

**NEW ENGLAND TRANSPORTATION CONSORTIUM
QUARTERLY PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

A. PROJECT NUMBER AND TITLE: NETC 13-3

B. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(s) & UNIVERSITY(s): Eshan V. Dave, University of New Hampshire

C. WEB SITE ADDRESS (If one exists):

D. START DATE (Per NETC Agreement): 3/27/2015

E. END DATE (Per NETC Agreement): 2/28/2019

F. ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATE: 2/28/2019

G. PROJECT OBJECTIVES (Phase-II):

1. Review various cost-sharing and cost-reimbursement mechanisms for the NETC member agencies to recover costs of shared QA inspection resources.
2. Compile upcoming PCE/PSE projects, identify current QA inspection contracts, list fabricators that will be manufacturing for the NETC member agencies.
3. Propose uniform paperwork for QA process to be adopted by NETC member agencies.
4. Identify suitable projects for pilot implementation of shared QA resources and/or unified QA processes (developed in NETC 13-3 study).
5. Identify and communicate prerequisite activities to NETC member agencies that have to be undertaken prior to pilot implementation.

H. REPORT PERIOD: 07/01/2018 – 3/31/2017

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS PERIOD:

The phase-II of this study started near the end of first month of the reported quarter.

J. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED (If any):

K. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:

A paper has been submitted to the Transportation Research Board (TRB) for presentation and publication consideration. The paper discusses the activities and outcomes of the Phase-I of this study. The paper has been accepted for presentation at the 2019 annual meeting of TRB and a request for revision has been made to researchers. PI of the project also made a presentation on the Phase-I and II of the project at the VTrans research symposium in Montpelier VT.

L. STATUS BY TASK (Phase-II):

Task 1: Exploration of Cost-Share, Invoicing and Payment Mechanisms for Sharing of QA Resources: In the previous task researchers initiated review of literature to determine if any published reports or papers have discussed the cost-share, invoicing and payment mechanisms that would fit the needs of the current study. Initial review did not yield fruitful results in terms of readily available

framework or mechanisms that are available in published literature that has been routinely used by State transportation agencies in United States. Simultaneously to this review, researchers have been developing a questionnaire for financial administration personnel at DOTs. Once finalized, this questionnaire will be sent to each of the NETC constituent agency in form of an online survey. This survey will be followed up with phone call interviews to expand the information. This task is anticipated to be completed in the next quarter.

Task 2: Collection of Agency Data on Upcoming Projects and Consultant Contracts: A survey is being prepared for collection of agency data on upcoming projects. The survey is planned to be administered during the first part of upcoming quarter. This task is anticipated to be completed in the next quarter.

Task 3: Coordination Meeting: A coordination meeting to report on preliminary findings of Tasks 1 and 2 will be scheduled during the upcoming quarter. The meeting is estimated to be scheduled during end of November or beginning of December.

Task 4: List of Prerequisites and Activities for Conducting Pilot Implementation: No progress to report.

Task 5: Draft Final Report and Presentation of Draft Final Report to Project Technical Advisory Committee: No progress to report.

Task 6: Final Report and Recommendations: No progress to report.

M. PERCENT COMPLETION OF TOTAL PROJECT: ___10___%

N. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER:

- Submission of the final report for Phase-I (researchers were initially under impression that only a single combined report will need to be submitted for both phases, thus they had stopped working on final edits for the phase-I report).
- Administration of survey for financial administrator at various transportation agencies to collect information on the process of invoicing and payment between agencies for shared inspection resources. These surveys will be followed up with phone interviews to obtain clarification on responses and to gather additional information on basis of the surveys.
- Collection of data from NETC members on upcoming PSE/PCE projects as well as their current consultant inspection contracts. During this survey a revised set of required QA process paperwork (such as inspection checklists) will also be gathered.
- Coordination meeting with the technical advisory members for the project will be held during the upcoming quarter.

O. FINANCIAL STATUS:

As of: 10/1/2018

Total Project Budget: \$ 139,713 (both phases)

Total Expenditures: \$ 100,000

Note: This report should not require more than 2-3 pages & should be e-mailed to the NETC Coordinator so as to arrive no later than three (3) working days after the end of each calendar quarter.