

# AASHTO Overview

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Transportation Estimators' Association Meeting  
November 5, 2002

# What is AASHTO?

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- Established by the State DOTs to work toward common goals
- Primary functions:
  - Advocate for transportation issues in Washington
  - Develop globally-recognized transportation engineering guides, standards, and software
  - Facilitate information-sharing between the State DOTs through meetings, workshops, and the Internet
  - Represent the State DOTs in national discussions with other groups

# Why Am I Here?

- Proposal for Cost Estimators to become part of AASHTO made at the Spring 2002 meeting of the Standing Committee on Highways (SCOH)
- SCOH was in process of reorganizing
- Debate regarding appropriate place for group within AASHTO structure
- Outcome: SCOH proposed developing a Task Force on Cost Estimating reporting to the Subcommittee on Design

# AASHTO Structure

# AASHTO Structure

- Board of Directors: CEO of each State DOT
- 11 Standing Committees:

## *Modal Committees:*

- Aviation
- **Highways**
- Public Transportation
- Railroads
- Water Transportation

## *Topic-Oriented Committees:*

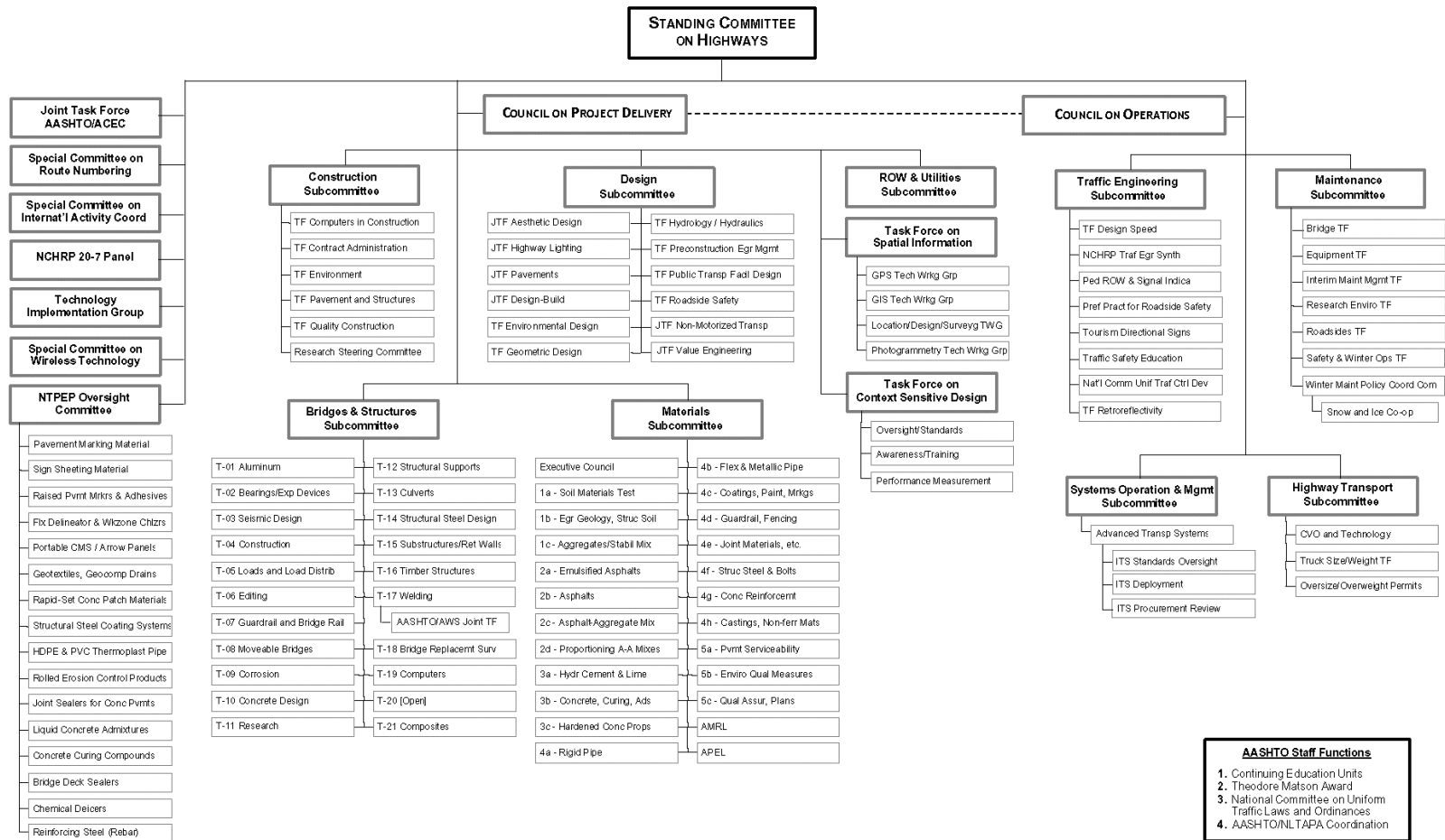
- Administration
- Environment
- Planning
- Quality
- Research
- Safety

