



New England Transportation Consortium

NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 11:00am – noon ET

LOCATION: GoToMeeting Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/628554149> Dial-in: 646-749-3122;
Access Code: 628-554-149

Jim Bryce, UME	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Chris Jolly, FHWA	Jo Sias, NHDOT
Matt Mann, UMass	Maina Tran, CTC & Associates
Tanya Miller, VTrans	Christos Xenophontos, RIDOT
Ann Scholz, NHDOT	

1) Open Project Review (February 2020)

Project # and Title	PI, University <i>AC Liaison</i>	Update	End Date Budget
18-1: Development of MASH Computer Simulated Steel Bridge Rail & Transition Details	Chuck Plaxico, Malcom Ray, Roadsafe LLC D. Peabody	Comments from TC on the draft final report due 2/21/20. Received a few comments. TC Chair will review comments and send to the PI to finalize the report and toolkit items.	6/1/20 \$199,936
18-2: Framework of Asphalt Balanced Mix Design for NE Agencies	Walaa Mogawer, UMass Dartmouth A. Scholz	Tasks 3- 5 are in progress. PI requested a contract extension due to delayed project start. ME is working on an amendment to extend the contract from 6/30/20 to 12/31/20. Research team is in process of gathering historical pavement distress data from NE states for Task 3. Received data from NH and VT. ME doesn't have any. Other states may not have any data. Trying to figure out how to deal with that. Do they extend the contract anyway? See the TC members below and AC members follow up and tell Walaa if no data or when will be getting the data. <u>TC Members</u> CT – Dave Howley MA – Ed Naras ME – Derek Nener-Plante NH – Joe Blair (Chair), Matthey Courser RI – Michael Byrne VT – Aaron Schwartz	6/30/20 \$127,499
18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs	Jon Gustafson, WSP E. Parkany	Task 3 is in progress. A progress meeting was held on 1/14/20. No issues. Task 3 ends in June. Maina will check to see if the TC want to have check in meeting prior to June.	3/31/2021 \$146,632
19-1: Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design	Adam Stockton, WSP E. Parkany	The contract with WSP is fully executed. The kick-off meeting is set for 3/13/20.	6/30/22 \$150,000

Project # and Title	PI, University AC Liaison	Update	End Date Budget
		End date in contract is 6/30/21, which is not long enough for the 24-month project. ME will do a NCTE to extend to 6/30/22.	
19-2: Multi-Scale Multi-Season Land-Based Erosion Modeling and Monitoring for Infrastructure Management	Aimee Mountain, GZA A. Scholz	The contract with GZA is fully executed. The kick-off meeting is scheduled for 3/5/20. End date in contract is 6/30/21, which is not long enough for the 24-month project. ME will do a NCTE to extend to 6/30/22.	6/30/22 \$150,000
19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Steel Beam Ends	TBD N. Zavalas	ME plans to have the RFP posted by 2/28/20.	TBD \$200,000

2) Research Problem Statement Solicitation

- Ten Problem Statements were received from MA (3), ME (4) and NH (3) DOTs.
- Kirsten sent the statements, evaluation for and ranking sheet to the AC on 2/6/20.
- Problem Statement Ranking/Discussion meeting on 3/31/20 in Concord.
- Late project ideas:
 - ~ Changing Winter Maintenance and Road Salt Application and Impacts Costs (ICNet idea) – Two yes (NH, VT) and two no (MA, RI) votes on allowing this as an RNS to be discussed. No vote from CT.
 - Possible options: Reject the RNS and proposer would have to wait until next year or consider accepting off-cycle projects.
 - Greg – Greg was not at the meeting but sent the following to Kirsten: “Regarding late problem statement submissions, my feeling is that we should stick to previously established deadlines; however, I would also be fine if we changed the procedure in the future to establish a deadline for preferred consideration and then accept additional problem statements on a rolling basis and issue RFPs for those if there is any remaining funding, for example, because the initial round of problem statements received by the preferred deadline did not get enough support to move forward to RFP or proposals in response to RFPs were judged as insufficient. Related to this, I personally think it makes more sense to avoid problem statement solicitation altogether and just issue calls for proposals in broad areas of interest to New England DOTs. This would reduce the time and effort involved in the procurement process and likely lead to more innovative proposals and particularly more proposals from the region’s research universities.”
 - Christos – He would like to adhere to the deadline set in the Research Needs Statement process. It would not be fair to those who got their statements in on time. He does not want to set a precedent for late proposals. He is fine with accepting off-cycle projects as long everyone gets a chance to propose.
 - Matt – How would off-cycle project proposals be vetted? Face-to-face meeting? Voting via email?
 - Ann – We will see what the outcome is in on the project voting in March before deciding on off-cycle projects. She likes the idea of asking for statements on the issues that NE states are facing. **Action item:** Kirsten will add these topics to the March meeting.

