

## NETC QR 18-4

### Quick Response: Infrastructure and Climate Network (ICNet) Workshop

#### Summary

##### Activities

The Infrastructure and Climate Network (ICNet) was established in 2012 with support from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The mission of ICNet is to bring together academics and practitioners who are dedicated to accelerating climate science and engineering research in the northeast. The ICNet focuses on climate change and sea level rise impacts on transportation infrastructure; it addresses vulnerability and adaptation for resiliency of bridges, roads, and transportation networks.

The activities for this QR project focused on the organization and running of the 2019 ICNet workshop. A planning committee was established that met regularly by conference call to plan the workshop agenda with the following goals:

1. Strengthen the linkages among the researchers and practitioner communities with respect to addressing climate adaptation challenges for sustainable community infrastructure and differing perspective.
2. Sharing knowledge-access and network development to improve information transfer to accelerate research and impact engineering practice.
3. Develop Research Need Statements for New England and beyond to be conceptualized in the workshop and put forward to NETC by a working group for the topic

##### Outcomes

The ICNet workshop was held in Portsmouth, NH on April 3-4, 2019. There were 48 attendees at the workshop representing academics, practitioners, and agencies (federal and state) from the northeast US. The workshop included knowledge exchange in the form of presentations, pop-up sessions, poster sessions, and panel discussions. Breakout brainstorming sessions developed initial research needs statements that were further developed and refined in the following months. Seven RNS were developed for further consideration by NETC and/or other funding mechanisms.

Through discussions, it was determined that the best mechanism to continue ICNet workshops in future years would be to establish a Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) project.

##### Benefits

The workshop served to strengthen existing linkages between researchers and practitioners as well as to establish new linkages among attendees. Various research needs were identified and developed into NETC format research problem statements for further consideration.

##### Next Steps

A review of the research needs statements by individual agencies and NETC should be conducted to move forward within the NETC funding framework and to potentially be moved into consideration for funding at the national level (e.g. NCHRP).

TPF and contributions/commitments by states to continue regular ICNet workshops should be established.