



NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 27, 2022, 11:00am – 12:30pm ET

Attendees:

Ulrich Amoussou-Guenou, MaineDOT	Lily Oliver, Mass DOT
Vinka Craver, URI	Emily Parkany, VTrans
Colin Franco - RIDOT	Ann Scholz, NHDOT
Matt Mann, UMTC	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Tanya Miller, VTrans	Jo Sias, UNH
Andrew Mroczkowski, ConnDOT	Nicholas Zavalas, MassDOT
Dee Nash, NHDOT	Melanie Zimyeski, ConnDOT

1. Open Project Review (September 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	WSP will send the draft final report at the beginning of November. The TC meeting to discuss the DRF is scheduled for 12/1/22.	1/31/23 \$225,255
19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Unstiffened Steel Beam Ends	Simos Gerasimidis, UMass Amherst N. Zavalas K. Seeber Matt Weidele, MA DOT	A TC meeting was held on 9/8/22. The research team has tested six beams so far, two from CT and four from MA. They have 23 more beams to test. The team has a new handheld scanner, Arctec Leo, that allows them to see the corrosion patterns up close. It will accelerate the testing process. Kirsten is scheduling a TC meeting in October to discuss a time extension to the contract.	3/31/2023 \$179,995
20-2: Current Status of Transportation Data Analytics and a Pilot Case	Yuanchang Xie, UMass Lowell A. Scholz	The TC approved the pilot project SOW and a NCTE. The PI has started work on the pilot project. He has received the radar sensors needed for the pilot and	3/31/2023 \$179,995

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Study Using Artificial Intelligence (AI)	K. Seeber Susan Klasen, NH DOT	has been testing them on campus. He may have some sample data to show very soon. The PI has been communicating with NHDOT to identify data collection sites. He has identified one in the White Mountains region and is looking for a few other sites.	
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 will submit the DFR by Thanksgiving. A TC meeting is scheduled on 1/9/23 to discuss.	3/31/2023 \$174,931
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 is scheduled for 10/14/22 to discuss control site requirements.	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	<p>The TC met on 9/6/22. Half of the TC members were present. Everyone should be able to attend the next meeting.</p> <p>The research team reported that no demonstration plots were installed this summer because of the delay with the contract. The plan was to demonstrate plugs vs. seed planting. Future demonstration sites will focus on the reduced mowing practices along Rt. 6 in CT.</p> <p>The research team will focus on getting the seed mixes right and how to convince the DOTs to use native plants.</p> <p>Heather Voison, second member from VT, has a new position and will drop off the TC.</p> <p>The next quarterly TC meeting is scheduled for 12/6/22.</p>	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 9/26/22. New projects added:
 - [NETC 20-4: Coordinating State Policies, Laws and Regulations for Automated Driving Systems Across New England](#)
- Would the TAAC like to have the implementation spreadsheet with all projects, including the in progress projects, included on it?
 - Emily – would like to talk about all implementation projects as they go on. **Action item: Kirsten will send an updated implementation spreadsheet with all projects on it to the TAAC.**

- **For discussion:** How can additional states use/implement the results of completed NETC projects?
 - Could NETC hold a webinar featuring a category of projects? TAAC could members invite SMEs from their agencies to attend the webinar.
 - Review NETC website to consider project categories.
 - Emily – Get all SMEs of one category, such as asphalt, together to discuss the NETC asphalt projects and how they have used the project results in their state.
 - Emily would like to spend the next year and a half on how NETC projects were used or could be used.
 - **Action item: Kirsten will review the NETC implementation spreadsheet to find projects, and/or a category of projects, that have implementation activities and that might make a good webinar.**
 - ~ **The TAAC members would follow up with their staff to discern their interest in a webinar.**
- Matt – As prioritization change, can we match up a transportation agency’s priorities with a NETC project that matches up with that? Can we get the research projects in front of people at the right time? Sometimes it’s more about timing.
- If AC members knows of Tech Transfer Activities for any project, please let Kirsten know so she can add them to the project’s web page.

3. Wrapping up the pooled fund study – ongoing topic

- 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.
- Options for additional activities include:
 - Syntheses

~ latest drone research (Colin)	~ solar systems in ROW (Dale)
~ electric vehicle fire and EMT response (Dale)	~ low carbon concrete (Dale)
~ hydrogen fuel cell vehicles state of practice (Dale)	~ cool pavements (Andrew)
	~ quiet pavements (Andrew)
	~ others
- From Lily (chat box) – There is a TRB webinar on Renewables in ROWs scheduled for 11/22/22. MassDOT is among the presenters. She said this to show that some of the topics listed are not new. Electric vehicle fire and EMT response already have published guidance. Lily is fine with doing syntheses, but the TAAC should choose the topics carefully and cost them out.
 - Symposiums/Workshops

~ climate issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ electric grid (Dale) 	~ AV’s (Dale)
~ drone usage (Dale)	~ safety (Dale)
	~ others?
 - NETC Domestic Scan
 - In-person meeting(s)

- Peer exchanges
- Other activities
- CTC is working on a simple web form and a solicitation email to use as a call for ideas. The draft form and email will go out to the TAAC the week of 10/3/22 for review.
 - 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.
 - Nicholas – Instead of sending an email, he would go back to MA staff and tell them the situation. Then come back to the AC with the ideas on how best to use the limited time and resources we have left.
 - Nicholas – Put a range of costs on syntheses, workshops, symposiums, etc. He would like to be able to say eight syntheses, one workshop, etc. as a way to spend the money down. That might help to determine what they do. We can mix and match activities.
 - Lily – Would a symposium bring in SMEs to talk to each other or bring in outsiders with new information? Emily explained how the virtual symposiums worked, with a mix of presentations and then breakout discussions. Lily supports bringing SMEs together to discuss and share on common topics. Climate issue can be challenging and is politically charged in MA.
 - ~ Emily – The topics may be big and there is activity related to the topic, but the players related to the topics in each state may not know each other and NETC can help connect them.
 - ~ Nicholas would like to bring in outside speakers and the SMEs can discuss with each other after. He would like a symposium to be an interesting learning opportunity for the SMEs as opposed to them solely talking to each other.
 - ~ Ann – FHWA can present on some of the suggested topics. Division offices could help us secure speakers. We can also get speakers from other agencies.
 - Ann – How does the TAAC make up their mind about how to spend the funds or does the money go back to the states at the end of the pooled fund?
 - ~ Nicholas would like to leave the possible activities open-ended (with costs added) and frame it in relation to the remaining time and money. Put it in such a way that their SMEs can suggest ideas and then decisions can be made.
 - **Action item: Kirsten will send Nicholas the closeout memo originally sent to the agency secretaries. He will draft a survey introduction. Kirsten will provide cost estimates for, and descriptions of, the suggested activities. Kirsten will draft a survey that TAAC members can send to their staff to solicit ideas.**

4. Other Business

- Move November and December meetings to a week earlier. **Action item: Kirsten will send updated calendar invitations for 11/15/22 and 12/20/22 meetings.**

5. Adjourn

Next meeting: October 25, 2022 from 11:00am – 12:30pm ET