- ~ Rebecca Martin proposed creating an RNS for a follow up project to [15-1: Project Use of Forested Habitat Adjacent to Highways by Northern Long-Eared Bats](#). From Rebecca's email, "A judge finally ruled on the case of the NLEB listing yesterday and the follow up study would be very helpful at this time." Thoughts from the AC?
 - o NE does not have the data they need to comply with the judge's ruling. That's why she wants to continue 15-1 to collect the proper data. This would help all states get the information they need. Ann proposes that Rebecca come to the March meeting and explain the judge's ruling and how it affects the states' compliance. Then see where the funding falls out for other projects and if there are funds leftover for this project.
 - (a) Christos – Not funding a new project, but adding funds to existing project? Ann – This would be a phase II to the original project. The original researcher has left NHU and we may need to find a new researcher, which makes it a bit more complicated. Sounds like it is collecting additional data applicable to NE. Christos – This sounds like it is more additional work to phase I and not a phase II. If more work under an existing task, then not the same as a late project. The project is closed so it would not be adding funds to an open contract. Ann – This could possibly be a QPR, continuing 15-1 data collection.
 - (b) Ann – The AC is okay with Rebecca talking to the group at the March meeting. If there are funds leftover, the AC will consider this project. **Action item:** Ann will set it up with Rebecca to discuss in March.

3) Implementation

- Closeout webinars for past projects
 - ~ 17-1: [Quick Response: New England Connected and Autonomous Vehicles](#) webinar rescheduled for 2/26/20 from 2:00-2:45pm. Practice session with presenters on 2/25/20. Twenty-eight registrations. The webinar recording will be posted on the project page following the webinar. This will be true for all webinars.
 - ~ 15-2: [Using the New SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study Safety Databases to Examine Safety Concerns for Older Drivers](#) webinar scheduled for 3/4/20 from 11:00-11:30am. Practice session with presenters on 3/2 or 3/3. Fourteen registrations.
 - ~ 15-3: [Moisture Susceptibility Testing for Hot Mix Asphalt Pavements in New England](#) webinar scheduled for 3/3/20. Practice session with presenter on 3/2/20. Twelve registrations.
 - ~ 15-4: [Quick Response Project: Optimizing Quality Assurance \(QA\) Processes for Asphalt Pavement Construction in the Northeast](#).
 - o Jo Sias is free to do this webinar. The AC confirmed it would still like a webinar on this project.
 - ~ 18-1: [Development of MASH Computer Simulated Steel Bridge Rail and Transition Details](#) would be the next webinar in the que.

4) Proposal Evaluation Guidelines (RFP Scoring Criteria) and PI Evaluation

- We received a few additional comments on the Proposal Evaluation Guidelines. No further changes were made to the document. ME will use the document for scoring the next set of proposals for project 19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Steel Beam Ends.

5) Other Business

- Website – CTC’s web designer is working on a couple of designs for the committee to review, probably for the March meeting.
- March agenda – **Action item:** Kirsten will send a draft to Ann/Dale and the final to the AC.
- Christos – He has an agreement with the Volpe Center to run the regional peer exchange. **Action item:** Kirsten will add the peer exchange to the March meeting agenda to find dates when the exchange should be held.
 - ~ Lily – How long will it be? What is the focus? Christos - It will be a 2-day peer exchange. The purpose is to provide suggestions to RIDOT for revamping their Research Program, including solicitations and working with local universities. They are looking to revamp their entire program that has been dormant for a few years. They haven’t had a Research peer exchange for 7-10 years.

6) Adjourn

Next meeting: March 31st from 9:00am – 2:00pm ET in Concord, NH.