



NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 26 , 2023, 11:00am –12:00pm ET

Attendees:

Ulrich Amoussou-Guenou, MaineDOT	Emily Parkany, VT AOT
Matt Man, UMTC	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Ashlie Mercado, VT AOT	Nicolas Zavalas, MassDOT
Dee Nash, NHDOT	Melanie Zimyeski, CTDOT

Open Project Review (March 2024)

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 project webinar was held on 3/15/24 with 53 people in attendance. Action item: Kirsten will add the TC comments on project implementation on the project page.	1/31/2024 \$179,995
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 TC met on 3/5/24 for a project update and for the TC to provide feedback on the revised deliverables. The research team is working on educational materials for DOT staff and the public. This includes a webinar and fact sheets for DOT staff and rest area fact sheets, DOT website materials and a social media campaign for the public. The next TC meeting is scheduled for 5/1/24. Action item: Kirsten will work with the PIs to start scheduling the two webinars (project and public).	6/30/24 \$200,000

Implementation/Tech Transfer

- TAAC members to report on any implementation activities for recently closed projects.
- Continue the discussion of implementation activities related to projects 20-2, 20-3, 20-4 and 21-1.

- ~ [20-2 Current Status of Transportation Data Analytics and Pilot Case Studies Using Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#)
 - No updates – Dee and Nicholas
 - Melanie – Ed Block will talk with their highway safety office to potentially do a demo on how AI could be used for speed behavior on horizontal curves. Melanie will let Kirsten know when this happens.
- ~ [20-3 Investigating Thermal Imaging Technologies and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Improve Bridge Inspections](#)
 - No updates – Dee and Nicholas
 - Melanie – The CT rep, Vitalij Staroverov, says there have been no implementation activities since the project ended. The project is promising but there have been false positives in interpreting the results; weather can play a role. There are barriers to the implementation using the thermal part of the technology. They are using UAS for bridge inspections.
- ~ [20-4 Coordinating State Policies, Laws and Regulations for Automated Driving Systems Across New England](#)
 - No updates – Dee and Nicholas
- ~ [21-1 Quality Review and Assessment of Pavement Condition Survey Vehicle Data Across New England](#)
 - No updates – Nicholas
 - Dee – Other states came to NH to verify their data collection vehicles. This could have happened without this project, but the working together on this project led to the coordination of the states to do this verification rodeo.
 - Emily – VT and MA participated in this rodeo. They learned that the states are talking with each other to determine if the states should concentrate on rodeos to validate data or validate at their state only. This project helped them to better understand what is needed for a validation site.
- ~ Implementation going forward with these meetings.
 - Emily – Follow up on the implementation of the last two projects, 19-3 and 21-3. Each state can report on what they will do with the project results.
 - Ask if anyone has anything to share related to implementation at each Advisory Committee meeting.
- ~ Tech transfer – Keep sharing tech transfer activities and putting them on the project pages.

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.
- Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance
 - ~ Event held on 1/24/24. Thirty-five people attended. Most stayed for the entire event.
 - ~ Kirsten will post the presentations and recordings.
- Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan
 - ~ Day 1 held on 2/13/24. Forty-one people attended.
 - ~ Day 2 held on 3/6/24. Forty-five people attended.
 - ~ Kirsten will post the presentations and recordings.
 - ~ Kirsten is scheduling a follow up/next steps meeting for the planning team.
- Geotech

- ~ This event was held on 3/21/24. Forty-one people attended.
- ~ Kirsten will post the presentations and recordings.
- e-Construction
 - ~ 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 (ME)**, Paver-Mounted Thermal Profiler, Intelligent Compaction also is e-Construction/Smooth Ride System
 - ~ Event format - Four hours
 - ~ Event timing – TBD
 - ~ A planning team meeting is scheduled for 3/26/24.
- Emily – Likes the idea of pooled funds doing these types of events or for other regions. They can demonstrate that there is value in doing these events even in lieu of a research project. If they can work out how to get the support, then a pooled fund can host the events.

Other Business

- 508-compliance for final reports from this phase of the pooled fund
- CTC remediated the final reports for the following research projects.
 - ~ 18-1 (report only), 18-2, 18-3, 19-1 (report and guidelines), 19-2, 19-3, 20-1, 20-2, 20-3, 20-4 and 21-1.
 - ~ 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 two 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:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The site is built on WordPress. □ Total installation size: 7.72GB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ 47 published Posts □ 31 published Projects (custom post type) □ 425 published Downloads (custom post type)
--	--
 - Database size: 64.70MB
 - 35 published Pages
 - ~ 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.

