



New England Transportation Consortium

NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

DATE: Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 11:00am – 12:30pm ET

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

Ulrich Amoussou-Guenou	Emily Parkany, VTrans
Colin Franco, RIDOT	Dale Peabody, MaineDOT
Brian Hirt, CTC & Associates	Ann Scholz, NHDOT
Matt Mann, UMass	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Andrew Mroczkowski, ConnDOT	Jo Sias, NHDOT
Deidre Nash, NHDOT	Maina Tran, CTC & Associates
Lily Oliver, MassDOT	Nicholas Zavalas, MassDOT

1) Open Project Review (July 2020)

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
18-1: Development of MASH Computer Simulated Steel Bridge Rail & Transition Details	Chuck Plaxico, Malcom Ray, Roadsafe LLC D. Peabody K. Seeber Jeff Folsom, ME	This project is complete. There are questions about how the states should follow up with the results of this project. Is there a need for a continued study or a project to redesign the standard drawings? How many of the states use these rails?	6/1/20 \$230,244
18-2: Framework of Asphalt Balanced Mix Design for NE Agencies	Walaa Mogawer, UMass Dartmouth A. Scholz M. Tran Joseph Blair, NH DOT	Tasks 3 is 75% completed. Tasks 4- 5 are in progress. More data is needed for Task 3 so they will continue to work with states to gather more data.	6/30/20 \$127,499
18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs	Jag Mallela, WSP E. Parkany M. Tran Jeffrey DeCarlo, MA DOT	Task 3 is almost complete. Task 4 is in progress.	3/31/2021 \$146,632
19-1: Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design	Adam Stockin, WSP E. Parkany K. Seeber Alex Bardow, MA DOT	CTC will send revised comments from TC on additional task of instrumenting/monitoring one VT bridge to WSP this week. Task 1 is due 8/20/20. CTC will schedule a TC meeting to review the task.	3/31/2022 \$151,316
19-2: Multi-Scale Multi-Season Land-Based Erosion Modeling	Aimee Mountain, GZA A. Scholz	Task 1 is completed. Task 2 is 65% completed.	2/28/2022 \$148,035

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and Monitoring for Infrastructure Management	M. Tran Neil Olson, NH DOT		
19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Steel Beam Ends	Simos Gerasimidis , UMass N. Zavalas K. Seeber Alex Bardow, MA DOT	The Contracts Office is waiting for required documents from UMass.	TBD \$180,000
20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Bridge Railings	TBD D. Peabody K. Seeber Jeff Folsom, ME DOT	The final SOW was sent to ME for processing on 7/15/20.	TBD \$120,000
20-2: Current Status of Transportation Data Analytics and A Pilot Case Study Using Artificial Intelligence (AI)	TBD A. Scholz M. Tran Susan Klasen, NH DOT	The SOW is in final review and will be forwarded to ME by end of July.	TBD \$200,000
20-3: Investigating Thermal Imaging Technologies and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Improve Bridge Inspections	TBD D. Peabody M. Tran John "Sam" Maxim, ME DOT	The SOW is in final review and will be forwarded to ME by end of July.	TBD \$175,000
20-4: New England Connected and Automated Vehicle Legal and Regulatory Assessment	TBD E. Parkany/N. Zavalas K. Seeber Daniel Sullivan, MA DOT	The final SOW was sent to ME for processing on 7/27/20.	TBD \$100,000
Re-creating NETC	Kirsten Seeber/Chris Kline, CTC & Associates A. Scholz K. Seeber A. Scholz	CTC received a SOW from Ann Scholz. CTC sent a revised SOW to Ann Scholz and Dale Peabody on 7/23/20 for review before sending it to the full Transportation Agency Advisory Committee (TAAC).	TBD \$50,000

Discussion:

- 18-1 – Continued study or a new project?
 - Dale – The Maine FHWA Division Office accepts the adjustments to bridge rails, per this project. Project 20-1 will provide additional verification that there are no problems with the NETC rails. He doesn't see a need for a new study to redesign standard drawings. States have differences in their general details.
 - ~ Ann – 20-1 – Was this project requested from the FHWA division offices? Dale – No. Crash-testing is technically needed but ISPE can be used to add to the acceptance of the rails (if ISPE shows the rails have never had an issue.)
 - **Action item:** Dale will send the TAAC members the letter ME sent to their FHWA Division Office for approval.
 - Keep this on the agenda in case more follow up.
- 18-2 – Task 3 needs more data. The PI has data from half the states and would like as much as possible.

- Ann – She checked with Joe Blair, who said the data the PI requested is for testing they don't do in NH. NH didn't provide data for the project.
- Colin – Ask the PI (Walia Mogawer) what he feels is the potential for getting the data and see what he says.
- Emily – She is surprised the PI is saying that he doesn't know what he will be getting from the states.
- **Action item:** Maina will reach out to the PI to find out which states he still needs data and from and the type of data. The AC doesn't want another NCTE on this project.
- 18-3
 - Emily – This project has a new PI from WSP, Jag Mallela. Maina was not informed of this change. The new PI sent a draft task 3 report to the TC a couple of weeks ago. Maina did not receive it.
 - **Action item:** Maina will schedule a meeting to review the task. Emily will forward the emails she's received from WSP to Maina. Maina will also introduce herself to the new PI and inform him that she should receive all project-related emails.
- 19-1
 - Kirsten sent all comments on the load testing and monitoring proposal in one document to Emily and Alex Bardow (TC chair). There is not a consensus among the TC members on whether to go forward. There is a consensus that WSP needs to provide more details on the load testing (how it will actually work) and the associated costs.
 - Emily – WSPs revised proposal doesn't respond to all original comments. **Action item:** Kirsten will schedule a TC meeting in early September to discuss the Task 1 deliverable and the proposal.
 - Emily – If the extra task of load testing and monitoring is added to the project, WSP will be monitoring a VT bridge. If WSP is expecting VT to provide a lot related to this, they need to spell out exactly what they are expecting. They might not get it.
- 19-2
 - **Action item:** Maina will schedule a check-in meeting in September for updates on tasks 2 and 3, which overlap.
- 19-3
 - Dale – They require insurance certification for all contracts. It seemed odd that they are having issues getting this from UMass. They seem to be confused about what ME is asking for.
 - ~ **Action item:** Matt will follow up with Nicholas and Lily and MA's grants administrator to see what is holding this up.
 - **Action item:** Kirsten will schedule a kickoff meeting in September. The contract should be executed by then.
- 20-series projects – Dale – The RFP drafts should be done soon. ME will stagger the posting of the RFPs by a couple of weeks to manage the workload and logistics.
 - Colin – Does the TAAC review the SOWs one last time before they are sent to ME for processing? Ann – The TCs and the liaisons review and finalize the SOWs prior to them being sent to ME.

