

Administrative Resolution AR-3-15

Title: TRAC Budget Review and Program Operations Working Group Recommendation

WHEREAS, The TRAC Technical Service Program is AASHTO's hands-on educational outreach program that aims to fulfill the need for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) workers in the workforce by providing middle school and high school students the opportunity to learn engineering and transportation principles using hands-on activities solving real-world problems through enhanced curriculum; and

WHEREAS, The curriculum used in the TRAC program is aligned with the National Standards for Math and Science and the Core Curriculum Standards of Learning and are designed for use in STEM classes; and

WHEREAS, The highest participation in the TRAC program to date was in FY 2014 with 21 states and the country of Namibia participating; and

WHEREAS, While participation has grown, the existing TRAC management and oversight structure has been unable to support a financially self-sustaining program; and

WHEREAS, The AASHTO Executive Committee in 2014 directed that all technical service programs be self-supporting; and

WHEREAS, The AASHTO Board of Directors approved a resolution directing the President to appoint a TRAC Budget Review and Program Operations Working Group to develop a proposal for a self-supporting TRAC program structure by FY 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group held four conference calls over the summer and discussed numerous scenarios and options for reducing costs, increasing revenue, and modifying the roles and responsibilities of the various participants (including the program manager, AASHTO staff, TRAC Advisory Committee members, individual State DOTs, and private sector participants) with the goal of developing a sustainable approach to running the TRAC Technical Service Program; and

WHEREAS, The Working Group has proposed a structure and budget for FY 2017 that increases the voluntary State DOT contribution, transitions module fulfillment to a lower-cost center, outsources printed materials, eliminates extraneous student competitions and marketing activities, caps trainer travel costs, increases oversight by the TRAC Advisory Committee, and substantially reduces AASHTO staff time; and

WHEREAS, the TRAC Advisory Committee and the AASHTO Executive Committee have reviewed and concurred with the recommendations of the Working Group; and

WHEREAS, The TRAC Advisory Committee will transition to the new management structure on January 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, AASHTO will formally review the progress of the TRAC program, at a minimum, every 6 months to help ensure that the program continues to be self-supporting. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the AASHTO Board of Directors approves an increase in the State DOT voluntary contribution to the TRAC program to \$14,000 per year, starting with FY 2017, to help ensure the viability of the TRAC program moving forward.