



New England Transportation Consortium

NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

DATE: Tuesday, August 27, 2019, 11:00am – noon ET

LOCATION: GoToMeeting - <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/129145565>

Dial in: 872-240-3412, Access Code: 129-145-565

Chris Jolly, FHWA	Flavia Pereira, CT DOT
Matt Mann, UMass	Greg Rowangould, UVM
Dee Nash, NHDOT	Ann Scholz, NHDOT
Elke Ochs, VTrans	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Emily Parkany, VTrans	Maina Tran, CTC & Associates
Dale Peabody, MaineDOT	Nicholas Zavalas, MassDOT

AGENDA

1) Open Project Review (August 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	Tasks 1-8 are complete. The next TC meeting will be the second week of September to review the preliminary draft final report. The TC is still discussing possible additions to the project.	6/1/20 \$199,936
18-2: Framework of Asphalt Balanced Mix Design for NE Agencies	Walaa Mogawer, UMass Dartmouth A. Scholz	Task 1 and Task 2 are complete. Task 3 is in progress. PI will report project status at the meeting on 9/19/19.	6/30/20 \$127,499
18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs	Jon Gustafson, WSP E. Parkany	Task 1 is near completion. In progress of coordinating a project status check-in meeting for late September/early October.	3/31/2021 \$146,632
18-4: Quick Response: ICNet Workshop	Daniel, UNH A. Scholz	The seven Research Needs Statements that came out of the workshop were sent the TAC and NETC AC. Feedback is due 9/13/19.	10/14/19 \$30,000
19-1: Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design	TBD Emily Parkany	MaineDOT posted the RFP on 8/22/19. Responses are due 9/18/19. CTC sent an email notification to the NETC mailing list on 8/26/19.	TBD \$150,000
19-2: Multi-Scale Multi-Season Land-Based Erosion Modeling and Monitoring for Infrastructure Management	TBD Ann Scholz	MaineDOT will post the RFP next week.	TBD \$150,000
19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Steel Beam Ends	TBD <i>Lilly Oliver or Nicholas Zavalas</i>	TC membership is set. Kirsten will schedule a SOW review meeting for mid-September.	TBD \$200,000

Discussion:

- 18-2 – Survey responses have been received by all states. **Action item:** Maina will check to see when UMass will send an invoice as ME has not received one yet.
- 18-3 – Survey responses have been received by all states.
- 18-4 – Ann suggested that we approach the NETC University reps to see if there would be an opportunity for a student to review the statements and conduct a literature review to see if the topics overlap with existing research, such as the [NCHRP Foresight Series](#). Perhaps a student could be given college credit for the work? **Action item:** Kirsten will send an email, and the Research Needs Statements, to the University reps to see if they have an available resource.
 - **Action item:** The AC will still get feedback to Jo by 9/13/19, if possible.
- 19-1 – The RFP allowed one week for clarifications and four weeks for proposals to be submitted. Emily is concerned about the length of time provided to respond. We would like to get multiple, quality responses. Someone on the AC will try to find the RFP announcement emails from the 18-series projects to see how much time was provided. MaineDOT would like to be consistent on the timing of the RFPs.

2) Transfers to TPF-5(373)

- ME has received \$1.1M in transfers. Total is \$1.3M with ME's funds.
 - ~ The quarterly financial review will happen next month.
 - ~ CT's FFY20 transfer was completed on 8/17/19.
 - ~ Dale is fine with the states transferring their FFY20 funds at the beginning of 2020.
 - ~ Chris – Closing out TPF-5(222)
 - Total unexpended funds = \$230,117.34. Out of that, \$31,614.55 in travel funds will be returned to CT and RI.
 - Total funds going back to the states based on the percentage of their transfers over the life of the study = \$198,502.79. Chris will review everything with Emily prior to sending everything to FHWA.
 - ME should keep track of the money coming from the states and the appropriation codes associated with each transfer. Dale will check with his finance person about this.
- RI's status
 - ~ Ann checked with the Assist Commissioner via email but hasn't heard from him.

3) Implementation of past NETC projects

- **Action items from July meeting.**
 - ~ **Action item:** Kirsten will update the implementation spreadsheet that Ann sent on 5/28/19.
 - ~ 13-3: Improved Regionalization of Quality Assurance (QA) Functions
 - **Pending Action items:** Dale will follow up Rick Bradbury and the fabrication engineer.
 - Ann alerted her folks that they want to discuss this project and potentially work with ME on the issue. When the time is right, she will connect with Dale to set up a conference call to include all those relevant to the process.
 - ~ 15-4 QRP: Optimizing Quality Assurance (QA) Processes for Asphalt Pavement Construction in the Northeast quality assurance projects
 - Ann learned that the tri-state meeting is for operations folks, such as maintenance engineers, traffic center staff and asset management folks. She spoke with the Assistant Director of Operations about the project and he feels it's geared toward construction engineers. Those folks could be invited to the tri-state meeting as a kickoff, but suggested Ann propose this to the front office first. She has shared the project fact

sheet with the construction administrator and pavement engineer in construction to get their feedback prior to suggesting it to the front office officials as a tri-state effort.

