



NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 19, 2023, 1:00–2:00pm ET

Attendees:

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| Matt Mann, UMass | Jeff Pulver, MaineDOT |
| Ashlie Mercado, VT AOT | Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates |
| Andrew Mroczkowski, CT DOT | Hao Yin, MassDOT |
| Dee Nash, NHDOT | Melanie Zimyeski, ConnDOT |
| Emily Parkany, VT AOT | |

1) Welcome new Advisory Committee member

- Hao Yin, Research and Technology Transfer, MassDOT

2) Open Project Review (December 2023)

| 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 Unstiffened Steel Beam Ends | Simos Gerasimidis, UMass Amherst N. Zavalas K. Seeber Matt Weidele, MA DOT | The draft final report, poster and fact sheet are with the TC for review. The TC met on 12/19/23 to discuss the draft final report. The project webinar will be scheduled for March. | 1/31/2024 \$179,995 |
| 20-2: Current Status of Transportation Data Analytics and a Pilot Case Study Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) Speed Collection on Horizontal Curves | Yuanchang Xie, UMass Lowell E. Parkany K. Seeber Susan Klasen, NH DOT | The revised draft final report, draft fact sheet and draft poster were sent to the TC on 12/15/23. TC feedback is due 12/21/23 to give the research team time to finalize the documents by 12/31/23. Kirsten will work with the PI to schedule the project webinar in early 2024. | 12/31/2023 \$200,000 |
| 21-3: Initiating Seed Production for Effective Establishment of Native Plants on Roadsides in New England | Julia Kuzovkina, UConn D. Nash K. Seeber Arin Mills, NH DOT | The CT, MA and VT demo sites have been planted. The research team is working with the Northeast Seed Network to create an ecotype seed supply for the DOTs. The research team has updated the BMP manual focusing on establishment. | 6/30/24 \$200,000 |

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| | | <p>The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for 3/5/24. We are scheduling TC meetings in February and May. The research team will start to send draft deliverables in mid-January.</p> <p>Emily – Each state will have different procurement procedures for purchasing a seed mix.</p> | |
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3) Implementation/Tech Transfer

- TAAC members to report on any implementation activities for recently closed projects.
- Kirsten will send quarterly reminders to the TAAC to add information/activities to the implementation spreadsheet. Kirsten sent a reminder on 9/25/23.
- **Continue the discussion of implementation activities related to projects 18-1, 20-1, 18-2, 18-3 and 19-1.**
 - VT presented their implementation activities/plans at the November Advisory Committee meeting.
 - [18-1: Development of MASH Computer Simulated Steel Bridge Rail and Transition Details](#)
 - ~ No updates.
 - [20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Bridge Railings](#)
 - ~ No updates.
 - [18-2: Framework of Asphalt Balanced Mix Design \(BMD\) for New England Transportation Agencies](#)
 - ~ No updates.
 - [18-3 Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(UAS\) into Operations Conducted by State Departments of Transportation](#)
 - ~ NH – This project was a firm basis for a subsequent project to develop UAS for NH that just finished. NH will have a poster on their project at the TRB Annual Meeting and will bring materials related to NETC 18-3 as supporting documents.
 - [19-1 Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design](#)
 - ~ CT – Some information from the project will be incorporate into the bridge manual.
 - CT – No feedback from heard from the other for SMEs on the other four projects.
 - MA – Separate emails for each project instead of the solo email Nicholas sent. Hao will follow up with their SMEs.
 - Hold off on discussing additional projects until January/February.
 - ~ Next projects to discuss will be 20-2, 20-3 and 20-4. **Action item:** Kirsten will send an email with SMEs to the TAAC members so they can reach out.

4) Topical Discussion Events

- **A series of virtual in-depth Topical Discussions designed to bring together SMEs from the New England transportation agencies around specific topics. Topics:**
 - Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan
 - Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance
 - Asset Management for ITS
 - e-Construction for Pavements
 - Geotech
- Asset Management for ITS – Event complete
 - **Action item:** Kirsten will post the presentations and the recordings on the NETC website behind a

password protected page.

- Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan
 - Planning Team meeting held 12/11/23. The next meeting is 1/12/24.
 - Event format
 - ~ Four hours
 - ~ Day 1 – Advanced Air Mobility Overview from several perspectives.
 - ~ Day 2 – DOT AAM Plans. ME will present on their plan.
 - Event timing – February 13 and March 6, 2024.
 - A few speakers have committed, and the planning team is reaching out to a few more.
- Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance
 - Planning Team meeting held 12/8/23. The next meeting is 1/3/24.
 - Three subtopics and has volunteer leads
 - ~ Mitigating the effect of collisions on reptiles and amphibians – Chris Slesar, VT
 - ~ Implementation strategies for wildlife avoidance – Richard Bostwick, ME is too busy so we are looking for a new topic lead.
 - ~ Road mortality data collection activities – Rebecca Martin, NH
 - Event format
 - ~ Six hours
 - ~ Intro session to explain the importance of the main topic; Use cases/presentations; panel discussion and breakout groups at the end of the day to focus on highlights from the event
 - Event timing – January 25, 2024
 - A few speakers have committed, and the planning team is reaching out to a few more.
 - A save the date email will be sent in December with a draft agenda.
- Geotech
 - Planning Team meeting held 11/16/23.
 - Three subtopics and volunteer leads
 - ~ UAS for Geotech investigations – Krystle Pelham, NH
 - ~ Geophysics – Steve Madden, VT
 - ~ Geotech asset management and data management – Callie Ewald, VT and Kate Macguire, ME
 - Event format
 - ~ Four hours
 - ~ Panel and presentations/use cases
 - Event timing – February 7, 2024 from 10:00am – 2:30pm ET. A save the date email will be sent in December with a draft agenda.
 - A few speakers have committed, and the planning team is reaching out to a few more.
 - A save the date email will be sent in late December/early January with a draft agenda.
 - Next planning meeting will be scheduled for early January.
- e-Construction for Pavements
 - Planning Team meeting held on 11/22/23. Only two planning team members showed up so we will reschedule the meeting.
 - Subtopics and volunteer leads

- ~ Risk-Based Inspection/Automated inspection – Ryan Darling, VT
- ~ Materials Delivery Management System/e-Ticketing – Jarret Moore, CT
- ~ Other topics being considered
 - Density Profiling System, Paver-Mounted Thermal Profiler, Intelligent Compaction also is e-Construction/Smooth Ride System
- Event format
 - ~ Four hours
- Event timing – February 28, 2024. This may be pushed out.
- Kirsten will scheduling the next planning meeting and the event date.

List of volunteers

| Topic | Volunteer | State |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan | Jeffrey DeCarlo | MA |
| Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan | Chris Bailey | MA |
| Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan | Fred Bedard | MA |
| Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan | Terrance McKenna | MA |
| Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan | Scott Uebelhart | MA |
| Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan | Nicholas Zavalas | MA |
| Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan | Jeanne Kannegieser | ME |
| Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan | Alan Lambert | ME |
| Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan | Evan Robinson | VT |
| Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance | Christopher Samorajczyk | CT |
| Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance | Richard Bostwick | ME |
| Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance | Rebecca Martin | NH |
| Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance | Dee Nash | NH |
| Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance | Chris Slesar | VT |
| Asset Management for ITS | Anthony Colangelo | CT |
| Asset Management for ITS | Louis Lamoureux | MA |
| Asset Management for ITS | Chester Osborne | MA |
| Asset Management for ITS | Susan Klasen | NH |
| Asset Management for ITS | Kody McCarthy | NH |
| Asset Management for ITS | Dee Nash | NH |
| Asset Management for ITS | Russell Holt | RI |
| Asset Management for ITS | Derek Lyman | VT |
| Asset Management for ITS | Mark Gerrish | VT |
| Asset Management for ITS | Ryan Knapp | VT |
| Asset Management for ITS | Emily Parkany | VT |
| e-Construction for Pavements | Jarrett Moore | CT |
| e-Construction for Pavements | Brian Kelleher | MA |
| e-Construction for Pavements | Ulrich Amoussou-Guenou | ME |
| e-Construction for Pavements | Pat Colburn | NH |
| e-Construction for Pavements | Dee Nash | NH |
| e-Construction for Pavements | Ryan Darling | VT |
| Geotech | Robert Pion | CT |
| Geotech | Mike Glovasky | MA |
| Geotech | Mike Roach | MA |

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| Geotech | Jennifer Rauch | MA |
| Geotech | Kate Maguire | ME |
| Geotech | Dee Nash | NH |
| Geotech | Krystle Pelham | NH |
| Geotech | Callie Ewald | VT |
| Geotech | Steve Madden | VT |
| Geotech | Emily Parkany | VT |

