



NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 11:00am – 12:30pm ET

Attendees:

Ulrich Amoussou-Guenou, MaineDOT	Dee Nash, NHDOT
Vinka Craver, URI	Emily Parkany, VTrans
Colin Franco, RIDOT	Dale Peabody, MaineDOT
Matt Mann, UMass	Ann Scholz, NHDOT
Tanya Miller, VTrans	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Andrew Mroczkowski, ConnDOT	

1) Open Project Review (February 2022)

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
19-1: Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design	Adam Stockin, WSP E. Parkany K. Seeber Alex Bardow, MA DOT	The TC is reviewing the draft guidelines and the draft final report. The final TC meeting is scheduled for 3/4/22. Kirsten will schedule a project webinar.	3/31/2022 \$151,316
19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Unstiffened Steel Beam Ends	Simos Gerasimidis, UMassAmherst N. Zavolas K. Seeber Matt Weidele, MA DOT	Update from PI on beams testing: <i>"We are just about to test the second specimen from Connecticut on March 1st. The order depends on beam size and what modifications need to be made to the testing rig. As it stands now, we plan to test 1 or 2 beams from Vermont and then beams from Maine. This is also being done to ensure we have some data from each state."</i>	3/31/2023 \$179,995
20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Bridge Railings	Christine Carrigan, RoadSafe D. Peabody K. Seeber Jeff Folsom, ME DOT	The TC reviewed the final draft report. final TC meeting is scheduled for 3/11/22. Kirsten will schedule a project webinar.	6/30/2022 \$119,978

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
20-2: Current Status of Transportation Data Analytics and A Pilot Case Study Using Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Yuanchang Xie, UMass Lowell A. Scholz K. Seeber Susan Klasen, NH DOT	A TC meeting was held on 2/14/22. Not as much was accomplished as hoped so the PI is reaching out to the TC members individually to get their input on Task 2 (Assessment) and Task 3 (Recommendations). Kirsten is scheduling a TC meeting for mid-to-late March.	3/31/2023 \$179,995
20-3: Investigating Thermal Imaging Technologies and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Improve Bridge Inspections	Kevin Ahearn, AECOM D. Peabody K. Seeber John "Sam" Maxim, ME DOT	The PI sent the Task 2 (Field Demos) draft report to the TC for review by 3/16/22. The PI is starting on Task 3 (Develop UAV-based inspection and analysis protocols).	3/31/2023 \$174,931
20-4: New England Connected and Automated Vehicle Legal and Regulatory Assessment	Greg Rodriguez, Stantec E. Parkany/N. Zavolas K. Seeber Pete Calcaterra, CT DOT	An admin meeting was held this morning to discuss the schedule, contract and invoicing. The TC is reviewing a draft final report now. There will be two more rounds of review and deliverables after that with the final deliverables sent on 5/12/22. The contract is being extended to 6/30/22.	6/30/2020 \$153,746
Re-Creating NETC	Kirsten Seeber/Chris Kline, CTC & Associates A. Scholz K. Seeber A. Scholz	CTC finalized the project report and sent it to the full Advisory Committee. Kirsten will post the final report on the NETC website.	8/12/2021 \$50,000
21-1: Quality Review and Assessment of Pavement Condition Survey Vehicle Data Across New England	Gonzalo Rada, Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions A. Mroczkowski K. Seeber John Henault, CT DOT	The contract was executed on 2/15/22. The kickoff meeting is scheduled for 3/3/22.	18 months \$174,932
21-3: Initiating Seed Production for Effective Establishment of Native Plants on Roadsides in New England	TBD A. Scholz K. Seeber Arin Mills, NH DOT	ME is waiting for documents from the selected researcher. Kirsten is scheduling the kickoff meeting.	36 months \$200,000 proposed

Discussion:

- 21-3
 - Dale – ME and UConn want different language in the contract related to indemnification, which may not be able to be resolved. Dale will follow up with ME’s Director of Contracts to see what they recommend.
 - Dale is also concerned about this being a three-year study, which won’t end before the pooled fund ends. He spoke to Tricia Sergeson, TPF Program Manager, and she is discouraging a three-year contract because it could make the reconciliation of funds at the end of the pooled fund messy.
 - A state could manage the third year of the study, if necessary.
 - Colin – It would be nice to see this one go forward because the initial NETC research project was

successful. This project is focused on getting to market.

2) Implementation

- TAAC members to report on any implementation activities for recently closed projects.
- Kirsten sent the implementation spreadsheet to the TAAC on 5/11/21. No further updates have been received.
 - 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
 - NETC 18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs

3) Website Implementation and Tech Transfer activities on project pages

- Kirsten is still finishing up this project.

4) Wrapping up the pooled fund study

- As a courtesy, should Ann send a notice out to the Policy Committee regarding the decision to end the pooled fund?
 - Ann – The Advisory Committee hasn't engaged the Policy Committee the last few years, even for approval of research program. She would like to let them know that NETC is ending. How would the Advisory Committee want to go about it? Ann sends an email to the Policy Committee or each state notify their member.
 - Emily – Her Policy Committee member is the DOT Secretary and doesn't know if it will mean anything to them. She has let it be known within the agency that NETC is ending.
 - Dale Has kept his boss, the Chief Engineer, know what's going on but is unsure if she has told the Commissioner.
 - Colin – The announcement should be made to the chief engineers. A letter should include the reasons why the pooled fund is ending.
 - Ann – Make it an official memo to the Policy Committee from the Advisory Committee and sent by CTC?
 - Colin – A memo to the staff who worked with NETC is more important.
 - Andrew – This would be an in-house discussion with their chain of command and would probably not reach the commissioner.
 - Andrew would like to say that if there is a state or a partnership of states, that NETC could be saved if there is enough interest. Ann will mention other ways to partner regionally.
 - **Action item:** Ann will draft a memo and send to the TAAC for review and comment. The memo will come from CTC to the attention of the Policy Committee written by the NETC TAAC. Ann will add a link to the Re-Creating NETC report on the website for further information on what happened.
- Emily – At the January Advisory Committee meeting, not all states indicated they would commit funds to NETC if it continued. It sounds like the end of the pooled fund is more than just not having a lead state.

5) Construction Symposium

- Bridge Construction Day on 2/8/22
 - 65 attendees
- Pavement Construction Day on 2/9/22.

- 50 attendees
- CTC sent a survey to attendees to get feedback on the format of the symposium.
 - Link to survey results - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-SBLCXQBJ9/>
- Symposium web page
 - All videos and presentations are processed and posted on the NETC [website](#).
 - Kirsten will send an email to everyone who attended/registered (link to survey) and to the NETC mailing list.

6) Other Business

- Zoom subscription – Is the Advisory Committee okay with keeping the subscription for future project meetings? Yes.
- Dale – The pooled fund has a good balance left. Are there other things NETC could do? Symposium or short projects? Can the TAAC think about how could utilize them prior to the March meeting? Don't have to spend the funds but if it can be of value to the agencies, then we should do something.
 - Colin – In-person meeting, like a NEMREM meeting where materials folks could get together.
 - Emily – In-person meetings present both headaches and advantages. Keep doing the half day virtual meeting because more people can participate. Or do something exciting for a day without killing ourselves to organize it.
 - Dale – We will brainstorm about this at the March Advisory Committee meeting.
- Colin – NCHRP – The states should get together to see what the favorite problem statements are and support each other's projects. RI submitted some topics. He will send the list to the TAAC so they can support them.

7) Adjourn

Next meeting: March 22nd, 2022 from 11:00am – 12:30pm ET