

NETC Advisory Committee Meeting - Notes

Date: Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 11:00am – 12:00pm EST

Conference call: 1-800-444-2801 (Access Code: 1930608)

In Attendance:

Ian Anderson, VTrans	Dale Peabody, MaineDOT
Jo Daniel, UNH	Flavia Pereira, ConnDOT
Eshan Ghazanfari, UVM	Ann Scholz, NHDOT
Eric Jackson, UConn	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Chris Jolly, FHWA	Maina Tran, CTC & Associates
Dee Nash, NHDOT	Hannah Ullman, UVM
Lily Oliver, MassDOT	Deane Van Dusen, MaineDOT
Emily Parkany, VTrans	Nicholas Zavolas, MassDOT

AGENDA

Open Project Review (January 2019)

Project # and Title	PI, University AC Liaison	Update	End Date
13-1: Development of High Early-Strength Concrete for Accelerated Bridge Construction Closure Pour Connections	Brena, UMass Amherst <i>E. Parkany</i>	This project is complete. Final report, poster, and fact sheet have been uploaded to the website.	8/31/2018 (NCE)
13-3: Improved Regionalization of Quality Assurance (QA) Functions	Dave, UNH <i>M. Sock</i>	The Phase I portion of the final report has been submitted and uploaded to the website.	4/2/17 (NCE)
14-1: Measuring the Effectiveness of Competency Models for Job Specific Professional Development of Engineers & Engineering Technicians	Ahmadjian, UMass Amherst <i>D. Peabody</i>	This project is complete. Final report, poster, and fact sheet have been uploaded to the website.	12/31/17 (NCE)
15-1: Use of Forested Habitat Adjacent to Highways by Northern Long Ear Bats (and Other Bats)	Foster, UNH <i>D. Peabody</i>	All project tasks have been completed and the PI is working towards finalizing the final report.	11/30/18
15-2: Using the New SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study Safety Databases to Examine Safety Concerns for Older Drivers	Knodler, UMass Amherst <i>D. Peabody</i>	The research team has completed a draft report and is finalizing it.	12/31/18
15-3: Moisture Susceptibility Testing for Hot Mix Asphalt Pavements in New England	Dave, UNH <i>D. Peabody</i>	This project is complete. Final report, poster, and fact sheet have been uploaded to the website.	7/31/18
15-4: Quick Response: Optimizing Quality Assurance (QA) Processes for Asphalt Pavement Construction in the Northeast	Daniel, UNH <i>E. Block</i>	This project is complete. Final report, poster, and fact sheet have been uploaded to the website.	1/4/19

Project # and Title	PI, University AC Liaison	Update	End Date
17-2: Quick Response: Quantification of Research Benefits	Frank Gross, VHB <i>E. Parkany/ F. Pereira</i>	A draft report has been completed. The research team is making changes recommended by the TAC, and those will be completed by 1/21 to allow the TAC to make a final round of comments. The team expects the report to be completed by the end of January.	1/5/19
Implementation of Project 13-3/Phase II	Dave, UNH <i>TBD</i>	Interviews for the project have been conducted with 4 states. The research team is having trouble getting contact with MassDOT, and a suitable person to interview from RIDOT could not be identified. A survey was also created. The team is working on writing final report results from the interviews.	1/25/19
18-1: Development of MASH Computer Simulated Steel Bridge Rail & Transition Details	Chuck Plaxico, Malcom Ray, Roadsafe LLC <i>D. Peabody</i>	The next TAC meeting is on 1/24/19. Comments on Task 1 are due from TAC by the end of the month.	6/1/20
18-2: Framework of Asphalt Balanced Mix Design for NE Agencies	PI TBD <i>A. Scholz</i>	A final contract is planned for January 2019.	TBD
18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs	PI TBD <i>E. Parkany</i>	Seven proposals were received. Review session took place on January 17.	TBD
18-4: Quick Response: ICNet Workshop	Daniel, UNH <i>A. Scholz</i>	Maine is working on the modification to CTC's contract.	10/14/19

Open projects

- 13-3: Phase 2 of project involves interviews with six state DOTs. So far, they have completed four. The TAC team cannot reach someone at MassDOT. They have identified someone at RI DOT. The TAC is working on the final report incorporating the interview information. Hannah will contact John Greco at MassDOT and loop in Nicholas and Lily so they can help find someone to interview.
- 18-4: Jo said they already held one meeting of the steering committee. The second meeting is on January 23. A date is set and they are working through the agenda and the invitation list.
- 18-3: Dale announced that the notification letters were already sent out and that WSP is the awardee.

