



NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

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

PLATFORM: GoToMeeting Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/628554149>

Dial-in: 646-749-3122; Access Code: 628-554-149

Attendees:

Alex Bernier, UConn	Emily Parkany, VTrans
Colin Franco, RIDOT	Dale Peabody, MaineDOT
Matt Mann, UMass	Ann Scholz, NHDOT
Tanya Miller, VTrans	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Dee Nash, NHDOT	Nicholas Zavolas, MassDOT
Lily Oliver, MassDOT	

1) Open Project Review (March 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 met on 3/4/22. The TC asked for two versions of an amendment: 1) Data mining and analysis of existing information and 2) #1 plus additional modeling and analysis. WSP and ME are working on a NCTE. WSP will send the amendment scopes to the TC on 3/25/22.	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	The current task, Task 2 (Review of existing structures), doesn't end until August. Kirsten is working with the PI and Chair to schedule the next TC meeting. The PI has conducted two experiments on CT beams. The plan was to test VT beams next but they decided to test specimens from the ME due to lab timeline and adjustments that needed to be made in the lab. The current test for a ME specimen is in progress and should be performed by the beginning of April.	3/31/2023 \$179,995

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Bridge Railings	Christine Carrigan, RoadSafe D. Peabody K. Seeber Jeff Folsom, ME DOT	The final TC meeting was held on 3/11/22. The PI is completing the final deliverables. The project webinar will be held on 5/25/22.	6/30/2022 \$119,978
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	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 April.	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. No comments were received. The PI is starting on Task 3 (Develop UAV-based inspection and analysis protocols). Kirsten is scheduling a TC meeting for May.	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	The TC met on 2/24/22 to provide comments on the draft report. The next draft will be delivered on 3/31/22. The next TC meeting is 3/31/22. The TC will have three weeks to review and will share with others in their agencies and with other state agencies for feedback.	6/30/2022 \$153,746
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 kickoff meeting was held on 3/3/22.	7/31/23 \$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 and ConnDOT are trying to finalize contract language for this project. UConn provided a two-year proposal to fit the project within the remaining time left for NETC. The TC met on 3/17/22 and decided to accept the two-year proposal and continue discussions about how to handle year three. Kirsten will schedule a kickoff meeting.	24 months \$200,000

Discussion:

- 19-1
 - Emily – WSP has spent most of the project funds. They did a lot of modeling but the results of the data analysis does not verify that bridge engineers could do more bridges in a simplified fashion. WSP hasn't presented their analysis in a way that's useful to the states yet. The analysis they did provide is conservative/restrictive. The researchers will need to come up with a flow chart system to indicate under what conditions they can do simplified bridges.

- Once the TC receives the amendment options, they will review and choose an option. Emily will present the decision to the AC at the April meeting to see if the committee will approve additional project funds.
- Dale – This amendment might gobble up most of the extra funds. WSP needs to know they cannot spend any funds until the amendment is approved.
- 20-4
 - Emily – Stantec will repackage the draft final report because it doesn't read well.
 - **Action item:** Kirsten will schedule a TC meeting between before the April monthly meeting on 4/28/22.
 - The project is out of funds but Stantec is committed to finishing it.
- 21-1
 - Dee – Wood has a lot of experience in this area and deep qualifications. They are motivated and make clear requests and have firm deadlines. Because of their experience, Wood is in a good position to tell states how to improve their data quality management plans.
- 21-3
 - Colin – He would like this project focus on the commercialization of the seeds being produced and would like to drop the task related to plots and monitoring. Ann – The TC agreed that they want to find a seed mix they can't currently find in New England.
 - Action item: Kirsten will invite the AC members to the kickoff meeting so they can hear what the TC members are thinking and provide comments.
 - Dale – The contract between UConn and MaineDOT is still with the legal staff.

2) Implementation

- TAAC members to report on any implementation activities for recently closed projects.
- Kirsten sent the implementation spreadsheet to the TAAC on 3/21/22. New projects added:
 - NETC 19-2: Multi-State Multi-Season Land-Based Erosion Modeling and Monitoring for Infrastructure Management
 - NETC 20-1: ISPE for NETC Bridge Railings
- Kirsten added Implementation Activities sections to the project pages where there is implementation information. TAAC members should review and let Kirsten know of any changes.
- If AC members knows of tech transfer activities for any project, please let Kirsten know and she will add to the project's web page.
- Action item: Kirsten will email past PIs asking about tech transfer activities related to their NETC projects.
- NETC 18-1 had a poster at TRB. **Action item:** Kirsten will add a link in the tech transfer section of the 18-1 project page.
- Emily – If one NETC project has built on a previous project, make it clear on the original project's web page that a follow up project that has been done. Also, if any state projects have built on NETC projects, let us know. **Action item:** Kirsten will follow up with all AC members to determine if/how they have interacted with NETC projects.
- Tanya developed a survey to ask people 2-months, 6-monts, year. Also, looking at how other states sharing implementation. **Action item:** Kirsten to follow up
- **Action item:** Kirsten will add all current projects to the implementation spreadsheet so

everyone can be thinking about implementation as the projects move along.

