



NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 11:00am – 12:30pm ET

Attendees:

Ulrich Amoussou-Guenou, MaineDOT	Lily Oliver, MassDOT
Alex Bernier, UConn	Emily Parkany, VTrans
Vinka Craver, URI	Dale Peabody, MaineDOT
Colin Franco, RIDOT	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Matt Mann, UMass	James Sullivan, UVM
Tanya Miller, VTrans	Nicholas Zavolas, MassDOT
Andrew Mroczkowski, ConnDOT	Melanie Zimyeski, ConnDOT

1) Open Project Review (November 2021)

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
19-1: Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design	Adam Stockin, WSP E. Parkany K. Seeber Alex Bardow, MA DOT	The TC meeting met on 10/27/21 to review Task 2 (finite element studies) and Task 3 (design guidelines). The research team is a bit behind due to the number of calculations but feel they can finish the project on time.	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 K. Seeber Neil Olson, NH Dept of Env Services	Final TC meeting was held on 11/3/21. The TC provided comments on the first draft of the final report. CTC will schedule a project webinar for this project. The AC prefers a live webinar.	2/28/2022 \$148,035
19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Unstiffened Steel Beam Ends	Simos Gerasimidis, UMassAmherst N. Zavolas K. Seeber Matt Weidele, MA DOT	The PI has received beams from CT, ME and VT and bridges with potential beam samples have been identified. The next TC meeting is scheduled for 12/16/21. The PI decided not to reallocate the budget to provide more graduate student hours.	3/31/2023 \$179,995

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20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Bridge Railings	Christine Carrigan, RoadSafe D. Peabody K. Seeber Jeff Folsom, ME DOT	The TC met on 10/21/21. The PI is working on Task 3 (ISPE evaluations) and will start on Task 4 (draft final report). The research team is a bit behind but feel they can finish the project on time.	6/30/2022 \$119,978
20-2: Current Status of Transportation Data Analytics and A Pilot Case Study Using Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Yuanchang Xie, UMass Lowell A. Scholz K. Seeber Susan Klasen, NH DOT	The PI sent the draft report for Task 1 (Review of current data collection and utilization practices), which the TC is reviewing.	3/31/2023 \$179,995
20-3: Investigating Thermal Imaging Technologies and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Improve Bridge Inspections	Kevin Ahearn, AECOM D. Peabody K. Seeber John "Sam" Maxim, ME DOT	Most of Task 2 (Field demo of chosen IR/UAV models and data analysis) was completed in October. Kirsten is working with the PI to schedule the next TC meeting.	3/31/2023 \$174,931
20-4: New England Connected and Automated Vehicle Legal and Regulatory Assessment	Greg Rodriguez, Stantec E. Parkany/N. Zavolas K. Seeber Daniel Sullivan, MA DOT	The TC meets monthly. The PI has sent several working docs to the TC for review and feedback. The next TC meeting is 11/18/21. The PI is asking for a NCTE of three months (ME's minimum) to allow the TC enough time to complete a proper review of the materials.	12/31/2021 \$153,746
Re-Creating NETC	Kirsten Seeber/Chris Kline, CTC & Associates A. Scholz K. Seeber A. Scholz	Kirsten and Chris will add an explanation of the pooled fund ending to the draft final report and send to the TAAC for review.	8/12/2021 \$50,000
21-1: Quality Review and Assessment of Pavement Condition Survey Vehicle Data Across New England	TBD A. Mroczkowski K. Seeber John Henault, CT DOT	ME is waiting for the cost proposal from the selected researcher.	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 Stilwell, ME DOT	One proposal was received. The TC Chair proposed to the TC that the RFP not be awarded and the SOW be reworked to take into account the other biomass-based sealer (PoreShield from IN). The goal is to get proposals that don't reinvent the wheel and demonstrate that biomass-based sealer concept has value in NE.	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	ME is waiting for the cost from the selected researcher.	36 months \$200,000 proposed

Discussion:

- 20-4
 - Emily – The deliverable due dates are slipping. Each state is going through what they have on the books in terms of legislation that will impact CAVs.
 - Dale will look at the billing so far to see where Stantec is with the spending.
- 21-2
 - Dale – PoreShield has offered to do a show and tell for the member states. He is not sure the TC would come up with something unique when they rework the SOW. The TC will have to have a strong case for this project to move forward. Dale discuss with Joe Stilwell (TC chair and project proposer) to determine if he has a more generic product in mind to come from this project.
 - Emily – if a biomass-based sealant, such as PoreShield, is already available, it should be evaluated on the approved product list.

