



NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 27, 2021, 11:00am – 12:30pm ET

Attendees:

Ulrich Amoussou-Guenou, MaineDOT	Lily Oliver, MassDOT
Alex Bernier, UConn	Emily Parkany, VTrans
James Bryce, UME	Dale Peabody, MaineDOT
Colin Franco, RIDOT	Ann Scholz, NHDOT
Matt Mann, UMass	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Tanya Miller, VTrans	Maina Tran, CTC & Associates
Andrew Mroczkowski, ConnDOT	Nicholas Zavolas, MassDOT
Dee Nash, NHDOT	

1) Open Project Review (April 2021)

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs	Jag Mallela, WSP E. Parkany M. Tran Jeffrey DeCarlo, MA DOT	Project is complete. Poster, Fact Sheet, and Implementation Summaries have been delivered. PI is in process of making a revision on final report based on feedback from MassDOT. A webinar was held on 3/30/2021.	3/31/2021 \$146,632
19-1: Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design	Adam Stockin, WSP E. Parkany K. Seeber Alex Bardow, MA DOT	The TC met with the Research Team on 4/8/21 to get final questions answered about the changes to Task 2. The TC approved the changes and provided notice to the PI to continue work. The PI will send an updated project schedule. The overall project schedule should not be affected.	3/31/2022 \$151,316
19-2: Multi-Scale Multi-Season Land-Based Erosion Modeling and Monitoring for Infrastructure Management	Aimee Mountain, GZA A. Scholz M. Tran Neil Olson, NH DOT	The Research Team is working on developing toolkit. The next project status check will be in June.	2/28/2022 \$148,035

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Steel Beam Ends	Simos Gerasimidis, UMass Amherst N. Zavolas K. Seeber Matt Weidele , MA DOT	The next TC meeting is scheduled for 5/20/21. The PI asked for an extension of the Task 1 (ID most common corrosion) due date (5/1/21 to 7/1/21). A new grad student was added to the project due to COVID-19 travel restrictions on the existing grad student. The overall timeline of the project will not be affected.	3/31/2023 \$179,995
20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Bridge Railings	Christine Carrigan, RoadSafe D. Peabody K. Seeber Jeff Folsom, ME DOT	The next TC meeting to discuss Tasks 1 (Bridge railings inventory) and 2 (Rail crash and traffic data) is scheduled for 5/19/21.	6/30/2022 \$119,978
20-2: Current Status of Transportation Data Analytics and A Pilot Case Study Using Artificial Intelligence (AI)	TBD A. Scholz M. Tran Susan Klasen, NH DOT	UMass Lowell conditionally awarded. ME is in contract negotiations. Contract should be signed by end of April.	TBD \$200,000
20-3: Investigating Thermal Imaging Technologies and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Improve Bridge Inspections	AECOM, D. Peabody M. Tran John "Sam" Maxim, ME DOT	The kickoff meeting was held on 2/23/21. The research team has started on Task 1 (Desk scan). They will also survey the TC for input on bridges that should be selected for field demonstrations in Task 2.	TBD \$175,000
20-4: New England Connected and Automated Vehicle Legal and Regulatory Assessment	Stantec, Greg Rodriguez E. Parkany/N. Zavolas K. Seeber Daniel Sullivan, MA DOT	The TC meets monthly. The PI is working on Tasks 1 (Lit Search) and 2 (NE policies/regulations analysis).	12/31/2021 \$105,446
Re-Creating NETC	Kirsten Seeber/Chris Kline, CTC & Associates A. Scholz K. Seeber A. Scholz	CTC will deliver the Task Memo 2, which summarizes the results of surveys to other research consortiums, on 5/3/21. CTC is scheduling a meeting in June to discuss the results.	8/12/2021 \$50,000
21-1: Quality Review and Assessment of Pavement Condition Survey Vehicle Data Across New England	TBD A. Mroczkowski M. Tran John Henault, CT DOT	SOW Review meeting to be held on 5/4/21.	18 months \$200,000 proposed
21-2: Sustainable Biomass-Based Sealant for Service Life Extension of Concrete Structures and Pavements	TBD U. Amoussou-Gueno K. Seeber Joe Stillwell, ME DOT	Five of the six TC members are filled. VT is still looking for a representative. The SOW review meeting is being scheduled.	24 months \$210,000 proposed
21-3: Initiating Seed Production for Effective Establishment of Native Plants on Roadsides in New England	TBD A. Scholz K. Seeber Arin Mills, NH DOT	Five of the six TC members are filled. ME probably won't have a TC member for this project. The SOW review meeting is being scheduled.	36 months \$200,000 proposed

