



NETC Advisory Committee Minutes

Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

Attendees:

Ulrich Amoussou-Guenou, MaineDOT	Dee Nash, NHDOT
Dave Gaylord, NHDOT	Emily Parkany, VT AOT
Brian Hirt, CTC & Associates	Jeff Pulver, MaineDOT
Matt Mann, UMTc	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Ashlie Mercado, VT AOT	Nicholas Zavolas, MassDOT

Identified efforts to use the remaining funds in CTC contract (ends 9/30/2025)

- Remaining funds through 4/30/25 = \$31,326
 - ~ Invoice for three years of CTC web hosting (\$2,700) has been submitted and paid through funds outside of the CTC contract.
- The selected efforts and key NETC people CTC will work with on each effort are listed below, in the order CTC will work on them. The full Advisory Committee will review and approve the key deliverables.
 - ~ **Catalog website materials**
 - CTC will name and organize the website materials to make it easy for others to locate documents. CTC will produce a table of contents for the materials. CTC will provide a folder of materials with subfolders. The materials will be uploaded to a flash drive to be sent to all state members and put on a SharePoint site (TBD).
 - Brian – The cataloging is complete except for the activities still underway.
 - Currently, the categorized materials are on the CTC Google Drive.
 - Advisory Committee meeting minutes are labeled and organized by year.
 - Events/Meetings materials – Brian will upload all of the files to the Google Drive.
 - Research projects materials are organized by project number and the project title as written on the project page. All project deliverables have been included. Older projects only have final reports.
 - The oldest reports, from the 1990s, have not yet been added to the Google Drive.

Does the Advisory Committee want to include these reports? Yes.

- Total space is 10GB which will be easy to put on a flash drive. These files can also be downloaded from the Google Drive.
- Meta data is available only on the documents where the original author added it.
- Biran will create a list of folders and subfolders so materials can be easily found.
 - Nicholas – He would like it to be word searchable for those who aren't familiar with NETC projects.

~ **NETC At-A-Glance** – Emily and Ashlie

- The AAG has been reviewed and finalized. Kirsten posted it on the NETC website [here](#).
 - Should the AAG be sent to the normal final report distribution list? Ulrich will ask Jeff about this.
 - Emily would like the AAG sent to the full NETC mailing list.
 - Emily or Jeff will send the AAG to RAC.
 - Kirsten will ask Jeff to post the AAG on the pooled fund website.

~ **Research success videos key contacts** – Jeff, Ulrich and Devon

- MASH projects: [18-1: Development of MASH Computer Simulated Rail/Transition Details/20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Bridge Rails](#)
 - Interviews
 - Jeff Folsom, ME, TAC chair for both projects – Interview complete
 - (i) ME Communications Office sent B-roll footage.
 - Bob Landry, NH (retired), NH rep for 18-1 – Interview complete
 - Christine Carrigan, RoadSafe, PI for 20-1 – Interview scheduled for 6/12/25
 - Katie will complete a draft script two weeks after the final interview.
- UAS projects: [18-3 Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(UAS\) into Operations Conducted by State Departments of Transportation/20-3 Investigating Thermal Imaging Technologies and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Improve Bridge Inspections](#)
 - Suggested Interviews
 - Jagannath Mallela, WSP, PI for 18-3
 - Carol Niewola, NH, TAC member for 18-3. She moved on to another position but same topic.
 - Kevin Ahearn, AECOM, PI for 20-3
 - Sam Maxim, ME, TAC Chair for 20-3
 - Emily – Jag filled in at the end of the project. Kevin would probably be excited to discuss the project.
 - It's on NETC to make the story of these two projects clear.
 - Bring in Advanced Air Mobility Topical Discussion.
 - NCHRP 20-44 funding be of the NETC project. Who could talk about this? Any of who I named
 - NH High Value Research project based on UAS.
 - Talk about how this all blends together in the video. Sell the NETC story.

