



## NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 11:00am – 12:30pm ET

### Attendees:

James Bryce, UME	Dale Peabody, MaineDOT
Colin Franco, RIDOT	Ann Scholz, NHDOT
Tanya Miller, VTrans	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Andrew Mroczkowski, ConnDOT	Maina Tran, CTC & Associates
Dee Nash, NHDOT	Nicholas Zavolas, MassDOT
Emily Parkany, VTrans	Melanie Zimyeski, ConnDOT

### 1) New CT Advisory Committee member – Melanie Zimyeski

- Melanie is new to research and previously worked at intermodal planning. Ed Block is focusing on performance measures.

### 2) Open Project Review (May 2021)

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
<a href="#">18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs</a>	Jag Mallela, WSP E. Parkany M. Tran Jeffrey DeCarlo, MA DOT	Project is complete. Poster, Fact Sheet, and Implementation Summaries have been delivered. An updated Final Report has also been delivered.	3/31/2021 \$146,632
<a href="#">19-1: Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design</a>	Adam Stockin, WSP E. Parkany K. Seeber Alex Bardow, MA DOT	The PI updated the project schedule. The overall project schedule should not be affected.	3/31/2022 \$151,316
<a href="#">19-2: Multi-Scale Multi-Season Land-Based Erosion Modeling and Monitoring for Infrastructure Management</a>	Aimee Mountain, GZA A. Scholz M. Tran Neil Olson, NH DOT	The research team is working on developing toolkit. The next project status is being scheduled for mid-June.	2/28/2022 \$148,035

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<a href="#">19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Steel Beam Ends</a>	Simos Gerasimidis, UMass Amherst N. Zavolas K. Seeber Matt Weidele , MA DOT	The TC met on 5/20/21. Several bridges have been identified with suitable beams for testing. A few states have indicated challenges with covering shipping costs of beams to the lab. The next TC meeting will be in late July.	3/31/2023 \$179,995
<a href="#">20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Bridge Railings</a>	Christine Carrigan, RoadSafe D. Peabody K. Seeber Jeff Folsom, ME DOT	A TC meeting was held on 5/19/21. The research team has information they need from the TC members, which they requested by 5/28/21. The next TC meeting will be scheduled for late July/early August.	6/30/2022 \$119,978
<a href="#">20-2: Current Status of Transportation Data Analytics and A Pilot Case Study Using Artificial Intelligence (AI)</a>	UMass Lowell, A. Scholz M. Tran Susan Klasen, NH DOT	The project kickoff meeting is scheduled for 5/27/21.	3/31/23 \$200,000
<a href="#">20-3: Investigating Thermal Imaging Technologies and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Improve Bridge Inspections</a>	AECOM, Kevin Ahearn D. Peabody M. Tran John "Sam" Maxim, ME DOT	Research team plans to survey the TC for input on bridges that should be selected for field demonstrations in Task 2. Project status check-in will be scheduled for July.	TBD \$175,000
<a href="#">20-4: New England Connected and Automated Vehicle Legal and Regulatory Assessment</a>	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). The TC has approved a proposal to amend the contract.	12/31/2021 \$105,446
Re-Creating NETC	Kirsten Seeber/Chris Kline, CTC & Associates A. Scholz K. Seeber A. Scholz	CTC has received feedback on Task Memo 2, which summarizes the results of surveys to other research consortiums. The TAAC is meeting on 6/30/21 to discuss.	8/12/2021 \$50,000
<a href="#">21-1: Quality Review and Assessment of Pavement Condition Survey Vehicle Data Across New England</a>	TBD A. Mroczkowski M. Tran John Henault, CT DOT	The SOW review meeting was held on 5/4/21. An additional SOW review meeting will be held on 6/2/21. The TC may be open to reducing the budget.	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	The SOW review meeting was held on 5/14/21. An additional SOW review meeting will be held on 6/1/21.	24 months \$210,000 proposed
<a href="#">21-3: Initiating Seed Production for Effective Establishment of Native Plants on Roadsides in New England</a>	TBD A. Scholz K. Seeber Arin Mills, NH DOT	The SOW review meeting is scheduled for 6/4/21.	36 months \$200,000 proposed
(CONTINGENCY PROJECT)	TBD	This project is on hold unless/until any of the other three projects don't move forward,	30 months

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
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	N. Zavalas M. Tran Mark Brum, MA DOT	which will be determined after the SOW review meetings.	\$200,000- \$225,000 proposed