1) Implementation of NETC projects

- This is a carryover discussion from December.
- What information would members find useful about implementation of past NETC projects? Should the Coordinator follow up with project TAC chairs and AC representatives on implementation of past projects?
- This will be the basis for regular updates on project implementation at AC meetings going forward. How often should this be a topic at the AC meeting – monthly, six months, 9 months?

Discussion:

- Implementation of NETC project will be kept on the agenda every month. The group may not necessarily discuss implementation each month.
- The committee would like to track implementation on current and future projects. This would include if projects are implementable or if they are not, and the reasons implementation was not possible. We will seek implementation feedback from the PI, TAC members and the Advisory Committee.

- Implementation plans have not been included in project scopes of work up to this point. Fact sheets and posters are required, but those are tech transfer activities.
- For the 19 series projects, Maine will add an implementation plan to the project SOW. The PI and the TAC will work on the implementation plan together. The PI and TAC will review the implementation plan and activities at the end of a project.
 - ~ Ann will send examples of implementations plans from other DOTs. IL, WY and possibly OH have implementation plan templates. Other templates can probably be found on the RPPM website.
 - ~ The implementation plan requirements should be clearly defined in the RFP as significant time and dollars could be spent on this effort.
- Implementation plans will be specified and required in the research problem statement forms for next year. The sponsoring DOT will be asked to provide a brief description of how the project could be implemented.
- The committee discussed surveying TACs and AC members of past projects. Hannah did this within the last few years and got mixed results. Hannah will send the survey to the group for review. The committee will spend their efforts on implementation of current and future projects.
 - ~ If anyone knows of implementation efforts of past NETC projects, they should present the information at future AC meetings.
- Emily suggested maybe CTC can help with asking the new projects (18-series) about implementation. Will you be implementing the project results in your state? How can NETC help guide the project so that it can be implementable in your state?

2) NETC Fund Balance Update (No change since last meeting)

- CT and RI have left over travel funds, \$19,021.02 and \$12,593.53 respectively. CT plans to use some of theirs to attend TRB.
- NETC “unallocated” balance as of July 31, 2018 - \$102,759.89

Discussion:

- The timeline for the partners getting leftover funds from the TPF-5(222) could be six months or more from the 2/15/19 end date. The final invoices from UVM need to go to VTrans for payment and then FWHA has to do their closeout procedures.
- Ann said to not consider the leftover \$100k when they are funding new projects at the spring meeting. It could possibly be included in the following year but not 2019.

3) Research Problem Statement Solicitation

- As of 1/21/19, one Research Problem Statement has been received from Maine.
- RPS ranking meeting on March 13, 2019 in Concord, NH.
- Kirsten will outline the next steps in the RPS process.

Discussion:

- Several members reported that their DOTs are working on problem statement, which will be turned in by Friday.
- The next steps in the process are:
 - ~ Kirsten will compile all problem statements into one document and create a summary sheet with a quick overview.
 - ~ Kirsten will post problem statements on the member only section of the website.
 - ~ Kirsten will send the problem statements and a scoring sheet to the DOT representatives. The members will discuss the problem statements within their agencies, get comments and score them. A statement on implementation will be included in the email to prompt that discussion at the DOTs.

- Due to a few folks having longer travel times to the meeting, the ranking meeting will begin at 9:00am. Kirsten will send a revised calendar invitation.

4) Open Request for Proposals

- Dale wanted to inform the group that the request for proposals need to be open to everyone and not limited to NE land grant universities only.

5) Discussion on NETC Symposium under Maine

- The next planning session will take place on February 1. The group will review the one-page marketing email/flyer. The discussion will focus on venue selection, final date selection and attendees list.

6) Other Business

- The UVM contract ends 2/15/19. This is Hannah's last meeting. Dale and Emily thanked Hannah for her work as NETC Coordinator. She was stepped up and was very helpful to the committee.
 - ~ Hannah will continue to answer CTC's questions if needed.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 26, 2019, from 11am-12pm EST