~ **SME recognition synthesis** – Dee and Jeff

- Brian showed the survey he drafted. Is it the right flavor?
 - Change the expected completion time to 10 minutes.
 - Add a question asking if responders have any additional information to share
 - Brian made changes to the survey during the meeting. Brian will send the draft survey to Jeff, Ulrich, Dee and Dave for final review.
 - Emily – What about including innovation SMEs and efforts of states to recognize innovations (and the staff) at their agencies?
 - Dave would rather go with only research SMEs and not innovation SMEs.
 - Brian feels that the research and innovation SMEs are different, and this would be a different set of questions. Innovations recognition is already well documented. Research SMEs go more unnoticed.
 - Dee feels that research SMEs don't get the recognition they deserve. She wants to learn about ways to do SME recognition that is not labor intensive and is effective.
 - Jeff or Emily will send the survey to the RAC list.
 - Brian is hoping we get examples of materials from states, which he will compile and provide links to.
 - This effort will not include a literature review on the state of practice, but the survey and a synthesis of the survey results. He will review agency websites when states send their answers.

~ **Report remediation** –Emily

- Emily is fine if the remaining funds do not cover VT's report remediation request.

The table below shows the selected efforts with CTC's hours and cost estimates.

Effort	Notes	Est. Hours	Actual Hours	Cost Estimate	Costs to Date
Selected					
Website Hosting for three years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$900/year for three years - \$2,700 (Not from CTC's contract, but extra pooled funds.) 15-20 hours to organize website materials - \$1,792 		15		\$1,792	\$358
NETC At-A-Glance brochure – Four designed pages; featuring overall program stats and specific project highlights		90	50.25	\$10,755	\$7,527
Two videos on selected research success – 3-4 minute narrated videos, with SME or PI interviews intercut with stills and footage. Cost for two videos.		120	2.75	\$14,340	\$508
Methods for SME recognition – Synthesis and summary of national practices. Include a very short RAC survey.		85		\$10,158	
Section 508 remediation of key reports					

	Alt text and contrast appear to be straightforward. Nesting and table errors could get complicated but should be fixable.				
VT - Smart Growth		18		\$2,151	
		Total		\$39,196	\$8,393

Implementation/Post-project discussions

- Emily suggested a two meeting plan to approach project TACs regarding implementation/follow up activities.
 - ~ Meeting 1 – Convene the SMEs to see if they are excited about their projects. Meeting 2 – Webinar to present a project summary, a couple of states sharing how they are implementing or using the project results, and next steps.
- [19-1: Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design](#) – Emily worked with Jim Lacroix, Structures Manager, to reach out to the New England state and NYS and about a meeting on integral abutment bridges. There have been a couple of meetings/webinar talking about IAB efforts recently.
 - ~ A meeting was held 5/2/25 with 15 representatives from all seven states to discuss the topics below. Good discussion on all topics. Kirsten will finish the notes and send to **Jim and Emily for review**.
 - Limits on length, skew, curvature
 - Limits on abutment height
 - Allowable pile designs (weak axis H-piles, strong axis H-piles, micropiles, other)
 - Buried vs at-grade approach slabs
 - The use of geofoam or other EPS behind abutments
 - ~ As doing the Research Success videos, maybe get the project TACs for an implementation meeting. The Advisory Committee members should think about how to use and share the videos.
 - ~ Matt – Have DOTs cross-pollinated SMEs and have other agency SMEs review their research projects or products? Is there a shared spreadsheet of SMEs so they can tap into each other? Emily – No. There would be discomfort asking staff from another state to review a design, for example. The all state meetings are helpful because the SMEs learn what each other is doing. Having the people meet each other is the value.
- [19-3: Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Unstiffened Steel Beam Ends](#)
 - ~ David connected Aidan Provost with their SME to review his article

Adjourn

Next meeting scheduled for June 24, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. ET. This meeting will be during the New Jersey Research Peer Exchange, so it needs to be rescheduled. Kirsten will send a scheduling poll for the week of June 16, 2025.