



NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2023, 11:00am – noon ET

Attendees:

Alex Bernier, UConn	Emily Parkany, VT AOT
Matt Mann, UMTC	Jeff Pulver, MaineDOT
Ashlie Mercado, VT AOT	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Andrew Mroczkowski, ConnDOT	Melanie Zimyeski, ConnDOT
Dee Nash, NHDOT	

1) Open Project Review (September 2023)

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	<p>The research team continues to process scan data, test beam specimens, and finite element analysis work.</p> <p>Thirty-three beams have been scanned and 12 beams have been tested.</p> <p>The team continues work on the analysis of the trends between the dirty (corrosion, rust, delamination, paint) versus clean (bare metal) scans for 10 beam specimens on site.</p> <p>A scanning demonstration for RI took place last week.</p> <p>Due to a recalibration of the sensors, data processing has slowed. With the TC’s approval, the draft final report will be delivered 11/30/23, instead of 10/31/23 to allow the research team to process more scan data. TC meetings are scheduled for 10/12/23, 11/13/23 and 12/19/23.</p>	1/31/2024 \$179,995

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
20-2: Current Status of Transportation Data Analytics and a Pilot Case Study Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) Speed Collection on Horizontal Curves	Yuanchang Xie, UMass Lowell E. Parkany K. Seeber Susan Klasen, NH DOT	The team will send the draft the final report this week. A TC meeting is scheduled for 11/15/23 to review draft final deliverables. Kirsten will emphasize that the TAC needs to review the DFR prior to the 11/15/23 meeting and send reminders to the TAC in the lead up to the meeting.	12/31/2023 \$200,000
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	A quarterly meeting was held on 9/12/23. The CT and VT demo sites have been planted. MA is close to planting a demo site in MA. The research team is working with the Northeast Seed Network to create an ecotype seed supply for the DOTs. The research team will continue to update the Best Management Practices manual focusing on establishment. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for 12/5/23.	6/30/24 \$200,000

2) Implementation/Tech Transfer

- TAAC members to report on any implementation activities for recently closed projects.
- Kirsten will send quarterly reminders to the TAAC to add information/activities to the implementation spreadsheet. Kirsten sent a reminder on 9/25/23.
- How can additional states use/implement the results of completed NETC projects?
- If TAAC members knows of Tech Transfer Activities for any project, please let Kirsten know so she can add them to the project's web page.
- Emily – What should we do with the implementation information?
 - Go through the web pages with the implementation information on it at the next meetings. **Action item:** Kirsten will add all implementation information the project pages.
 - Go by project or go by state?
 - ~ By project.
 - **Action item:** Kirsten will create a template that SMEs can fill out to communicate implementation activity on completed NETC projects. We will do this with either the 10 most recently completed projects or projects where a state has indicated implementation may take place. (Kirsten will review the project for this information.)
 - ~ We will share the template with the SMEs to get responses/information from them.
 - Emily – Each member will pick the top three projects that their state was most excited about or implemented. If multiple states are excited about same project, then we should consider holding an implementation webinar or feature that project somehow. **Action item:** Kirsten will let everyone know which projects we will discuss two weeks prior to the Advisory Committee meeting.
 - ~ Emily – Kirsten can meet with two states/month to talk about projects to get details.
 - Jeff – Share the projects that we have the most information on. What did we gain from NETC?

- Jeff – There may be issues with tracking down TC Chairs to discuss implementation because they are gone. Dee has the same issue in NH.
- Matt – Researchers have been including information from some research projects into their curriculums, which is a form of implementation.
- Emily – TRB Research Innovation Implementation (RIIM) Committee is looking at how to value research in qualitative ways.
- Kirsten – Web page on implementation that could be shared with full mailing list.
 - Emily – Template that DOT staff complete on implementation could be put on a NETC web page.
 - Jeff – Implementation examples are good, along with agency contacts so they can share with other interested agencies.
 - Matt – For the annual report, they reached out to project champions, MA project managers and researchers via a survey to get specific information regarding implementation. The survey asked about plusses/minuses of research from their perspective, as well as looking ahead to see if they might implement or if further research is needed. Only reached a few years back. He will share the survey with the group.

3) 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. Topics:
 - Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan
 - Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance
 - Asset Management for ITS
 - e-Construction for Pavements
 - Geotech
- Asset Management for ITS – Event complete
 - **Action item:** Kirsten will post the presentations and the recordings on the NETC website behind a password protected page.
- Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan
 - Planning Team meeting held on 9/6/23.
 - They will hold the event over two days, four hours each. Day 1 will be held in January 2024 (still waiting for team to complete scheduling poll). Day 2 is February 13, 2024. Day 1 will be more general to cover key topics. Day 2 will focus on the DOT Advanced Air Mobility Plans. Event format
 - ~ Four hours
 - ~ Day 1 – Advanced Air Mobility Overview from several perspectives.
 - ~ Day 2 – DOT AAM Plans. ME will present on their plan.
 - Event timing – January ?, 2024 and February 13, 2024
 - Next planning meeting will be scheduled for late October/early November.
 - RI contact – Pamela Cotter (planning dept), CT – Bob Bruno from CT Airport Authority. **Action item:** Kirsten will follow up with Bob to see if he’s found anyone to sit on the planning team.
- Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance
 - Planning Team meeting to be held 9/28/23.
 - Three subtopics and has volunteer leads
 - ~ Mitigating the effect of collisions on reptiles and amphibians – Chris Slesar, VT
 - ~ Implementation strategies for wildlife avoidance – Richard Bostwick, ME

