



NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 23, 2022, 11:00am – 12:30pm ET

Attendees:

Alex Bernier, UConn	Emily Parkany, VTrans
Vinka Craver, URI	Dale Peabody, MaineDOT
Brian Hirt, CTC & Associates	Ann Scholz, NHDOT
Tanya Miller, VTrans	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Matt Mann, UMTC	Nicholas Zavolas, MassDOT
Andrew Mroczkowski, ConnDOT	Melanie Zimyeski, ConnDOT

1) Open Project Review (August 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	<p>A TC meeting was held on 8/19/22 to review the amendment activities. CT, ME and VT were represented. They would like WSP to complete modeling that would provide more flexible design guidelines to allow for more variables in the bridge design. The emphasis should be on producing a quality final report. WSP will send the draft final report at the beginning of November. Kirsten is scheduling a TC meeting in early December to review the DFR.</p> <p>Emily – The TC is confident that WSP heard what they need. In late Sep/early Oct, WSP will send the TC a list of modeling thresholds for approval, especially related to bridge length, as well as other thresholds. WSP needs to update the research and present it in a way that's useful to the TC.</p>	1/31/23 \$225,255

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
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	<p>The research team has 43 beams on site, six of which have now been tested. More tests will be performed in the coming months. A ME beam was tested on 8/22/22 and another ME beam is being prepped for the next test. The research team has beams from all states except RI.</p> <p>The research team will be receiving new 3D scanning equipment to use for section loss measurements on a beam end. The research team and has continued to present their work at many conferences throughout the year, the most recent being the AASHTO RAC Annual Meeting. Kirsten will add these presentations to the Tech Transfer section of the project page.</p> <p>The PI has indicated they may need more time to complete the project, which will be revisited in the fall.</p>	3/31/2023 \$179,995
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	<p>The TC selected vehicle trajectory data collection and modeling for the pilot project. The PI is working with NH to identify data collection sites. The PI reached out to the TC for pilot project SOW approval and for a NCTE approval. He only heard from two TC members so is resending the request again.</p> <p>Dale – If the TC has had ample time to weigh in on the pilot SOW and NCTE request, the PI can move forward.</p>	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	<p>The PI completed Task 3 (Develop UAV-based inspection and analysis protocols), which was discussed at the 8/11/22 TC meeting. The TC is happy with the report and a few are sharing information from it within their organizations. The PI will submit the DFR by Thanksgiving. Kirsten is scheduling a TC meeting to review the DFR in early January.</p>	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	<p>The final deliverables for this project were completed and are posted on the project page. The project webinar was held on 8/2/22 with thirty-two attendees. Had people from other states in attendance.</p> <p>Emily presented on this project on 7/28/22 at the RAC Summer meeting.</p> <p>One suggestion to come out of this project is regional coordination around ADS. Is this something NETC would like to address? Emily – Eastern States Coalition has coordinated CAV working groups up/down the east coast. To some extent this is already happening.</p>	6/30/2022 \$153,746

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
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	A TC meeting was held on 8/12/22 to discuss selecting sites for Task 2 (Control Sites) and the expected deliverables for Task 3 (Guidelines). Kirsten will schedule the next TC meeting. Will every state be able to implement? Dee said this might be the case, probably NH and one other state.	7/31/23 \$174,932
21-3: Initiating Seed Production for Effective Establishment of Native Plants on Roadsides in New England	Julia Kuzovkina, UConn A. Scholz K. Seeber Arin Mills, NH DOT	The PI completed a lit search to assist with the development of Best Management Practices. The PI conducted focus group interviews with CT DEEP, MA, NH and VT to identify past uses of, and future demand for, native plant seed. The next TC meeting is scheduled for 9/6/22. TC meetings will be held every three months.	6/30/24 \$200,000

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](#)
- 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 send an updated implementation spreadsheet to the TAAC.
- Dale – Implementation activities related to [19-2: Erosion Modeling](#) project is still in the works. He will report on them when they are further along.