**Discussion:**

- 18-1
  - Dale submitted this project to the 2021 RAC High Value Research and it was selected as a [Sweet 16 winner](#). You can read the submission [here](#).
- 19-1
  - Kirsten will follow up with the PI about the project schedule.
- 19-3
  - Dale – The costs for transporting the beam to the lab are not included in the contract because it would have added overhead to the UMass contract. The TC has been encouraged to find a way to get the beams to the lab and find funding for the transportation. ME’s Bridge program is covering the costs but some states aren’t able to do that. Dale is waiting to hear from TC members on exploring options for covering the costs. This is a heads up about the situation and Dale is hoping the TAAC members can help solve issues with their states.
  - Andrew – Ed Block is checking to see if there is money in a contingency fund to cover the costs, which are about \$900.
  - Is it possible to transfer extra pooled fund money to ME to cover the costs? Ann – Maybe when the states transfer funds to ME for NETC for the next FFY, the money could be taken out of that.
- 20-1
  - Kirsten will check with the PI next week to see where the project is at and if/how the schedule is being affected.
- 20-4
  - Emily – The TC worked on the amendment proposal and have narrowed down how to effectively spend the \$52,500. All six TC states agree. Does the AC agree and approve?
  - Dale – Send the proposal to the AC so they can review and approve. (Emily sent the proposal during the meeting.) The AC will review the proposal and email their yes/no to the group by Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. If a state doesn’t send an email, we will assume they approve.
  - Dale – It shouldn’t take two and a half months to process the amendment. He will follow up with Kim in ME Contracts.
- 21-3
  - Colin – Is the main objective of this project to garner commercial interest in producing the seeds? Ann – This is being worked out in the SOW.
- 21-4
  - Kirsten – According to the March discussion, the other three 21-series projects would need to be reduced by \$25,000 each in order to fund 21-4. Plus, we are adding \$52,500 to 20-4.
  - Dale – There is a 98% chance this won’t get funded.
  - Nicholas wants to hold off on contacting Mark Brum until we have an answer if the project would be funded. Maina – We will have a better idea next week where the other projects are at.

- Dale – Does the AC have an interest in notifying TRB about NETC projects and activities so they can include the information in their weekly newsletter? All agreed so Dale will follow up with Elaine Ferrell at TRB.

### 3) Implementation

- TAAC members to report on any implementation activities for recently closed projects.
- Kirsten sent the implementation spreadsheet to the TAAC on 5/11/21. NH and VT provided updates.
  - ~ NETC 18-1: Development of MASH Computer Simulated Steel Bridge Rail and Transition Details
    - NH – Full implementation recommended.
    - VT – Full implementation recommended. VT is definitely using the results and putting them into their standards for some of the bridge rails.
    - Dale – ME is implementing. Do a HVR project for this project?
  - ~ NETC 18-2: Framework of Asphalt Balance Mix Design for NE Agencies
    - VT – Partial implementation recommended. VT is using the results and this is part of what they are trying to do with BMD, which VT is all in on. Further work would be in 21-4, but that project probably won't be funded.
    - NH – Partial implementation recommended. NH didn't have equipment in place but this won't prevent them from using the results in the future.
    - ME – Dale is not sure what box to check. The results are needed because ME is doing more work on BDM. 18-1 will help inform what they do.
  - ~ NETC 18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs
    - VT – VT won't necessarily implement all recommendations but will use the project as a resource. The research team put together a lot of information. VT is interested in what other states are doing and how VT compares. They are trying to get NJ to share their risk assessment from their HVR project.
    - NH – They will build off this project. They are using the same contractor who did this NETC project. The NH SME for this project took another job.
    - ME – They will also use the project as a resource. ME can't implement directly but there is good information and guidance for ME to use.
      - (a) The drone staff from the six NE states will continue to meet to discuss their drone programs, as a follow up to this work. Ann – Is that different from the implementation study (UVM study)? Dale – Yes, this is a different effort.
  - ~ Ann – Implementation is nice to document so send Kirsten your results. Nicholas will send his information when he receives it from MA staff.
  - ~ Emily – What is the ideal way to keep track of projects implementation? VT is starting to put implementation information on their project web pages. Should NETC do the same with our project pages? Ann – This is a good discussion for the Re-Creating NETC effort.
  - ~ Ann – We had implementation discussions for the 13-15 series. For states that are implementing, find out what they did, and discuss at an upcoming meeting.

### 4) Project Webinars

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

### 5) Website Topics

- Project categories on the NETC website – Maina pulled the NCHRP topic categories, which the AC can use to finalize the project category list on the website.

- Emily – Ann suggested HVR categories. The AC should put some thought into the best amalgamation for categories going forward or think about past/current NETC projects and where they fit. Some categories are very distinct and do not apply, but some NETC projects will fit into more than one category or a combined category. She can let go of what the categories are and is okay with what others think.
- Ann likes the idea of a shorter list.
- The AC will discuss in depth next month. CTC will take feedback and organize it for the group to discuss.

## 6) Symposium – Ideas

- Symposium dates will be held on week of September 27 and October 4. The three dates are yet to be determined. The planning committee will narrow down the dates.
- Two topics: Construction and Maintenance with several subtopics for each. Subtopics will be added to each overall category.
- Two champions will be identified and contacted to provide feedback on possible subtopics. One possible candidate for the Maintenance champion is Todd Law of Vermont DOT, suggested by Emily.
  - ~ Champions will help us identify subtopics and champions for subtopics. The subtopic champion would lead each subtopic so one person doesn't have to stay the entire time.
- The next Symposium committee meeting is planned for mid-June.
- Emily – Spend 90 minutes to three hours on a topic. There are lots of things these sessions could address such as state challenges and brainstorming potential solutions, national presentations on the topics, brainstorming for NETC project topics, etc. This would change for each topic and would depend on the champions' interests. We want to identify the champions in the next month, have them to identify potential topics their peers would like to talk about and build a schedule from there.
- Let the committee know if you have potential champions. The committee has an email drafted to send to potential champions and will share it with the TAAC when it's finished.
- Dale – We need to get save the date emails out to potential attendees in late June/July so they get the Symposium dates on their calendars.

## 7) Adjourn

**Next meeting:** June 22, 2021 from 11:00am – 12:30pm ET