

**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:

Phase-I final report was submitted to NETC during the reporting quarter. This report has been published by NETC. First half of the past quarter focused on Phase-II activity of developing an interview questionnaire for financial offices at New England DOTs to determine whether there are any cost-sharing and cost-reimbursement agreements in place between DOTs. This questionnaire also identified potential challenges and opportunities if quality assurance inspection resources were shared between agencies.

The questionnaire was shared with the project technical advisory committee as well as financial office contacts at various New England DOTs. Interviews have already been conducted with Connecticut, Maine and Vermont agencies and the information from those interviews have been transcribed. New Hampshire Department of Transportation financial office provided responses to questionnaire in form of written responses. Interviews are yet to be scheduled for Massachusetts DOT and Rhode Island DOT. In case of MassDOT, no response has been received after multiple email contact made by project research team. For RIDOT, the interview has not been scheduled as the contact person has not been able to identify suitable employee who could provide answers to questionnaire questions.

Interviews with financial personnel at the three New England DOTs reveals that there are several cost-reimbursable agreements currently in place between DOTs and majority of DOTs are able to recover costs

of their employees for work done on behalf of other agencies. Several sample agreements have also been obtained by the research team.

Lastly, a survey has been developed for obtaining information pertaining to the upcoming construction projects where sharing of QA inspection resources can be undertaken to conduct a pilot study. This survey will also gather currently used QA inspection paper-work by various New England DOTs.

J. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED (If any):

Researchers have not been able to schedule interview calls with MassDOT and RIDOT financial personnel. In case of MassDOT, no response has been received by the research team after multiple email attempts. In case of RIDOT, the contact at financial office has been unable to identify suitable person within their office, who could be available for interview. The process of scheduling interviews with other agencies also took longer than it was originally anticipated. At present, researchers are anticipating to complete as many tasks and activities as possible before the January 31st deadline to submit all draft deliverables to NETC.

K. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:

A paper submitted to the Transportation Research Board (TRB) for presentation and publication consideration has been revised and submitted back for second round of review. This paper will be presented at the 2019 annual meeting of TRB in January 2019.

L. STATUS BY TASK (Phase-II):

Task 1: Exploration of Cost-Share, Invoicing and Payment Mechanisms for Sharing of QA Resources: A questionnaire to gather information on cost-sharing, invoicing and payment mechanisms was developed and disseminated to project technical advisory committee. Information has already been gathered from four New England agencies and it is being developed into a report and prepared for coordination meeting.

Task 2: Collection of Agency Data on Upcoming Projects and Consultant Contracts: A survey is finalized for collection of agency data on upcoming projects. The survey is planned to be administered by mid-January.

Task 3: Coordination Meeting: A coordination meeting to report on preliminary findings of this project will be scheduled during end of January.

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: ___40___ %

N. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER:

- Preparation of presentation and report on basis of interviews and information gathering from Task-1.

- 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: 1/1/2019

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

Total Expenditures: \$ 110,000

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.