- Over 200 committees within the AASHTO Structure
- Members are primarily State DOT representatives
- Standing Committee on Highways is largest by far

# Standing Committee on Highways

- Consists of the Chief Engineer from each State DOT
- Primary responsibilities:
  - Developing policy related to the nation's highway system
  - Approving technical documents developed by subcommittees and task forces
  - Responding to FHWA and other federal agencies regarding proposed regulations
- Nine subcommittees cover all aspects of highway work, from right-of-way to design to construction to operations to maintenance...
- *Chair*: Joe Perkins, AK
- *Vice Chair*: Frank Danchetz, GA

# Standing Committee on Highways



- AASHTO Staff Functions**
1. Continuing Education Units
  2. Theodore Matson Award
  3. National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances
  4. AASHTO/NL TAPA Coordination

Updated: August 2002

# Subcommittee on Design

- Consists of heads of the Design Divisions within the State DOTs
- Primary responsibilities:
  - Developing proposed policy related to highway design
  - Overseeing manuals and guides developed by its task forces
  - Keeping the DOTs current on all aspects of design through meetings, research proposals, and information sharing
- *Chair:* Kam Movassaghi, LA
- *Vice Chair:* Susan Martinovich, NV

# Subcommittee on Design Task Forces

- 12 Task Forces report to this Subcommittee:
  - Aesthetic Design
  - Design Build
  - Environmental Design
  - Geometric Design
  - Highway Lighting
  - Hydrology and Hydraulics
  - Non-Motorized Transportation
  - Pavements
  - Preconstruction Engineering Management
  - Public Transportation Facilities Design
  - Roadside Safety
  - Value Engineering
- These task forces meet and work independently of the subcommittee

