



## NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 11:00am – 12:30pm ET

### Attendees:

Ulrich Amoussou-Guenou, MaineDOT	Emily Parkany, VTrans
Alex Bernier, UConn	Dale Peabody, MaineDOT
Vinka Craver, URI	Ann Scholz, NHDOT
Colin Franco, RIDOT	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Brian Hirt, CTC & Associates	James Sullivan, UVM
Matt Mann, UMass	Maina Tran, CTC & Associates
Tanya Miller, VTrans	Christos Xenophontos, RIDOT
Dee Nash, NHDOT	Melanie Zimyeski, ConnDOT

### 1) Open Project Review (September 2021)

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
<a href="#">19-1: Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design</a>	Adam Stockin, WSP E. Parkany K. Seeber Alex Bardow, MA DOT	The Task 1 report is complete. The next TC meeting is scheduled for 10/27/21 to review Task 2 (finite element studies) and Task 3 (design guidelines).	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 final TC meeting is scheduled for 11/3/21. Maina will check on the draft final report. Kirsten will work with the PI to schedule a project webinar.	2/28/2022 \$148,035
<a href="#">19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Unstiffened Steel Beam Ends</a>	Simos Gerasimidis, UMassAmherst N. Zavalas K. Seeber Matt Weidele, MA DOT	The Task 1 report is complete. The next TC meeting is scheduled for 12/16/21. The PI is reallocating the budget to provide more graduate student hours.	3/31/2023 \$179,995

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
<a href="#">20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Bridge Railings</a>	Christine Carrigan, RoadSafe D. Peabody K. Seeber Jeff Folsom, ME DOT	The TC met on 9/3/21. The TC voted to continue the project based on the recommendations below. - ME, NH, and RI: The ISPE will not distinguish between values of NAME, will consider all field performance of all the identified NETC rails and AGTs. - An ISPE report be developed for ME, NH and RI. This will support the combining of the results with the other states. No further data collection or analysis will be conducted for VT, MA and CT. - A meta-analysis be conducted using the completed ME, NH, and RI ISPE reports. This will provide the best available information on the field performance of NETC rails and AGTs. - The ME study period will be extended to include 2013-2015. If this information is available, it will be incorporated. This additional data review will necessitate Task 3 being delayed but the project end date will remain the same.	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>	Yuanchang Xie, UMass Lowell A. Scholz M. Tran Susan Klasen, NH DOT	A TC meeting is scheduled for 10/1/21. The research team is having no issues gathering data and resources.	3/31/2023 \$179,995
<a href="#">20-3: Investigating Thermal Imaging Technologies and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Improve Bridge Inspections</a>	Kevin Ahearn, AECOM D. Peabody M. Tran John "Sam" Maxim, ME DOT	The research team is in the middle of the field tests. The PI sent an update email to the TC. The next TC meeting will be in January 2022.	3/31/2023 \$174,931
<a href="#">20-4: New England Connected and Automated Vehicle Legal and Regulatory Assessment</a>	Greg Rodriguez, Stantec, E. Parkany/N. Zavalas K. Seeber Daniel Sullivan, MA DOT	The TC meets monthly. The PI is bringing together a lot of information and the TC will have several deliverables to review.	12/31/2021 \$153,746
Re-Creating NETC	CTC & Associates, Kirsten Seeber/Chris Kline A. Scholz K. Seeber A. Scholz	The TAAC was held on 9/27/21. The TAAC will discuss both a new vision for NETC and which state might lead the next pooled fund.	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	Six proposals were received. The scoring meeting was held on 9/16/21. The award letters went out on Friday and a cost proposal has been requested from the selected researcher.	18 months \$200,000 proposed

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<a href="#">21-2: Sustainable Biomass-Based Sealant for Service Life Extension of Concrete Structures and Pavements</a>	TBD U. Amoussou-Gueno K. Seeber Joe Stillwell, ME DOT	The RFP has been posted. No questions were received. The RFP deadline is 10/14/21. Kirsten sent an email to the NETC distribution list on 9/1/21. VT added a member to the TC. The scoring meeting is scheduled for 11/2/21.	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	Two proposals were received. The scoring meeting is scheduled for 10/13/21.	36 months \$200,000 proposed