- ~ Road mortality data collection activities – Rebecca Martin, NH
- o Event format
 - ~ Four hours
 - ~ Intro session to explain the importance of the main topic; Use cases/presentations; panel discussion and breakout groups at the end of the day to focus on highlights from the event
- o Event timing – February 2024
- o Next planning meeting and the event date TBD.
- Geotech
 - o Planning Team meeting held 9/11/23.
 - o Three subtopics and volunteer leads
 - ~ UAS for Geotech investigations – Krystle Pelham, NH
 - ~ Geophysics – Steve Madden, VT
 - ~ Geotech asset management and data management – Callie Ewald, VT and Kate Macguire, ME
 - o Event format
 - ~ Four hours
 - ~ Panel and presentations/use cases
 - o Event timing – February 7, 2024 from 10:00am – 2:30pm ET.
 - o Next planning meeting will be scheduled for late October/early November.
- e-Construction for Pavements
 - o Planning Team meeting held on 7/26/23.
 - o 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, Paver-Mounted Thermal Profiler, Intelligent Compaction also is e-Construction/Smooth Ride System
 - o Event format
 - ~ Four hours
 - o Event timing – February 2024
 - o Kirsten is scheduling the next planning meeting and the event date.

List of volunteers

Topic	Volunteer	State
Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan	Jeffrey DeCarlo	MA
Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan	Chris Bailey	MA
Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan	Fred Bedard	MA
Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan	Terrance McKenna	MA
Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan	Scott Uebelhart	MA
Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan	Nicholas Zavolas	MA
Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan	Jeanne Kannegieser	ME
Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan	Alan Lambert	ME
Advanced Air Mobility Regional Plan	Evan Robinson	VT
Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance	Christopher Samorajczyk	CT

Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance	Richard Bostwick	ME
Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance	Rebecca Martin	NH
Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance	Dee Nash	NH
Animal Vehicle Collision Avoidance	Chris Slesar	VT
Asset Management for ITS	Anthony Colangelo	CT
Asset Management for ITS	Louis Lamoureux	MA
Asset Management for ITS	Chester Osborne	MA
Asset Management for ITS	Susan Klasen	NH
Asset Management for ITS	Kody McCarthy	NH
Asset Management for ITS	Dee Nash	NH
Asset Management for ITS	Russell Holt	RI
Asset Management for ITS	Derek Lyman	VT
Asset Management for ITS	Mark Gerrish	VT
Asset Management for ITS	Ryan Knapp	VT
Asset Management for ITS	Emily Parkany	VT
e-Construction for Pavements	Jarrett Moore	CT
e-Construction for Pavements	Brian Kelleher	MA
e-Construction for Pavements	Ulrich Amoussou-Guenou	ME
e-Construction for Pavements	Pat Colburn	NH
e-Construction for Pavements	Dee Nash	NH
e-Construction for Pavements	Ryan Darling	VT
Geotech	Robert Pion	CT
Geotech	Mike Glovasky	MA
Geotech	Mike Roach	MA
Geotech	Jennifer Rauch	MA
Geotech	Kate Maguire	ME
Geotech	Dee Nash	NH
Geotech	Krystle Pelham	NH
Geotech	Callie Ewald	VT
Geotech	Steve Madden	VT
Geotech	Emily Parkany	VT

4) Other Business

- 508-compliance for final reports from this phase of the pooled fund
 - Kirsten sent an email to all DOT Advisory Committee members for a “yes” or “no” vote on moving forward. All states voted yes. Have not heard from MA.
 - Proposed total \$6,213 - \$8,005* (* Additional hours will be needed to remediate reports for 19-3, 20-3 and 21-3.)
 - The committee gave CTC the go ahead to begin the work.
 - Action item: Kirsten will send the remediated final 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 2 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:
 - The site is built on WordPress.
 - Total installation size: 7.72GB
 - Database size: 64.70MB
 - 35 published Pages
 - 47 published Posts
 - 31 published Projects (custom post type)
 - 425 published Downloads (custom post type)
 - ~ What does “manage projects” mean in the “Documentation” bullet above?
 - This is the documentation on how to create/edit projects that are displayed on the Research Projects page at <https://www.newenglandtransportationconsortium.org/research-projects/>.
- **Action item:** Kirsten will produce an estimate of fees for CTC to host the website for 10 years. Fees could include hosting, licenses, domain name, hours need to maintain the site, etc. **Kirsten is still working on this estimate.**
- What is the difference between pages and posts? **Action item:** Kirsten will get an answer to this question.
- VT would prefer CTC to host for as long as possible.
- Jeff – As long as it’s feasible from a cost perspective, it would be best if we can still access the information, no matter where the site is hosted.
- December 26, 2023 Advisory Committee meeting – Move to another date?
 - **Action item:** Kirsten will send a scheduling poll for a new December meeting date.

5) Adjourn

Next meeting: October 24, 2023, from 11:00am–12:00pm ET