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
(CONTINGENCY PROJECT) 21-4: Determining the Effect of Changing the Asphalt Binder Source Between Mixture Design and Production on a Balanced Mixture Design (BMD) in New England	TBD N. Zavalas M. Tran Mark Brum, MA DOT	All states have TC members. This project will be on hold unless/until any of the other three projects don't move forward.	30 months \$200,000- \$225,000 proposed

Discussion:

- 18-3
 - Emily – Highlights of the project include:
 - ~ The status of each state related to UAS.
 - ~ Sharing UAS-related documentation.
 - ~ There is a related [NCHRP implementation project](#) providing training. There are online materials and information a potential in-person training in August.
 - ~ Emily feels this group will continue talking to each other.
 - ~ Dale – The TC will check in with each other periodically about project implementation.
 - Ann – NH can't keep the UAS operator position filled. They use consultants.
- 19-1
 - Emily – Reviewed the revised project schedule and feels there is too much overlap between Task 2 and Task 3. More time is needed between the two (than the month they proposed) for the TC to review Task 2 and receive the Task 3 design guidelines. The TC may need to meet this summer to discuss. We will see what Alex Bardow, TC chair says.
- 19-2
 - Ann – The TC chair, Neil Olson, is retiring from NHDOT. He feels he can take the chairmanship to his new position at Department of Environmental Services as this is an interagency topic. His email will change and he would need revised access to the web. Does anyone have concerns if he stays on the project?
 - ~ Emily is fine with Neil remaining as the TC chair. Does a NHDOT person need to know what's going on with the project or would Ann be sufficient? Ann – Until Neil is replaced, Ann would oversee the project and keep his supervisor apprised. Dale feels this is a reasonable approach.
 - Maina will change his account email on the NETC website when Neil gets to his new position.
- 20-2
 - Dale – ME received some comments from UMass on the contract, which need to be worked out with the ME Contracts office. He hopes the contract will be signed soon. Maina can go ahead and schedule the kickoff meeting.
- 20-4
 - Emily – The April TC meeting was last week. There is lots of interest in Task 1.
 - Emily – There is also interest in expanding the project. ME can amend up to 50% (\$50,000) of the contract. Emily wants to make sure the project will be expanded appropriately. The PI will provide a scope proposal prior to the May meeting. More can be done than with the current \$105,000 budget.

- ~ Dale – The TC will review the proposal/budget changes and provide their recommendation to AC for the final action. Emily would like to have the TC recommendation ready for the next AC meeting.
- ~ Colin – Would end date be extended? Emily – Yes, probably. The Research Team wants to get a lot done by August/September period. There is a push to get the information ASAP.
- 21-2
 - Emily – VT is not interested in the project at all. She’s thinking that once the meeting is scheduled, she will send the meeting invitation to potentially interested staff to see if anyone bites.
- 21-3
 - ME will not have a TC member for this project. Dale and Ulrich will keep an eye on it via updates at the AC meetings.
- 21-4
 - Emily – If we give \$50,000 to 20-4 then there will be less money to spend here. All states have TC members for this project, which indicates interest for the project, but two other projects (21-2 and 21-3) don’t have full TCs. Colin – All it says is that the Asphalt folks are passionate about what they do. Emily – Does it show more readiness to implement the project?
 - Nicholas will communicate the process to the RPS author and see if they want the project to still be considered and let Maina and Kirsten know.
 - Ann – Is this a problem that is specific to NE? There are places to post unfunded research needs. Nicholas would like to know the timeline with NETC before they pursue other avenues for this project.
 - Maina will send an email to the TC explaining where the project is at and that she will get back to them after the other projects have had their SOW review meetings.