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
- Emily – Not directly related to the above three projects, but VT is interested in BMD and has gone all in on UAS. Their UAS manager interested in what others are doing. This wouldn't count as NETC implementation but that the NETC project laid the groundwork. What do we call NETC-inspired implementation? We should record this kind of information on the NETC project pages.
 - Emily – Should the TAAC members have conversations with their TC members about project implementation or related activities, or send a survey to the TC members? Are TAAC members readdressing with the TC members annually on all projects? Is this related to how NETC's value? Do we care about implementation? Do we care about what happened in each state?
 - Colin – Ask the TC members from 18-3 their takeaways from the project, specifically the good ideas that Kevin Ahearn may have spoken to them about, such as things they should or shouldn't be doing in NETC 20-3: UAS to Improve Bridge Inspections.
 - **Action item:** CTC to create a survey for 18-3 for TC members and the AC will talk to their current staff.
 - Dale – TAAC members have already talked to their staff about 18-3 results and we may be beating a dead horse. ME isn't implementing the project results. He doesn't feel a survey would provide much value.
 - ~ Emily – TAAC members aren't speaking up, so maybe revisiting past projects and talking further about what's going on with them isn't a priority.

3) Website Implementation and Tech Transfer activities on project pages

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

4) Wrapping up the pooled fund study

- CTC will put together a SOW and the hours needed to finish out the pooled fund for review by the TAAC in December.
- Dale will talk to FHWA about extending the deadline of the current study to allow for the completion of all research projects.
- Emily – Would each state contribute in FFY23 and FFY24? Dale – Depends on the new projects. If the biomass project goes away, there would be extra money available. ME may need a small amount from each state (\$25,000) to finish up the CTC contract.
- Closeout event – Need more details for the cost estimate
 - Emily – Event make sense but could it be done virtually? Would folks be interested in driving to this type of event? Dee agrees.
 - Lily – If NETC was continuing on and talking about potential projects, there would be more of a reason for this type of event. If it's a celebration only, she is not sure people would attend.
 - Dale – Trying to rationalize why he would attend. They could have an in-person AC meeting to have some business discussion and add a “what have we learned over the last 25 years?”
Dee –A debriefing, which could have some value.
- Emily met with Joe Segale and he is sad NETC is ending. He doesn't think the research managers should be deciding to end the pooled fund but the leadership in the states should make the decision. His question is if the managing projects wasn't an issue, has NETC been valuable and had impact at each state? Think about the value of NETC in the absolute.
 - Dale – How impactful has NETC been? Dale would argue that ME hasn't gotten their money out of it. He understands Joe's frustration but it's time to move on. Emily – If half the states or more haven't gotten value then it shouldn't continue.
 - TAAC pole – Has your state received value from being in NETC?

~ RI – Yes	~ MA –
~ ME – Not really	~ CT –
~ VT – Yes	~ NH –
- Dale – CTC will add a lump sum for an event for CTC's time and facility costs so we have the costs captured in the contract extension SOW/hours.
- The Advisory Committee will continue to meet monthly to get project updates.

5) Construction Symposium

- Planning committee: Emily, Dale and Matt
- The TAAC members reached out to their construction staff for topics.
- The AC has discussed three possible days with 2-3 topics each.
 - Bridges
 - Pavements
 - Other
- Topics suggested
 - E-ticketing (VT): Where are other states are at with implementation and how they are using the technology?
 - Concrete (ME): What other states are doing related to extensive cracking, very high strengths, and accelerated schedules. ME may also have the need to find new pozzolans as fly ash will become scarcer as states reduce/eliminate coal burning.
 - Pavement construction (VT): What are other states doing?

- Timing
 - ~ No one has mentioned a conflict with the end of January/early February 2022.
 - **Tuesday, February 8 – Thursday, February 10 selected**

6) Other Business

7) Adjourn

Next meeting: December 14th, 2021 from 11:00am – 12:30pm ET