



New England Transportation Consortium

NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

DATE: Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 11:00am – noon ET

LOCATION: Dial-in: 608-721-7576; Access Code: 1930608

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|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alex Bernier, UConn | Dale Peabody, MaineDOT |
| Jim Bryce, UME | Flavia Pereira, CT DOT |
| Chris Jolly, FHWA | Greg Rowangould, UVM |
| Matt Mann, UMass | Ann Scholz, NHDOT |
| Lily Oliver, MassDOT | Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates |
| Emily Parkany, VTrans | Maina Tran, CTC & Associates |

1) Open Project Review (December 2019)

| Project # and Title | PI, University <i>AC Liaison</i> | Update | End Date Budget |
|---|---|---|------------------------|
| 18-1: Development of MASH Computer Simulated Steel Bridge Rail & Transition Details | Chuck Plaxico, Malcom Ray, Roadsafe LLC D. Peabody | Added tasks 3b, 4b and 5b are complete. A TC meeting is scheduled for 12/17/19. The PI will present the draft final report in February and the final report in April. The poster and fact sheet were not included in the contract. CTC will work with the PI on this. | 6/1/20 \$199,936 |
| 18-2: Framework of Asphalt Balanced Mix Design for NE Agencies | Walaa Mogawer, UMass Dartmouth A. Scholz | Tasks 3- 5 are in progress. A TC meeting is scheduled for 12/17/19. The PI/TC will determine how they are going to proceed with the next task after this meeting. | 6/30/20 \$127,499 |
| 18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs | Jon Gustafson, WSP E. Parkany | Task 2 is in progress. A TC meeting is scheduled for 1/24/20. | 3/31/2021 \$146,632 |
| 19-1: Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design | TBD E. Parkany | ME is in contract negotiations with WSP. The contract is expected to be signed by the first of the year. CTC will schedule the kick-off meeting. | TBD \$150,000 |
| 19-2: Multi-Scale Multi-Season Land-Based Erosion Modeling and Monitoring for Infrastructure Management | TBD A. Scholz | ME is in contract negotiations with GZA. The contract is expected to be signed by the first of the year. CTC will schedule the kick-off meeting. | TBD \$150,000 |
| 19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Steel Beam Ends | TBD N. Zavolas | CTC sent the final SOW to ME on 1/3/20. The RFP probably won't be posted until the end of January. | TBD \$200,000 |

2) Financial Update

- See pages 5-6 for the current financial spreadsheet. There is a balance of \$1.5M.
- CT has contributed for FFY20. Dale – Other states can transfer their funds for FFY20 anytime.

- Emily – Chris Jolly finished the paperwork for closing out TPF-5(222). The actual closeout will take a few weeks.
 - ~ Around \$30k total will go back to the states by end of January.
 - ~ Chris – The FHWA Division Offices have a spreadsheet that shows how much your state will be receiving from TPF-5(222). See page 7 for the closeout spreadsheet. How much a state receives back depends on how much they transferred to the study. CT and RI contributed extra funds for travel so they will receive a different amount than the other members.
 - Flavia – Will the travel funds be refunded separately to CT? Chris – Not usually but they will transfer the two amounts (pooled fund and travel) to CT separately.
 - ~ Should the members agree to transfer those funds to ME for the current study or is it a state-by-state decision? Ann – Last time, the states agreed to transfer remaining funds to the lead state.
 - ~ Contact Chris with questions.
- NETC 18-2 – ME is processing the task 1 and 2 invoices.
- ME will update the contract amounts on the spreadsheet for NETC 19-1 and NETC 19-2 when the contracts are finalized.

3) Implementation

- 13/14/17-series – Kirsten sent the blank spreadsheet to the AC on 11/12/19. Results received from CT, NH, MA and VT.
- Closeout webinars for past projects
 - ~ Emails out to PIs to schedule webinars.
 - ~ 17-1 (Quick Response: New England Connected and Autonomous Vehicles) webinar scheduled for 1/22/20 from 3:00-3:45am. Kirsten will create a marketing email to send to the NETC mailing list.
 - ~ 15-2 (Using the New SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study Safety Databases to Examine Safety Concerns for Older Drivers) webinar scheduled for 1/28/20 from 2:00-2:30pm. Kirsten will create a marketing email to send to the NETC mailing list.
 - ~ Emily – 100 seats on GoToMeeting should be enough. Kirsten will set up a registration page and send attendees reminders about the webinars.
- 15-series projects – Implementation activities at DOTs – Emily to facilitate
 - ~ [15-1: Use of Forested Habitat Adjacent to Highways by Northern Long Ear Bats \(and Other Bats\)](#)
 - Emily – They received longer responses regarding implementation of environmental projects than for other types of projects.
 - Ann – When she received NH's response, they recommended further study. Other states also indicated that further work is desired. Ann contacted the NH member (Rebecca Martin) about submitting new research projects. Should they have a call with the TC to have them submit a new project? The study didn't have enough data about the NE region specifically.
 - Emily – ME and VT said aren't they aren't expecting further implementation.
 - ~ [15-2: Using the New SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study Safety Databases to Examine Safety Concerns for Older Drivers](#)
 - All five states are not expecting to implement this project.
 - Emily – Should NETC be doing research with the intent of implementation? Have the possibility of implementation in mind when funding projects? (Though not implementing a project is not necessarily a bad result.)