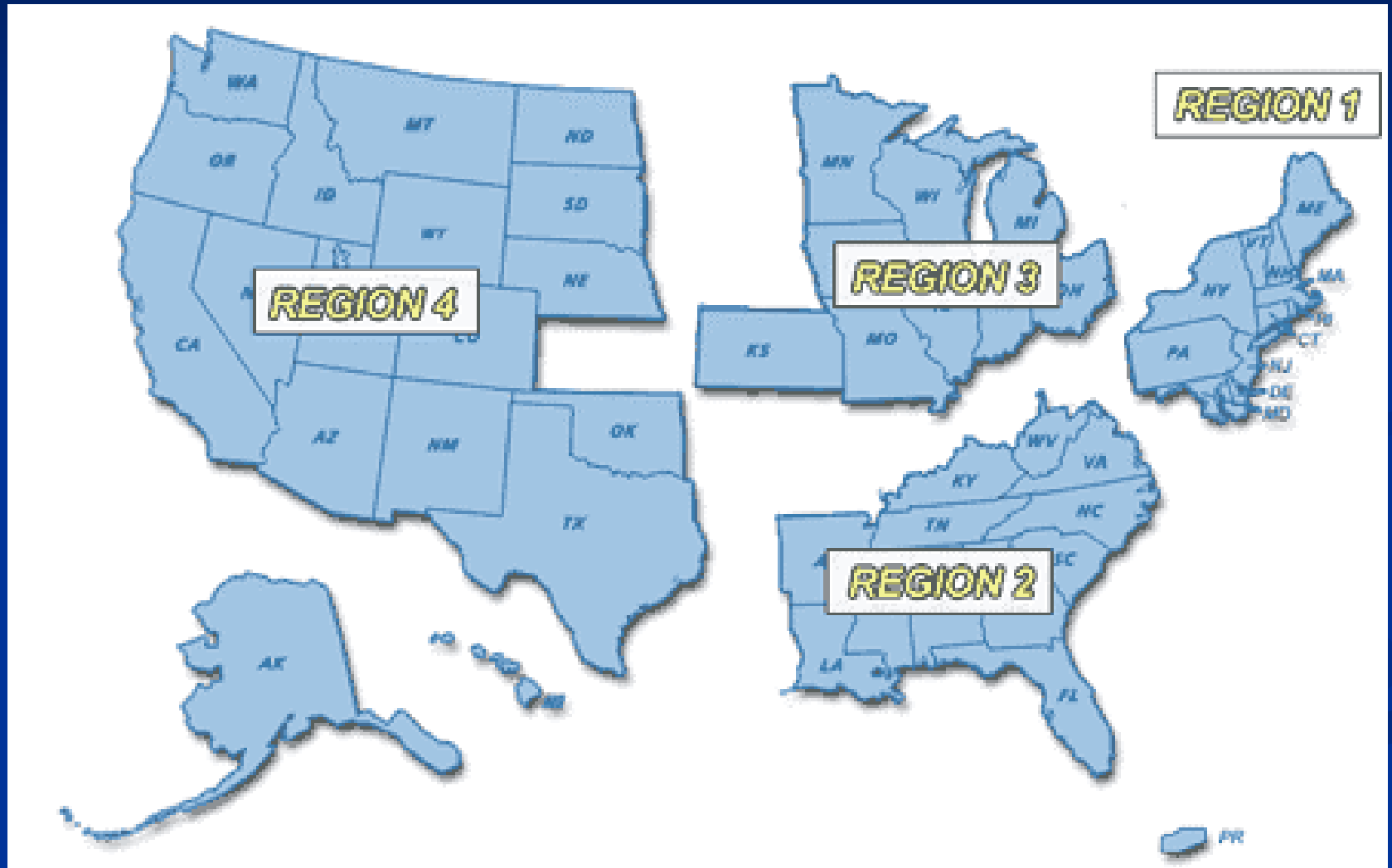
# Subcommittee on Design Task Forces

- The Task Forces under the Subcommittee on Design develop some of the most well-known and best respected engineering guides in AASHTO, including:
  - *Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets* – the “Green Book”
  - *Roadside Design Guide*
  - *Standard Specifications for Transportation Materials and Methods of Testing*, also known as the “Materials Book”
  - *Pavement Design Guide*
  - *Highway Drainage Guidelines*
  - *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*
  - *Forthcoming Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities*

# Subcommittee on Design Task Forces

- Task Force Membership
  - Typically 16 members – 4 from each AASHTO region
  - Task Force Chair selected by the Subcommittee Chair, usually from subcommittee or Standing Committee
  - Vice Chair selected by task force members
  - Secretary appointed by FHWA
  - Others welcome to attend, participate, provide input
- Task Forces meet once (sometimes twice) per year
- Each State DOT pays for its member's travel expenses

# AASHTO Regions



# *“Membership has its benefits...”*

- Recognition – AASHTO is a world-wide leader in transportation engineering
  - Recognition from within the State DOTs
  - Recognition from outside groups
- Participation – Members have an “official seat at the table”
  - Work cooperatively with other AASHTO committees in the development of policy and technical guidance
  - Propose research to assist with task force work

# Related AASHTO Activities

# Reauthorization of TEA-21

- Developing final proposals for consideration by US Congress in Spring 2003
- Major emphases include:
  - Increased financing – more money, similar program structure
  - Streamlining of environmental regulations
  - More research, including a strategic research program
  - Security, safety, and transit issues
- Input welcome
- More info:  
<http://reauthorization.transportation.org/>

# National Cooperative Highway Research Program

- NCHRP is AASHTO's research arm at the Transportation Research Board (TRB), providing applied research programs that develop near-term, practical solutions to problems facing transportation agencies
- Current project, NCHRP Project 20-7/152, "Synthesis of Best Practices and Development of Guidelines on Project Cost Estimating"
- Scope involves preparing a synthesis of State DOT project cost estimating experience, presenting information on effective ways to structure estimating methodology, and preparing guidelines for project cost estimating
- Arizona State University, completion anticipated Summer 2003
- More info: <http://trb.org/>, click on NCHRP

# International Scan Program

- Joint program funded by AASHTO and FHWA
- Each year:
  - 6 to 8 groups (10-12 people each)
  - Travel to other countries for 2 weeks
  - Acquire knowledge, learn new techniques
  - Bring good ideas back to the US for implementation
- Proposals solicited every 2 years
- AASHTO committees, State DOTs, and FHWA Divisions can submit proposals
- More info: <http://international.fhwa.dot.gov/>

# Task Force on Project Oversight

- Short-term, high-level ad-hoc task force chaired by Tom Stephens, CEO of Nevada DOT
- Responding to US Office of the Inspector General and USDOT Secretary Mineta's concerns about fraud and cost overruns on highway construction mega-projects
- Task force is currently compiling information, noting areas of concern, documenting current efforts, and listing needs for the future
- Will develop a strategic plan by Spring 2003 for addressing fraud and cost overruns, for implementation by other AASHTO committees

# For More Information

- AASHTO:

<http://www.transportation.org/>

- Subcommittee on Design:

<http://design.transportation.org/>

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