Welcome and roll call

- This is the inaugural phone meeting of the acting steering committee for the AASHTO Council on Water Transportation and is open to all council members
- Since this first call is being held early in the morning for people in the Western U.S., Avital will work with the steering committee members to find an afternoon standing time to hold this call on a monthly basis

Status of amended council charter

- The Council on Water Transportation voted to amend our charter in order to form a steering committee and better reflect representation from the states that have an interest water transportation
  - The amended charter was approved by the required 2/3 of the Council on Water Transportation (25 out of 37 voting member states) on June 14, 2019
  - The amended charter is now being brought before the AASHTO Strategic Management Committee (SMC), which will also need to approve by a 2/3 majority in order for the changes to be final
    - We do not have an estimate at this time of when the SMC will vote on the charter amendments
- Until the revised charter is approved by the SMC, the steering committee will meet on an acting basis and all meetings will be open to the full Council on Water Transportation membership; after the charter is approved by the SMC, the steering committee may meet on its own
Purpose of steering committee

- To ensure the general management of Council business
- To address strategic and emerging issues in waterway transportation
- To provide input on when and where the Council will meet in person twice annually, including suggestions for meeting speakers and discussion topics
- To communicate and coordinate with other appropriate AASHTO groups and outside stakeholders

Steering committee roles and vacancies

- A call for volunteers to serve on the steering committee was sent by email throughout the months of May and June 2019
- Per the amended charter, the steering committee will consist of ten members as follows:
  - Chair
  - Vice Chair
  - Four regional representatives, one from each of the four AASHTO regions
  - Four modal representatives, two each with background and/or program responsibilities related to inland waterways and two each with background and/or program responsibilities related to deepwater ports
    - Note that the Region 3 representative will serve as a dual Great Lakes representative – this is in response to councilmember concerns that issues pertinent to the Great Lakes not be left out of council business
- Steering committee members will serve a two-year term, with the option to serve one additional two-year term if reappointed by the Chair
- Phone meetings will occur monthly, with two in-person meetings each year (a conference line will be available if steering committee members cannot attend in person, but they are highly encouraged to attend in person if possible)
- Currently have two vacancies on the steering committee:
  - Chair – to be announced soon; an offer was extended to a state DOT CEO to serve as the Council on Water Transportation Chair, but has not been accepted/finalized yet
  - Region 1 Representative – may be any one person from the following states: Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, or Maine
    - Rhode Island had expressed interest, but the councilmember from that state just received a promotion and will now not be able to serve on the steering committee, so looking to other states in that Region
    - Andrew Sinclair mentioned he has contacts in Maryland, New Jersey, and Maine who he can reach out to, to see if one of them is interested in serving on the steering committee
- When the meeting agenda was first sent, we had three vacancies, but since that time Dan FitzPatrick from FDOT agreed to serve as one of the deepwater representatives
- As of now, the steering committee is comprised of the following members:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deidre Smith</td>
<td>Arkansas Waterways Commission</td>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Sinclair</td>
<td>Virginia Port Authority</td>
<td>Deepwater Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan FitzPatrick Ron Pate</td>
<td>Florida Department of Transportation</td>
<td>Deepwater Representative</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Washington State Department of Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheryl Ball</td>
<td>Missouri Department of Transportation</td>
<td>Inland Waterways Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thaddaeus Babb</td>
<td>Oklahoma Department of Transportation</td>
<td>Inland Waterways Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>One member from MD, DE, NJ, NY, PA, CT, RI, MA, NH, VT, or ME</td>
<td>Region 1 Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Collins</td>
<td>Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development</td>
<td>Region 2 Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Phenow</td>
<td>Minnesota Department of Transportation</td>
<td>Region 3 Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Harmon</td>
<td>Texas Department of Transportation</td>
<td>Region 4 Representative</td>
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Planning for next in-person meeting during AASHTO Annual Meeting in St. Louis, October 2019

- The council last met in person in Baton Rouge, LA in April
- The next meeting will occur in conjunction with the AASHTO Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO
- Slots for committee meetings are available on Sunday, October 6 and Monday, October 7
- Looking into holding a water transportation-specific tour for the council in conjunction with the Special Committee on Freight
  - Deidre prefers meeting on Sunday morning with a tour on Sunday afternoon, because she and Dan Harmon must attend a breakbulk meeting in Houston on October 7 and 8
  - Cheryl, who is leading the tour planning, recommended doing the tour on Monday morning since tours may be less available on weekends; she is looking into what other tours are being held during the Annual Meeting so as not to duplicate
    - Cheryl’s second option is a tour on Saturday afternoon
- Need to determine how long the committee meeting will be
  - Other committee meetings occurring that week are 1-8 hours long
  - Avital recommended holding a business meeting with no speaker presentations, since the rest of the Annual Meeting will feature knowledge sessions
  - Cheryl prefers a longer meeting in order to accommodate all council business and would rather not hold the tour on the same day because it could make the meeting too rushed
    - Cheryl stated that a longer, more substantive meeting will make it more likely that people will attend in person

Other business/open discussion

- Ideas for the council to tackle/discuss at in-person meeting in October
  - Cheryl – groups like IRPT and AAPA have been asking for AASHTO’s support in advocating for policy positions
    - This will fall to the council’s purview, want to make sure this is a topic of discussion on the agenda for the October meeting
  - Deidre – want to make sure we discuss WRDA reauthorization at the October meeting
- Derek – the council will be helpful in identifying key water transportation legislation and legislators
  - Would like map of waterborne commerce routes; being in Hawaii, not sure how coastal and inland waterways connect
  - Derek is a Governor appointee and may only have approximately four years to serve on the council
    - He may want to also appoint a civil servant to provide more longevity on the council from Hawaii
- Ron – interested in an update on the Harbor Maintenance Tax, including national proposals to modify it and the distribution among ports
  - Another topic of interest for Washington State is the Snake River Dam and associated EIS; would love to do a lock and dam tour in St. Louis
  - Wants the council to discuss how we can better inform the AASHTO Transportation Policy Forum on members’ needs and priorities
- Deidre – flooding on inland waterways system has been a huge issue in Arkansas; would love to discuss FEMA best practices and coordination with the group
  - Ron very interested in this as well

- Follow-up
  - Avital to send a scheduling poll to steering committee members to find a standing time for the monthly meetings
    - Meetings will continue to be open to the entire council until the charter is approved by the SMC
  - Avital will alert all councilmembers that the next in-person meeting will be held on Sunday, October 6; she will also provide a skeleton agenda, since that is important for people making the case to travel to the meeting
    - Will work with steering committee over the next meetings to further define the agenda
    - The tour will be planned so that it is not in conflict with the Special Committee on Freight meeting