### Discussion:

- Maina is leaving CTC. Still helping out and transitioning out on her projects.
- 20-1 – The research team has information on over 100 crashes. ME got them a few extra years of data, which included additional crashes.
- 20-4
  - ~ Emily – There is concern about the PI not delivering. Nothing has been received since 9/3/21 and the deliverables are not as expected.
  - ~ Emily – Who is reviewing the project invoices? Should TC members be reviewing project invoices? Dale – Stantec is behind on invoicing. He doesn't have a rigorous process for invoice review but sometimes reaches out to the ME TC member or CTC. Emily – The next lead state should have a process for this.
  - ~ AC Liaisons should let Dale know if there are any red flags on projects.
- Re-Creating NETC
  - ~ Christos – The AC should find a new lead state first and then focus on re-creating NETC. Use the next meeting to decide how to wrap up the pooled fund.
- 21-3
  - ~ Emily – Is it possible that the TC isn't excited about either proposal and the project doesn't go forward? Ann – The TC is very involved and she doesn't feel they would select a proposal unless they are happy with it.

## 2) 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. No further updates have been received.
  - ~ 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

### 3) Website Implementation and Tech Transfer activities on project pages

- Kirsten will start populating the project pages with implementation and tech transfer activities.

### 4) Next NETC pooled fund study

- Christos – Unless a state steps forward, NETC won't continue as it is. It could be a tri-state agreement but it would be difficult if the states aren't using the SPR funds.
  - ~ VT is part of a tri-state Northern NE states. Emily feels the agreement would fall apart quickly.
- Ann – Previous to ME leading the study, the contracting had been done by the NETC coordinator, which is another option to consider. The coordinator contract would cost more.
  - ~ Colin – Can a university do the contracting? Emily – The lead state would have to issue an RFP to see who can do it (which university or private company). If the coordinator does the contracting, it's much easier for a state to lead.
  - ~ Emily – The lead state would still need to approve invoices from the coordinator and would be responsible for the closeout of the study.
- Ann – If FHWA HQ knew that the consortium might not continue, would FHWA lead it? Emily – It would be a technical office in HQ. She doesn't think the RD&T staff would be ready to be the lead office.
- Lily – Contracted entity will provide the support and the states will contribute to the study based on their need. States would contribute to research projects as they are interested. As it is now, a project would go forward with every state's money being used.
  - ~ Ann – The Southeast Transportation Consortium has all of their research done by one university and a state does the coordinating. The states contribute to projects based on their interest/need. If a Transportation Center managed the topics as they came about, then the states would contribute as needed.
  - ~ Emily – Lily's suggestion is intriguing. A state would contribute to a research project if it were interested. Each state might want to put in X dollars towards the coordinator, symposium, tech transfer and other pooled fund activities. Two-part contribution.
- Ann – We've heard from states that can't/not interested in leading but CT and MA haven't weighed in.
  - ~ Andrew – CT would be happy to contribute if someone else leads. CT only has three research staff and don't have the people power to do it.
  - ~ Lily – MA would also be happy to contribute if someone else leads.
- Dale – ME will be able to retain CTC to finish the research projects. The CTC contract would be extended for a few years. Dale be working out the contribution from the states to fund this. Everyone will have to agree to the extension.
- Christos would like his colleagues to approach their leadership to be a lead state. RI can't do it because of a lack of staff.
- Emily – Remind your leadership that NETC would continue as the projects would finish out their contracts. We need a lead state sooner than later.

### 5) 2021 Symposium Update

- The Transportation Maintenance Symposium is scheduled for 9/29/21. As of 9/28/21, there are 49 registrants.
- The symposium consists of three subtopic presentations followed by breakout groups for each subtopic.
- Subtopics:
  - ~ Winter Maintenance Command and Control

- ~ All About the Liquids
- ~ Winter Performance Measures
- There is also a presentation on Winter Maintenance Resources with no breakout group.
- Breakout group facilitators:
  - ~ Emily Parkany
  - ~ Brian Hirt
  - ~ Kirsten Seeber
  - ~ Matt Mann, if needed
  - ~ Bill Gombotz, if needed
- Zoom will be the meeting platform. Katie Johnson, CTC, will be the technical person for the day.
- The facilitators and presenters had a practice session on 9/23/21.

#### **6) Other Business**

- Vinka Craver – the new University of Rhode Island to the AC.
- Colin thanked Maina for her work with NECT. She has been very helpful, organized and great. The AC wishes her the best.

#### **7) Adjourn**

**Next meeting:** October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 11:00am – 12:30pm ET