2) Implementation

- TAAC members to report on any implementation activities for recently closed projects.
 - ~ NETC 18-1: Development of MASH Computer Simulated Steel Bridge Rail and Transition Details
 - ~ NETC 18-2: Framework of Asphalt Balance Mix Design for NE Agencies
 - ~ NETC 18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs
 - ~ NH – Has feedback from their TC folks. Put all in one doc? Send to Kirsten.
 - ~ Dale – He’s submitted 18-1 to High Value Research. Vote for the project!
 - ~ Emily – Needs a reminder about implementation on specific projects. **Action item:** Kirsten will send the spreadsheet to the TAAC to fill in this week.
 - ~ Colin – Is there an NETC policy for post-project implementation/marketing? Kirsten – Not currently.
 - Emily – Each project page could have an implementation section. Add where a project will be presented, submitted for an HVR project or other activities. This the big struggle. How do we track, or keep aware of, what’s going on with the projects?

3) Project Webinars

- No webinars currently scheduled.
- All webinar recordings/presentations can be found on the project pages or [here](#).

4) Symposium – Ideas

- The time frame for the Symposium will be mid-September to late October to fall between the construction season and winter.

- Dale – The maintenance and construction topics are fine. Having three days would be difficult for attendees. Make Day 3 for AC members only.
- NH has bridge and highway maintenance. Which of those groups would attend? Emily – The committee hasn't gotten there yet. We welcome the discussion about involving both groups. This might depend on who we recruit for the topic technical leads. Once the topic technical leaders are in place, we will have a better idea of specific topics under the two overarching topics (maintenance and construction).
 - ~ Emily – Construction – She doesn't know what it exactly means and if it is handled the same at all states.
- We would like to get new staff at this Symposium, different or additional attendees from the 2019 Symposium.
- Lily – It may be hard to get operations and maintenance staff to participate because they are so busy. Maintenance and construction staff oversight is at the district level, while the central office is a higher level of coordination. Once the topics are narrowed down, it will be easier to figure out who to invite.
- Ann – Does the committee want the TAAC to them ideas or would the committee provide questions for the TAAC to answer? Emily – If you have suggestions, or names of staff to involve, it would be helpful.
 - ~ Matt – The committee can come up with topics, send ideas to the TAAC to vet with their staff, and let the committee know what is preferred.
 - ~ Emily – There are a few snow and ice groups who already have national conversations going. Maybe the Symposium topics could be more esoteric, such as bridge washing, where staff can compare notes.
 - ~ **Action item:** The committee will come up with topics during the 5/11/21 meeting and send to TAAC to get feedback from their staff.
- Ann – Since the Symposium will be virtual, attendees can join for their topics only.
- The next Symposium committee meeting is scheduled for 5/11/21.

5) NETC Website

- Categories
 - ~ Emily – Can one project be in more than one category? **Action item:** Kirsten will check with the web administrator. What's the difference between Materials and Pavements? She is also not sure that Geotech needs to be a separate category. ITS and Traffic Ops and Safety could be in one category.
 - ~ Matt – Should the NETC website categories mirror the TRB or NCHRP categories? NCHRP has fewer categories. **Action item:** Maina will look at NCHRP and TRB categories and present them to the AC for feedback.

6) Other Business

7) Adjourn

Next meeting: May 25, 2021 from 11:00am – 12:30pm ET