- Colin – Do we get information in the QPRs on project presentations? Kirsten – We could change the QPR to ask for that information.

3) Wrapping up the pooled fund study – Remaining balance

- AC members to discuss ways to utilize the remaining funds prior to the end of the pooled fund on 12/31/24.
- NETC has approximately \$60,000 in unallocated funds. Depending on which direction the UConn contract goes (NETC 21-3), there could be another \$200,000 to add to this number.
 - The \$60,000 could end up going towards the amendment for NETC 19-1.
- Some options for using extra funds include:
 - Symposiums
 - Short project(s)
 - In-person meeting(s)
 - Synthesis
 - Surveys
 - Other
- Dale – ME is putting the full amount possible towards the CTC contract.
- Ann – Would short projects be too much work for ME since they are the same contracting effort? Dale – It's beginning to be more difficult to execute contracts, especially with universities.
 - This is something to consider if there is a project that everyone is passionate about. We will keep a running list of ideas.
- Dale – There is also the do nothing approach. Every state would get some money back during the pooled fund closeout, which is two and half years away.
- Emily – If an SME approaches a TAAC member to express interest in meeting with their peers, then NETC could make it happen. This needs to be motivated from the SMEs.
 - Kirsten – Would this be advertised to the staff so they know it is an option? Emily – This would be more if a TAAC members hears from their staff that they want to meet about a topic/issue. We'll see if the \$200,000 from NETC 21-3 comes through and then perhaps send an email to staff.
- Colin – Does ME have a certain amount they can go through without a full contract? Dale would have to look into this.

4) Memo to Policy Committee re: NETC ending

- Ann drafted a memo to send to the Policy Committee members notifying them of ending of NETC. Please see draft on page 4.
- **Action item:** Kirsten will the draft memo to the TAAC members for review and comment. The TAAC will have three weeks to review so we can discuss at the next AC meeting.

5) Other Business

- None

6) Adjourn

Next meeting: April 26th, 2022 from 11:00am – 12:30pm ET



To: NETC Policy Committee

Joseph Giullietti, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation

Bruce Van Note, Commissioner, Maine Department of Transportation

James Redeker, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation

Stephanie Pollack, Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer, Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Victoria Sheehan, Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Transportation

Peter Alviti, Jr., PE, Director of Transportation, Rhode Island Department of Transportation

Joe Flynn, Secretary of Transportation, Vermont Agency of Transportation

From: NETC Advisory Committee

Melanie Zimyieski, Need Melanie's Title, Connecticut Department of Transportation

Dale Peabody, Director of Transportation Research, Maine Department of Transportation

Lily Oliver, Manager of Research, Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Ann Scholz, Research Engineer, New Hampshire Department of Transportation

Christos Xenophontos, Rhode Island Department of Transportation

Emily Parkany, P.E., VTrans Research Manager, Vermont Agency of Transportation

RE: Closeout of TPF-5(373) New England Transportation Consortium (NETC VII)

As the result of a recent self-examination of NETC, it was concluded that the pooled fund will be closed at the end of 2024.

A NETC research project was funded in 2020 with a goal of identifying ways to improve the effectiveness of NETC. The scope of work included a Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) analysis, separate surveys to gather information from NETC transportation agency managers, implementers, subject matter experts, other pooled fund consortiums, university transportation centers, and cooperative research programs, followed by a meeting of the NETC Transportation Agency Advisory Committee to discuss the findings and possible actions.

The final report documenting this study is available on the NETC webpage:

[Re-Creating NETC \(newenglandtransportationconsortium.org\)](https://newenglandtransportationconsortium.org)

NETC was initiated in 1988 with a mission to develop and implement innovative solutions to transportation problems relevant to New England states. Although the intent still holds value, several recent exercises indicate that a high level of research implementation is not being achieved.

Maine DOT has served as the lead agency of the pooled fund since 2018 with project management and coordination services provided by CTC Associates. There are currently six (6) active projects and three (3) more under contract. No additional research topics are being considered.

As detailed in the report, there have been many opportunities and resources provided by the NETC pooled fund; however, the value of the research has decreased for several reasons including challenges with getting subject matter expert participation, generation of research needs applicable to New England, and resistance to implement research results.

For the pooled fund to continue, one state would need to step forward to lead the pooled fund. That responsibility would also include administration of the process to contract the research projects. Staff limitation in our agency research programs pose a burden on any state.

Your role on the Policy Committee has been to intercede with regional priorities or critical issues and stay attentive to the annual program developed. We've appreciated the responsibility you have assigned to us on the Advisory Committee, and we are confident, should the need arise, collaborative research in the region is still possible.

Should you have any addition questions, please contact your state's Advisory Committee member. Thank you.