Action item: Kirsten will leave this on next month's agenda.

- PI closeout webinars
 - ~ Kirsten will copy the TC chairs on the emails going to the PIs of the recently closed projects asking if they would be willing to conduct project webinars.
- Discussing implementation of projects moving forward.
 - ~ Idea from Emily – Choose completed projects to provide updates on each month.
 - ~ We will discuss the 15-series projects in September. Below are the projects, the TC members from each state and links to the project facts sheets.
 - [15-1: Use of Forested Habitat Adjacent to Highways by Northern Long Ear Bats \(and Other Bats\) – Fact Sheet](#)

CT – Michael Whaley	NH – Rebecca Martin
MA – Timothy Dexter	RI – None
ME – Richard Bostwick (chair)	VT – Glenn Gringas
 - [15-2: Using the New SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study Safety Databases to Examine Safety Concerns Teens and Older Drivers – Fact Sheet](#)

CT – Amanda Saul	NH – Michael Dugas
MA – Bonnie Polin	RI – None
ME – Duane Brunell (chair), Rhonda Fletcher	VT – Bruce Nyquist
 - [15-3: Moisture Susceptibility Testing for Hot Mix Asphalt Pavements in New England – Fact Sheet](#)

CT – Elaina Carlson	NH – Beran Black
MA – Mark Brum	RI – Michael Byrne
ME – Derek Nener-Plante (chair)	VT – Andy Willette
 - [15-4: Quick Response: Optimizing Quality Assurance \(QA\) Processes for Asphalt Pavement Construction in the Northeast – Fact Sheet](#)

CT – Bob Lauzon	NH – Denis Boisvert
MA – John Grieco (chair), Mark Brum (vice-chair)	RI – Michael Byrne
ME – Kevin Cummings	VT – Aaron Schwartz
 - ~ **Action item:** AC DOT reps will review the fact sheet, send the fact sheet link to their TC member and find out about related implementation activities (or lack of) in their state.

4) June 2019 NETC Symposium – Follow up

- Symposium follow up activities:
 - ~ Presentation slides are posted on the [NETC website](#). Bridges, Environment and Materials notes have been distributed.
 - ~ Materials - Ann will follow up with the Materials folks on their plans to have a NEMREM meeting. A decision would need to be made about who would pay for this meeting, NETC or the participants.
 - No update on this.
 - ~ Environment - Emily reached out Chris Slesar on 7/30/19 to discuss the follow up items from the Environment topic group.

- No response from Chris. This is not currently on his radar.
- ~ Bridges – Someone from Materials or Bridges should lead the effort for the two groups to discuss common issues/topics.
 - Dale – Is not sure what else NETC can do to facilitate the discussion between bridge and concrete folks.
- ~ Is the AC okay if no further follow up actions from the topic groups take place? Yes.
 - Lesson learned for the next Symposium - Communicate expectations on follow up activities to the topic group leaders and/or attendees.
- ~ Having a Symposium every year? Is this something the group would like?
 - No decision was made. Some folks are okay with waiting until 2021 to hold the next Symposium. Others are open to holding a Symposium next year.
 - **Action item:** The AC will discuss this again in September.
 - The objectives of the Symposium need to be clarified. Is the main purpose to get research needs for NETC projects or is it more of a networking event for technical experts from the NE states? Or both?
 - Potential topic groups – Below is the summary of the top topic areas from the interest survey and if those groups already have an avenue for communicating with their peers.

Top Responses of Functional Areas and Their Interest			
Topic Area	Total Responses	Avenue for communicating?	Interested in attending?
Environmental	7	4 yes, 3 no	6 yes, 1 based on availability
Construction	4	3 yes, 1 no	3 yes, 1 based on availability
Geotechnical	4	4 yes	3 yes, 1 no
Highway Design	4	1 yes, 3 no	3 yes, 1 based on availability
Human Resources	4	2 yes, 2 no	4 yes
TSMO	4	4 yes	2 yes, 2 based on availability
Transit/Public Trans.	4	4 no	3 yes, 1 based on availability

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

- **Action item:** Move to September agenda due to time constraints.

6) Other Business

- None

7) Adjourn

Next meeting: September 24th from 11:00am – noon ET