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.
- There is \$48,000 in unallocated funds in the pooled fund, leftover from CTC’s unexpended funds from years three and four.
 - CTC’s current contract is \$250,000 but there will probably be at least \$50,000 available to spend on new activities.
 - CTC would have to do the extra work because ME wouldn’t post a new RFP and do a new contract.
- Options for additional activities include:
 - Syntheses
 - ~ latest drone research (Colin)
 - ~ electric vehicle fire and EMT response (Dale)
 - ~ hydrogen fuel cell vehicles state of practice (Dale)
 - ~ solar systems in ROW (Dale)
 - ~ low carbon concrete (Dale)

- ~ others
- ~ Emily – Would a synthesis be like an NCHRP synthesis? Dale said it depends on what NETC wants, as well as the topic.
 - Brian – An NCHRP synthesis is high end in terms of the amount of work and cost. CTC does quick turnaround syntheses. There is a literature and web search, and sometimes a survey. The survey can involve the NETC states, all states and/or agencies beyond state DOTs. There is usually some follow up discussion with practitioners who know about the topic. The deliverable is a report of what is found. It's not a huge NCHRP-type report but it does a good job of synthesizing the information. CTC tries to do it for less than the \$45,000 (now \$55,000) NCHRP synthesis cost. CTC scopes it by listening to what NETC wants and then coming back to NETC to outline our approach. We have processes in place and will do for them what NETC wants, within reason, and within your budget.
- Symposia/Workshops
 - ~ climate issues
 - Emily – Don't overlap with ICNet. A virtual NETC climate symposium might be exciting and interesting.
 - ~ drone usage (Dale)
 - ME hosted an in-person 1.5-day meeting on drones in June. Every group was represented – DOTs, state police, consultants, academics, etc. NETC could take a virtual symposium in a different direction.
 - ~ AV's (Dale)
 - ~ safety (Dale)
 - ~ others
 - ~ Ann – A virtual symposium on transformational topics could be a way to connect folks from the other states who are working on the same topic. It would be an opportunity for people to meet colleagues in neighboring states who are working on the same things.
 - Dale – Electric grid could be a good topic.
 - ~ Emily pointed out that there is a lot federal funding for climate issues in general and NETC shouldn't have to help them. She agrees that NETC could help with getting folks in the same actual/virtual room.
- Matt would like to see a one-stop-shop, such as a spreadsheet, that tracks new research that has been completed in New England across all topic categories. From there it would be easier to determine what new research could be done. This would be something tangible that NETC states can look back on and utilize in a few years to come and is less intensive than a synthesis.
- In-person meeting(s)
 - ~ Colin suggested this as an end of NETC activity.
 - Ann – It's nice to see people in person, but travel approval and timing is an issue. How many people would attend?
 - ~ Emily – She liked the March meetings when the six NETC agencies met to pick projects. A full symposium would be more difficult. Virtual has the appeal of not having as bit of a time commitment.
- Peer exchanges – Virtual or in-person – more intensive than a Symposium or workshop
 - ~ Dale – This doesn't speak to him right now.
- Ann – Instead of a PE, like a New England Domestic Scan. NETC could support an event in a

- state where SMEs could gather to learn about a process or something another state is doing.
- Dale – The TAAC can also opt to get money back from the pooled once it ends. What would be the deadline for when the funds in the CTC contract need to be spent?
 - Dale suggests putting out a solicitation to their agencies to capture ideas and the TAAC would prioritize them. He suggests letting the staff tell NETC their topics of interest instead presenting a list of topics.
 - **Action item:** CTC will create a simple web form and a solicitation email to use as a call for ideas. The email would go to the full distribution list and TAAC members would forward it within their agencies. The form would allow staff to identify the topics they would like addressed and the format for how they would like to address their topic. This would be a rolling application system. This would provide a better idea of what CTC can do under their current contract.
 - ~ Emily feels a solicitation will give the TAAC an idea of if there is energy out there for a topic and an activity. If not, then NETC doesn't need to do anything.
 - ~ Ann sees this solicitation going out in spring of 2023.
 - ~ Dale would like the TACC to decide by the end of 2022 on how they want to spend the money.
 - Dale thinks syntheses are the way to go because it's the path of least resistance. Technical Champions (scoping) and CTC (synthesis) can do the work. All NETC needs is the ideas. The TAAC members would propose additional ideas and prioritize the options.

4) Other Business

- None

5) Adjourn

Next meeting: September 27, 2022 from 11:00am – 12:30pm ET