- If the AC approves of these costs, Maine can pay them ahead of time to avoid any additional contracting once the pooled fund ends.
- ~ **Emily** – Approve the payment for this? Or decide when they are going to make the decision?
 - She is interested in the website continuing because of the topical discussions’ information, 21-3 materials, peer exchange, etc.
 - Dee, Ulrich, Melanie, Nicholas – In favor of the website continuing in some form.
 - **Action item: Kirsten will follow up with Christos to get his thoughts. (Copy the Advisory Committee.)**
 - **Action item: Kirsten will ask Brian if the \$2,700 includes transferring the website to someone else?**
 - Is there a repository or digital library where the website could be stored or a place to archive the materials?
 - Matt Mann – ScholarWorks is a free digital platform that universities use to store and share documents. It would provide permanent links for people.
 - Nicholas – Is there a consensus that this information is important to store? Offer the different ways to store the information? CTC continuing to host, free site or a DOT takes it on?
 - Emily wants a decision to be made at the April AC meeting so have the options ready for April.
 - Nicholas – Put a timeframe on the information – “The stats cover from this date to this date.”
- **NETC Research Peer Exchange (CT, ME, NH)**
 - ~ The peer exchange is scheduled for Tuesday, 6/25/24 (full day); Wednesday, 6/26/24 (full day); and Thursday, 6/27/24 (AM only).
 - ~ Invited guests:
 - Rebecca Ridenour, Montana DOT – Unable to join us due to a vacation. The next person to invite will be Cindy Smith, Mississippi DOT.
 - Amanda Gendek, NJ DOT – Would like to send one of two staff members:
 - Pragna Shah – Lead research project manager and second in command.
 - Giri Venkiteela – Lead research scientist and vice chair of AASHTO RAC Region 1.
 - Cameron Kergaye, Utah DOT – No response yet. **Action item: Kirsten will follow up on 3/26/24.**
 - ~ Selected topics:
 - Research Program Overviews
 - Engaging Subject Matter Experts – Shortage of SMEs throughout the agency, recruitment, engagement, reducing SME burnout, best practices and tools to canvass ideas from agency staff despite SME shortage.
 - Optimizing the Research Budget and Staff – Working effectively with a small budget and few staff.
 - Technology Transfer - Effective tools and processes to share research results within and beyond the agency.
 - Options for NETC transportation agency members to move forward once the pooled fund ends.
 - ~ Two research staff from each NETC transportation agency are invited to attend. Expenses will be paid for with NETC funds.
 - ~ A planning team meeting was held on 3/20/24. The group drilled down into the three main topics and came up with questions to ask the participants. The group is still figuring out the specific format for each topic.
 - Kirsten is drafting a survey for all attendees regarding additional topic questions they would like to address during the peer exchange.

- ~ The next planning team meeting is scheduled for 4/26/24.
- ~ Emily – Regarding the invitations, where are the small states? NJ and UT have larger Research programs. She is interested in the small state budget topic the most.
 - Dee – UT, MT and MS are in the bottom seven in terms of budget and fall between RI and CT.
 - Emily – UT may be in the bottom third, but they have five staff. MT and MS have three staff.
 - Dee – MT was her number one choice. NJ has lots of staff but has lots of tech transfer products. NJ users Rutgers to do tech transfer for them (that a huge state can do per Emily).
 - Nicholas – Is there a distinction to be made between staff size and research budget? Dee – That could be a factor. MS is similar in staff size. UT has a big staff, so it doesn't correlate.
 - Nicholas – At MA's last peer exchange it was frustrating because states with more staff didn't have application to MA's Research small staff size). It's apples to oranges because the operations are different. They had UT at the MA peer exchange, and they were too different.
 - Dee – There was lots of discussion in planning meeting about similar budget but didn't focus on the staff size.
 - Emily – Reach out to other small states instead of UT such as NV, WY, AK, ID, and maybe the Dakotas. ND spends part of their time designing pavements.
 - Dee – NV, WY and ID are all in the bottom of the budgets.
 - Dee – Rescheduling would be hard.
 - Emily – NJ is okay to keep. If UT not gotten back to us, then okay to tell them that we want to focus on small states.
 - Dee – Tell NJ looking for input for a small state and to keep that in mind when they present.

Adjourn

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