

NETC

NEW ENGLAND TRANSPORTATION CONSORTIUM



CONNECTICUT
MAINE
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RHODE ISLAND
VERMONT
US DOT - FHWA

May 20, 2015

Dear NETC Policy Committee Member,

The New England Transportation Consortium Advisory Committee, at its May 18, 2015 meeting, selected the following projects for the 2015 Research Program:

- **NETC 15-1: Use of Forested Habitat Adjacent to Highways by Northern Long Eared Bats**
In anticipation of the Federal endangered species listing for Northern Long-Eared Bats (NLEB), this project will seek to determine whether highway traffic effects such as noise, canopy opening, and other physical effects affect bat use of roadside habitat. The project will develop a matrix of disturbance features and an assessment of the compatibility or interference of foraging and roosting behavior of Northern Long-Eared Bat colonies and other potential listed species. A screening tool and GIS model will show zones of influence around highways that have noise and disturbance levels that would result in unlikely bat utilization in adjacent habitats. (Estimated \$165,000 Budget)
- **NETC 15-2: Using the New SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study Safety Databases to Examine Safety Concerns for Teens and Older Drivers**
This project is a proof of concept type study with two major objectives: 1) utilize the new SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study Safety Database to examine patterns of behavior associated with teen and older drivers and how they affect safety, and 2) Utilize the new SHRP2 Roadway Information Database to determine if there are any correlations between roadway design and teen/older driver safety. (Estimated \$150,000 Budget)
- **NETC 15-3: Moisture Susceptibility Testing for Hot Mix Asphalt Pavements in New England**
Moisture in Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) pavements can create loss of stiffness and loss of structural strength. The most common form of moisture damage is through hydraulic scouring, in which air voids in pavements are saturated with water, and under traffic the trapped water repeatedly exerts pore pressure on the HMA. In recent years at least two New England state transportation agencies (Vermont and Maine) have observed premature failure of HMA pavements that may be, in part, caused by moisture damage. The purpose of this research is to investigate the extent of moisture damage in New England HMA pavements, conduct laboratory testing on good and poor performing mixtures, develop recommendations on testing that correlates well with field performance and conduct testing on mixes with lime additive and liquid anti-strip additive. (Estimated \$150,000 Budget)

TRANSPORTATION INNOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

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– **NETC 15-4: Optimizing Quality Assurance (QA) Process for Asphalt Pavement Construction in the Northeast**

Large number of asphalt producers and paving contractors supply materials and serve multiple New England DOTs. By developing optimized, uniform quality assurance (QA) processes a significant time and economic savings can be realized by DOTs as well as contractors. At present the certification courses for all five states are jointly taught by NETTCP, if uniform QA processes and parameters can be developed, the training can be better streamlined. Furthermore, this can allow the inspectors and other resources from one state to be utilized for QA process of other state. This project will provide a formal guide of best practices that are often times shared amongst agencies in informal manner and this document will entail the risks associated with various approaches to QA processes (for example: sampling and testing frequencies, sampling locations, approval timing etc.). (Estimated \$150,000 Budget)

The total budgeted amount for the 2015 NETC Research Program is \$615,000.

As a Policy Committee member, your primary functions shall be to define globally the research, development, and implementation needs to be addressed by the Consortium; approve the annual program developed in conjunction with the Advisory and Technical Committees; and acquire/provide funding to carry out the Program.

Sincerely,

Glenn McRae
On behalf of the New England Transportation Consortium Coordination Team

CC: William Ahearn, Vermont Agency of Transportation

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Maine Department of Transportation

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NETC POLICY COMMITTEE BALLOT

2015 Research Program

BALLOT QUESTION:

To approve the 2015 Research Program, which includes the following projects:

- **NETC 15-1: Use of Forested Habitat Adjacent to Highways by Northern Long Ear Bats** (Estimated \$165,000 Budget)
- **NETC 15-2: Using the New SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study Safety Databases to Examine Safety Concerns for Teens and Older Drivers** (Estimated \$150,000 Budget)
- **NETC 15-3: Moisture Susceptibility Testing for Hot Mix Asphalt Pavements in New England** (Estimated \$150,000 Budget)
- **NETC 15-4: Optimizing Quality Assurance (QA) Process for Asphalt Pavement Construction in the Northeast** (Estimated \$150,000 Budget)

_____ **In Favor**

_____ **Opposed**

Comments: _____

NAME:
AGENCY:
DATE:

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ABOVE BALLOT AND
RETURN IT BY EMAIL OR FAX by July 10th, 2015 TO:
E-MAIL: NETC@uvm.edu FAX: 802.656.9892**