From: Madani, Mo
To: Richmond, Jim
Subject: FW: FBC Research
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 3:53:17 PM

FYI

From: Masters,Forrest [mailto:masters@ce.ufl.edu]
Sent: Monday, June 03, 2013 2:50 PM
To: rsbrowdy@aol.com
Cc: Jones, Ila; Madani, Mo; Gurley,Kurtis R; Prevatt,David
Subject: FBC Research

Dear Chairman Browdy,

Last week I spoke with Ila about the potential changes to the way in which the FBC supports research. We are very supportive of these proposed changes, and with Ila's encouragement, I am contacting you to provide some background / context regarding University of Florida engineering research that supports the mission of the FBC. The gist of this email was shared with FBC Staff last year. In essence, we perceive our successes and strengths to consist of:

(1) Producing actionable, objective, engineering-based information for workgroup and TAC members to utilize
(2) Developing new diagnostic tools to study building performance in extreme wind events
(3) Bringing multiple industries together to look at cross-cutting issues
(4) Attracting significant resources from federal and private sources to support FBC projects

The impact of our previous work for the FBC is clear on many fronts. For example, the window installation manuals produced by FMA/AAMA at the urging of the Commission, and forthcoming changes to the design of asphalt shingles resulting from more recent work.

However, in many cases it is difficult to ascertain how the information we share in reports and presentations translates into code modifications. We have been concerned about how our findings are used (or not), and whether we are operating / communicating in a manner that best serves the needs of the FBC. We believe that this issue, in part, stems from an unclear definition of our role. Historically, the FBC has not tasked us to develop code language, which begs the question: Who does fill the role of transferring research findings into the code? While we greatly appreciate the support (which has been unanimously approved by the HRAC each year as long as I can remember), we feel strongly there should be a clear and direct connection between our work products and code advancements. Certainly not all of our findings warrant code modifications, but we think that the possibility for missed opportunities exists for lack of a point-person tasked with connecting the dots.

During your discussion about the future of the research program, it may be useful to consider how other state agencies administer research. For example, the FDOT includes specific contract language (a deliverable) that requires the investigator to propose new language for test specifications or design provisions (e.g., the FDOT Structures Manual), if warranted. The FDOT also creates an important buffer between the researchers and the stakeholders. The industries affected by the research are not called upon to review the

next proposal by the investigator, which is the case here. Lastly, the FDOT issues multi-year contracts to ensure continuity in the research plan and sufficient time to complete the investigation process. We don't do this presently, which is an impediment to securing talented students to the project and closing the loop from research findings to sufficiently vetted code implications and language.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns if I can be of assistance (masters@ce.ufl.edu; 352-359-7336). Dr. Gurley and I will be attending the June 11 meeting if you would like us to answer questions or present information.

Best regards,

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