- Dale – ME is not expecting to implement this project.
- ~ [15-3: Moisture Susceptibility Testing for Hot Mix Asphalt Pavements in New England](#)
 - The responses had a little bit of everything. Two states are not implementing, and three states will partially implement. This is what we need out of research.
 - (a) ME really liked this project. Dale – Yes, the chair was very positive about it.
 - Emily – Materials projects are good because the Materials folks appreciate the research. They understand research is important and support the research projects.
 - Ann – A “Not expected” result partially indicates that the project supported existing research, which is a good result.
- ~ [15-4: Quick Response: Optimizing Quality Assurance \(QA\) Processes for Asphalt Pavement Construction in the Northeast](#)
 - The hope for this project was to share inspectors and how these things are tested. Not sure if this was born out.
 - Emily – This project was a bit of success for VT. They are rewriting their steps and trying to do what NH and ME are doing.
 - Hoping for a webinar on this project.
- ~ Emily – This is a good exercise to remind TC members to find out what’s going on with the research results. She got a good response from her folks. This is one way for NETC to find out what’s going on with the results. Ann wants to find out how their folks are working the research.
- Discuss implementation of 13-, 14- and 17-series projects at January meeting?
 - ~ [13-1: Development of High Early-Strength Concrete for Accelerated Bridge Construction Closure Pour Connections](#)
 - ~ [13-3: Improved Regionalization of Quality Assurance \(QA\) Functions](#)
 - ~ [14-1: Measuring the Effectiveness of Competency Models for Job Specific Professional Development of Engineers & Engineering Technicians](#)
 - ~ [17-1: Quick Response: New England Connected and Autonomous Vehicles](#)
 - ~ [17-2: Quick Response: Quantification of Research Benefits](#)
 - ~ Implementation of Project 13-3/Phase II
 - ~ **Action item:** Dale will facilitate the discussion.

4) Research Problem Statement Solicitation

- Kirsten sent the solicitation to NETC mailing list on 12/9/19. Thirty-two percent of the 340 contacts have opened the email. Problem Statements are due 1/24/20.
- Flavia – She didn’t get it. **Action item:** Kirsten will resend the email to Flavia and Lily.

5) Proposal Evaluation Guidelines (RFP Scoring Criteria) and PI Evaluation

- Kirsten sent the Proposal Evaluation Guidelines to the AC DOT reps on 12/2/19, which included all comments. No further feedback received.

6) June 2019 NETC Symposium – Continuing discussion on when to have the next Symposium

- No decision was made. Some folks are okay with waiting until 2021 while others are open to 2020.
- Discussion:**
- Emily – Liked what happened last year. She has anxiety about if as much effort will be needed on CTC’s part (hours).

- Ann – Will the ME UTC be doing something similar next year? UMass Lowell will have a meeting. Jim - Maybe piggyback on that meeting? (Dale can fill Jim in on the details of the Symposium.) Jim – They will invite all NETC members to their June meeting if the AC wants to wait to hold the next Symposium until 2021.
 - ~ Emily – The Symposium included not only research managers put topic-related folks from their organizations.
- Emily – Could they use a NE UTC annual meeting as a practitioner gathering? Jim – Will make a concerted effort to get industry participation in the June meeting (concrete producers). Emily – That is different from DOT participation. Jim – They are open to including them. Get him names and he can invite them.
 - ~ Matt – Would the concrete producers be doing presentations? Jim – Inviting them to the meeting is more to engage them, have them see the research and have them get involved in future research.
- Votes on holding the next Symposium in June 2020 –
 - ~ No - CT, MA, ME, NH
 - ~ Yes - VT
- We will keep a 2021 Symposium on the AC agenda.

7) Website refresh ([NETC website](#))

- Working with CTC’s web developer on creating mockup design. CTC will have something to present in January.

8) Other Business

- We will continue with monthly AC meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 11am-noon ET. We will switch to GoToMeeting. **Action item:** Kirsten will send the invitation to the group.
- Flavia is moving to a new position in the Highway Safety Office. Keep her on the NETC emails for now. Edgardo will be attending NETC AC meetings for now.
- Ann – March – She will reserve the conference room for the third week in March.

9) Adjourn

Next meeting: January 28th from 11:00am – noon ET