2) Implementation - Closeout webinars for closed projects

- 18-1: [Development of MASH Computer Simulated Steel Bridge Rail and Transition Details](#)
 - ~ Webinar took place on 7/16/20. Twenty participants attended. Kirsten will send the link to the webinar presentation and recording to the NETC mailing list this week.
 - Kirsten sent the email on 7/27/20.

- Emily – The value is to have the webinar recordings on the project pages. Matt agrees. Are the other AC members forwarding these to their staff?
 - (a) Ann – She will send it to her folks and ask how they are going to follow up on the project at NH.
 - (b) Some folks aren't receiving the NETC emails or the emails are going to their SPAM folders. **Action item:** CTC will look into if there is anything we can do on our end.
- 15-4: [Quick Response Project: Optimizing Quality Assurance \(QA\) Processes for Asphalt Pavement Construction in the Northeast](#)
 - ~ Holdover item from 5/26/20 AC meeting. Further discussion?
 - ~ Colin – His materials person is interested in this project. RI has had staff turnover. The new folks may come together and talk about this. If any NE states can do this together, it would help a lot.
 - ~ Colin – Can we market this to old/new materials engineers? And if that comes to pass, can we have a meeting with them? Ann – We missed an opportunity when the materials engineers met in June. NETC should give it a shot.
 - ~ Colin – TAAC members should approach their materials engineers about this. Let them know about the project and explain the reasons they should pursue implementation. Emily – An NETC TAAC member should take the lead on this effort. The materials folks should drive the conversation among the states.
 - ~ **Action item:** Each TAAC member should talk to their materials folks and Colin will follow up.
 - Ann will forward the email with the webinar information to her materials folks and copy Colin.
- All webinar recordings/presentations can be found on the project pages or [here](#).

3) NETC Website Refresh

- CTC's webmaster has created a development site for the new NETC website and is currently working on the backend structure. The estimated timeline to completion is six weeks.

4) Symposium – Check in

- Maina checked with Concord, NH venues to determine where they are at with 2021 in-person events.
 - ~ The Grappone Center, where the 2019 Symposium was held, is booked for June 2021. They have availability in mid-July. The Holiday Inn and the Doubletree have availability.
- Brian – Have the dates been sent for AASHTO RAC 2021? Week of July 12th, 2021.
- Emily – She is skeptical about any in-person 2021 events and is eager to explore virtual events. She would rather plan for that now.
- Ann – Some states will probably have out-of-state travel issues. She would rather wait for the Symposium to be in person and not virtual.
- Dale – Put off the decision until the end of the year. He's not sure if there will be even space. Waiting may make it obvious if we have to have it virtual or in-person.
- Andrew – Everyone is getting better at virtual meetings and making them work, especially with more participants. He agrees with waiting until the end of the year to see where things are at.
- Nicholas – We may have to put a Symposium off for a year or two. States budget will be depleted, and folks may not be able to travel because of that. Maybe we can start planning what a virtual Symposium will look like.
 - ~ Emily – One advantage of this is that it's supposed to be a day trip, so folks don't have to stay overnight. We will know a lot more about large virtual meetings after TRB meeting in

January 2021. What online meeting vendor will they be using for TRB? They may be too big for what we would need. AASHTO RAC used Microsoft Teams.

~ **Action item:** CTC will start to think through the virtual aspects of a Symposium.

- Brian – If there will be an in-person event, be aware of costs that may be incurred before signing a contract with a vendor. What would be lost if the event would be canceled or postponed?
- Jo – She will share with NETC what she learns from a large virtual meeting she is holding in the second week of September.

5) Other Business

- Kirsten will send Dale the pooled fund quarterly report by Friday, July 31, 2020.
- Ann – Reminder that all AC members should have received invitations for the Transportation Infrastructure Durability Center conference being held on August 12-13, 2020. Please share with your staff.
 - ~ All day on the 12th – researcher presentations. Half day on the 13th. The program is on the website - [link](#). TIDC wants to hear from state DOTs on day two.
 - ~ Colin – Can Dale ask them to come up with an introduction on what the TIDC is trying to do? How they are engaging stakeholders at DOTs? He was looking at their research and didn't see much related to durability. Maybe some NETC projects (19-3) would fit with their work?
 - Dale – He hears TIDC needs to do better with their outreach.
- Colin – RI Research Peer Exchange – Christos is not in favor of virtual meeting, so it will be delayed until at least mid/end 2021.

6) Adjourn

Next meeting: August 25, 2020 from 11:00am – 12:30pm ET