTO President
  - Second by Director Ajegba
  - Motion carries unanimously
- Vice president nomination
  - Secretary Osman nominated Commissioner Kelliher for MAASTO Vice President
  - Second by Director Marler
  - Motion carries unanimously
- **Action Item** – Director Ajegba recommended creating a rotation of president moving forward.

### President Lorenz remarks about coming year

- Homefield Advantage – Strengthen the Midwest advantage
  - Virtual Conference in October followed up by an in-person conference in February
  - Invitation to all MAASTO member DOTs to participate
  - Request for BOD to promote with stakeholders within their states
  - Expert speakers some lined up and open to other suggestions from Board members
  - Commissioner Kelliher requested if a video invitation or flyer was being created – Yes
  - Director McKenna asked if the KS broadband program would be featured at the conference – Yes
  - **Action Item** – Director Marchbanks requested a broadband fact sheet be sent to the board.
  - **Action item** –breakdown of possible speaker reimbursement costs and estimate for electronic approval of MAASTO funding assistance.
- NCHRP project discussion
  - State DOT vision of future – What do we want to accomplish over the next decade as our “Moonshot”
  - Opportunity to be active participants in this project
- Cooperative Automated Technology Coalition and other groups are also looking at where are we going.

### Motion to adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Skelley  
MAASTO Secretary