



New England Transportation Consortium

NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 10:00am – 11:30am ET

LOCATION: GoToMeeting Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/628554149> Dial-in: 646-749-3122;
Access Code: 628-554-149

Ulrich Amoussou-Guenou, MaineDOT	Dee Nash, NHDOT
Alex Bernier, UConn	Emily Parkany, VTrans
James Bryce, UME	Dale Peabody, MaineDOT
Colin Franco, RIDOT	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Tanya Miller, VTrans	Jo Sias, UNH
Andrew Mroczkowski, ConnDOT	Maina Tran, CTC & Associates
	Nicholas Zavalas, MassDOT

1) Open Project Review (November 2020)

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
18-2: Framework of Asphalt Balanced Mix Design for NE Agencies	Walia Mogawer, UMass Dartmouth A. Scholz M. Tran Joseph Blair, NH DOT	All tasks are complete. Final meeting held on 11/6/20. Poster and Fact Sheet delivered. Final report is being finalized.	12/31/20 \$127,499
18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs	Jag Mallela, WSP E. Parkany M. Tran Jeffrey DeCarlo, MA DOT	Task 4 is complete. Project status meeting was held on 11/12/20. PI will begin drafting final report. Final meeting will be held mid-January.	3/31/2021 \$146,632
19-1: Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design	Adam Stockin, WSP E. Parkany K. Seeber Alex Bardow, MA DOT	PI is revising the Task 1 report. Alex Bardow is reviewing the survey to state bridge engineers.	3/31/2022 \$151,316
19-2: Multi-Scale Multi-Season Land-Based Erosion Modeling and Monitoring for Infrastructure Management	Aimee Mountain, GZA A. Scholz M. Tran Neil Olson, NH DOT	Task 2 is 85% completed and is due by 12/31/20. Task 3 began in September and is expected to be completed by end of February 2021. Next project status meeting will be planned for mid-January.	2/28/2022 \$148,035
19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating	Simos Gerasimidis, UMass Amherst N. Zavalas	Task 1 is in progress. PI has received bridge inspection reports from all states. States are identifying potential near future bridge	3/31/23 \$179,995

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Procedures for Deteriorated Steel Beam Ends	K. Seeber Alex Bardow, MA DOT	demolitions so UMass can test corroded beams.	
20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Bridge Railings	TBD D. Peabody K. Seeber Jeff Folsom, ME DOT	RoadSafe LLC conditionally awarded. Award notifications letters to be sent 11/16/20. ME will begin contract negotiations.	TBD \$120,000
20-2: Current Status of Transportation Data Analytics and A Pilot Case Study Using Artificial Intelligence (AI)	TBD A. Scholz M. Tran Susan Klasen, NH DOT	UMass Lowell conditionally awarded. Award notifications letters have been sent. ME is in contract negotiations.	TBD \$200,000
20-3: Investigating Thermal Imaging Technologies and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Improve Bridge Inspections	TBD D. Peabody M. Tran John "Sam" Maxim, ME DOT	AECOM Technical Services Inc. conditionally awarded. Award notifications letters have been sent. ME is in contract negotiations.	TBD \$175,000
20-4: New England Connected and Automated Vehicle Legal and Regulatory Assessment	TBD E. Parkany/N. Zavalas K. Seeber Daniel Sullivan, MA DOT	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. conditionally awarded. Award notifications letters have been sent. ME is in contract negotiations.	TBD \$100,000
Re-Creating NETC	Kirsten Seeber/Chris Kline, CTC & Associates A. Scholz K. Seeber A. Scholz	CTC revised surveys for Tasks 2 (Managers and SMEs) and 3 (Research Consortiums), which are out to the TAAC for review and feedback. Task 2 surveys feedback and distribution lists are due 11/18/20. Task 3 survey feedback is due 11/20/20.	8/12/21 \$50,000

Discussion:

- 18-2
 - The TC discussed doing an additional phase of this project so we will see if a Research Problem Statement is submitted.
 - Colin would like to get the Materials folks together to discuss the implementation of asphalt balanced mix designs at their states. Walaa will be doing a webinar on this project, so we can let the Materials staff know about it or see if Walaa will do a separate presentation for this group.
 - The TC did not have many changes to the draft final report. Maina will run the final report pdf through a 508 compliance checker, since this was not in the contract.
 - Maina and Kirsten will remind PIs to acknowledge NETC sponsorship of projects when they give presentations on them.
- 18-3
 - The TC is interested in having a working group that would continue to meet, as the TC for 17-1: New England Connected and Autonomous Vehicles did. Emily (or the VT member) is asking FHWA if there would be Every Day Counts 5 money available to have this group keep meeting as a working group. FHWA would provide administrative support.