5) Other Business

- **508-compliance for final reports from this phase of the pooled fund**
 - CTC remediated the final reports for the following research projects and posted them to the project pages.
 - ~ 18-1 (report only), 18-2, 18-3, 19-1 (report and guidelines), 19-2, 20-1, 20-3, 20-4 and 21-1.
 - ~ 19-3, 20-2 and 21-3 will be remediated once the final reports are received.
 - ~ **Action item:** Kirsten will send/upload the remediated reports to TRID and Rosa-P.
- Activities if NETC website moved from CTC servers after pooled fund ends.
 - Prepare site for transfer; clean up files, organization – CTC time would be 2 hours.
 - Export files and database – CTC’s web server company time would be 30 minutes
 - New site owner would need to purchase and install licenses for two WordPress plugins
 - ~ Advanced Custom Fields Pro - \$49/year
 - ~ Posts Table Pro - \$69/year
 - Documentation on how to use site, manage projects, etc. – CTC time would be 3 hours.
 - Total funds = Approximately \$800.
 - Questions/answers about the website.
 - ~ Description of what is currently on the NETC site:
 - The site is built on WordPress.
 - Total installation size: 7.72GB
 - Database size: 64.70MB
 - 35 published Pages
 - 47 published Posts
 - 31 published Projects (custom post type)
 - 425 published Downloads (custom post type)
 - ~ What does “manage projects” mean in the “Documentation” bullet above?
 - This is the documentation on how to create/edit projects that are displayed on the Research Projects page at <https://www.newenglandtransportationconsortium.org/research-projects/>.
 - Costs for CTC to host the website for three years after the pooled fund ends.
 - ~ There are specific monthly costs associated with the website. There are also costs spread across all of the CTC-hosted websites (some service fees and subscriptions, as well as maintenance time for our webmaster and server provider). Therefore, it isn't possible to extract the precise cost to cover NETC hosting.

- ~ CTC currently charges NETC \$75/month for website hosting and maintenance, which is CTC's outlay to service all aspects of the website. CTC can continue to charge \$75/month or \$900/year to maintain the website. Three years would be \$2,700.
 - Emily – Maine will probably pay for the website costs ahead of time, but we need to hear from Jeff on this. Can CTC do longer? Would one of the states pay for extra years after the three years? Need to hear from all states on this? What if the website went away completely? How would this affect the states? Could/would UMass take it on? Or another state?
- ~ If the AC approves of these costs, Maine can pay them ahead of time to avoid any additional contracting once the pooled fund ends.
- Tri-State Research Peer Exchange/NETC Closeout Event
 - CT, ME and NH are checking with their FHWA Division Offices to see if they would get credit for a multi-hosted peer exchange. According to NCHRP 20-111(G) Best Practices for State DOT Peer Exchanges, “a multi-state peer exchange should include panelists beyond the representative peer exchange states, and there should be an equal or greater number of representatives from organizations other than the peer exchange states.”
 - ~ CT and ME FHWA Division Offices are in favor of giving hosting credit for this peer exchange. They will make a final decision after reviewing the draft agenda.
 - **Action item:** Dee will check with the NH FHWA Division Office on a tri-hosted peer exchange.
 - ~ Format – Hybrid is preferred.
 - ~ Number of participants will depend on planning. How many of the DOT folks could travel?
 - Emily – NETC project researchers probably wouldn't be at the exchange. If the topics aren't exciting, VT wouldn't get approval to travel. The topics will be decided on my CT, ME and NH.
 - ~ Kirsten checked with Jill Stark, FHWA, on a tri-hosting Research Peer Exchange. All three hosts can receive credit.
 - ~ **Action item:** Kirsten will schedule the initial planning meeting with the three hosts.
 - ~ Funds available for the peer exchange.
 - ~ What is the NETC closeout part of this? Would it complicate the peer exchange? Could we complete the peer exchange and then have a NETC closeout event? Or add a discussion on next steps regionally? How can the New England agencies continue to work together? Regional strategy?
 - ~ Does the peer exchange contract work with CTC's contract with ME? **Action item:** Kirsten will check with Jeff on this.
 - ~ Emily mentioned the recent MDT peer exchange final report as a good example for a final report.

6) Adjourn

Next meeting: January 23, 2024, from 11:00am–12:00pm ET