- 19-1
 - Alex Bardow (TC chair) has not responded to requests to review a survey that would go be state bridge engineers, as part of Task 1. **Action item:** Nicholas will follow up with Alex on his availability for this project.
 - **Action item:** Kirsten will get an update on Tasks 2 and 3.
- 20-series projects
 - 20-1 – ME is waiting for a cost proposal from RoadSafe.
 - 20-2 – ME has a cost proposal from UMass Lowell.
 - 20-3 - AECOM based the project expenses on a 50-mile radius from Boston to visit three bridge sites. That radius needs to increase to 100-miles so AECOM can get into other states if the TC wants that. AECOM will resubmit their cost proposal based on the 100-mile radius.
 - 20-4 – Dale is doing the contract negotiations in order, so the contract with Stantec is the furthest along.
 - ~ The cost proposal came in at \$5,000 more than the contract. The SOW of work wasn't crystal on the project deliverables, so Dale didn't negotiate this \$5,000. During the kickoff meeting, the TC and the PI need to clarify the deliverables so there is no confusion.
 - Dale understands the frustration with the amount of time it takes to get projects under contract. He feels getting the TC members assigned, after the TAAC chooses the projects in the spring, is the key to moving the projects forward efficiently.
 - ~ Ann – A rolling Research Problem Solicitation would be a way to address this. We will see if other consortiums do this in the Re-Creating NETC project.
 - ~ **Action item:** Dale will put together a timeline for the 20-series projects to see where the process might have been slowed.
 - At the 1/28/20 AC meeting, Dale said that if a cost proposal is over by a few thousand dollar, he will bring it to the AC for approval.
- Re-Creating NETC – Ann reminded that if the TAAC is interested in recreating NETC, they should review the surveys to ensure they cover topics now, instead of them being lingering questions later.

2) Implementation - Closeout webinars for closed projects

- TAAC members to report on any implementation activities for recently closed projects.
 - ~ NETC 18-1: Development of MASH Computer Simulated Steel Bridge Rail and Transition Details
 - ~ NETC 18-2: Framework of Asphalt Balance Mix Design for NE Agencies – **Action item:** Maina will determine if Walaa is willing to do a webinar and Kirsten will coordinate.
 - ~ NETC 18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs – **Action item:** Maina will determine if Jag is willing to do a webinar and Kirsten will coordinate.
- Emily – Discussing project implementation during the project. Is this a conversation the AC needs to have? Or should the AC liaisons be discussing implementation during TC meetings? Kirsten and Maina are bringing this up with PIs and AC liaisons prior to TC meetings.
- All webinar recordings/presentations can be found on the project pages or [here](#).

3) Research Problem Statement Solicitation

- Schedule
 - ~ 11/8/20 - Email solicitation sent to NETC distribution list
 - **Action item:** Kirsten will send the solicitation to those who haven't opened it on 11/30/20. Kirsten will send the solicitation email to the entire list on 12/22/20 with a reminder that there is one month until the deadline.

- ~ January 22, 2021 – Statements due; Eleven-week timeframe
- ~ Early February 2021 – Kirsten sends list of projects to AC for review and ranking
- ~ March 2021 – Projects selected by the AC (virtual meeting)
- ~ Emily – How long are folks working from home?
 - o VT – At least until March 2021.
 - o NH – No date, but new COVID directives are coming so Ann may know more soon.
 - o CT – Their agency has stopped mentioning when staff may be going back to the office. There is a contract to upgrade the building and it will be worked on during winter to get the building COVID ready. Staff may trickle back in in May and June 2021.
 - o ME – No dates. Waiting for vaccines.
 - o MA – No dates.
 - o RI – No dates.

4) NETC Website Refresh

- Site is live. CTC will continue to update the site.
- Kirsten will present a list of further questions/topics for the AC to consider at the December 15th meeting.

5) Symposium – Ideas

- AC will decide on holding a virtual Symposium in summer of 2021 after the TRB Annual Meeting in January 2021.
 - ~ Colin has questions about the theme and timing of the 2021 Symposium. The AC had previously decided to table this topic until after the 2021 TRB Annual Meeting to see how it is run. The AC is especially interested to see how poster sessions and the Q&As work.
 - ~ Nicholas – We need 6-9 months to put together a Symposium, including a call for papers and advertising. If the AC waits until after TRB to discuss, it will be a late summer/fall Symposium. Emily feels we can organize a Symposium in a shorter timeframe, especially if we are using existing materials.
 - ~ **Action item:** If anyone has ideas for the NETC Symposium, including favorites from other conferences, please send them to Maina and Kirsten.
 - ~ **Action item:** Kirsten will put this topic on December agenda to begin discussing if someone has sent in ideas or concerns.

6) Other Business

- 2021 meeting schedule – Continue with the fourth Tuesday of the month from 11:00am – 12:30pm ET? **Action item:** Kirsten will send invitations for 2021 NETC AC meetings.
- Matt Mann wanted to remind everyone to sign up for sessions at MassDOT’s Moving Together Conference occurring this Tuesday-Thursday.
- Research Problem Statements –
 - ~ Collin – How do the states support each other? **Action item:** Kirsten will add this topic to the December AC agenda. TAAC members will share projects they are supporting and what projects they would like support for.

7) Adjourn

Next meeting: December 15, 2020 from 11:00am – 12:30pm