

**TRANSPORTATION POOLED FUND PROGRAM  
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

Lead Agency (FHWA or State DOT): Maine Department of Transportation

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Lead Agency contacts should complete a quarterly progress report for each calendar quarter during which the projects are active. Please provide a project schedule status of the research activities tied to each task that is defined in the proposal; a percentage completion of each task; a concise discussion (2 or 3 sentences) of the current status, including accomplishments and problems encountered, if any. List all tasks, even if no work was done during this period.

<b>Transportation Pooled Fund Program Project #</b> <i>(i.e., SPR-2(XXX), SPR-3(XXX) or TPF-5(XXX)</i> TPF-5(373)	<b>Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Report Period:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30) <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31)	
<b>TPF Study Number and Title:</b> TPF-5(373) New England Transportation Consortium VII		
<b>Lead Agency Contact:</b> Jeffrey Pulver	<b>Lead Agency Phone Number:</b> 207-446-1009	<b>Lead Agency E-Mail</b> jeffrey.pulver@maine.gov
<b>Lead Agency Project ID:</b> 23430.18	<b>Other Project ID (i.e., contract #):</b> Click or tap here to enter text.	<b>Project Start Date:</b> 1/4/2018
<b>Original Project Start Date:</b> 1/4/2018	<b>Original Project End Date:</b> 6/30/2022	<b>If Extension has been requested, updated project End Date:</b> 12/31/2024

**Project schedule status:**

<input type="checkbox"/> On schedule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On revised schedule	<input type="checkbox"/> Ahead of schedule	<input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule
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**Overall Project Statistics:**

Total Project Budget	Total Funds Expended This Quarter	Percentage of Work Completed to Date
\$2,734,259.00	\$236,290.76	89%

## Project Description:

A transportation research program, where research projects are conducted primarily by the Land Grant Universities of the New England states. This study was preceded by TPF-5(222), TPF-5(201), TPF-5(168), SPR-3(089), SPR-3(029), and SPR-3(009). Other State DOTs may participate in individual research projects by providing funds and a project technical committee member to represent their agency.

The New England Transportation Consortium (NETC) is a research cooperative between the state transportation agencies of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. NETC is a valuable regional partnership for the identification, prosecution and dissemination of shared transportation research initiatives. NETC represents:

- Financial leveraging opportunities and regional partnerships.
- Stronger partnerships between university faculty and state transportation agencies.
- User-defined, diverse research topics.
- Opportunities for research dissemination and training to practitioners in the field.

Now in its third decade, NETC was developed to help New England states meet their special research needs by pooling resources and expertise. NETC is now a well-established successful multi-state partnership.

The objective of the pooled fund is to pool the financial, professional and academic resources of the region and to use them to research and develop improved methods of dealing with common problems in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and operation of transportation systems in the participating states. The program is intended to supplement, not to replace, ongoing state and federal research activities and other national programs such as the Cooperative Research Programs of the National Academies.

## Progress this Quarter

**(includes meetings, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.):**

Monthly Advisory Committee meetings held on 4/23/24 and 5/28/24.

21-3: Initiating Seed Production for Effective Establishment of Native Plants on Roadsides in New England - \$200,00

- Project timeline: 5/18/22 - 6/30/24. Project budget: \$200,000
- Task 2 (Investigate local seed production opportunities) - Complete
- Task 3 (Establish demonstration plots) – Complete
- Task 4/5: Draft Final Report and Final Report – In progress
- TC meetings held on 5/1/24 and 6/4/24.

2024 Topical Discussion Events

- Four Topical Discussion events held.

Remediation of NETC final reports

- CTC remediated the final reports for the following research projects.
  - All final reports, except for the still in-progress NETC 21-3, have been remediated.

NETC Research Peer Exchange

- CTC and the research staff from CT, ME and NH began the planning the NETC Research Peer Exchange.
- Planning meetings held on 4/26/24, 5/21/24 and 6/11/24.
- Peer exchange held from 6/25/24-6/27/24 in Concord, NH. Nine states (five NETC members and four guests) and FHWA attended. Three main topics were addressed.

Administration Contract

- CTC & Associates scheduled, facilitated and distributed minutes for the 4/23/24 and 5/28/24 Advisory Committee meetings.
- CTC & Associates continued to manage the final research project.
- CTC & Associates tracked implementation of research projects.
- CTC & Associates updated the NETC website as needed.

## Anticipated work next quarter:

Monthly Advisory Committee meetings to be held on 7/9/24, 8/6/24 and 9/24/24.

21-3: Initiating Seed Production for Effective Establishment of Native Plants on Roadsides in New England - \$200,000

- Draft final report due from Research Team on 7/3/24. Revised draft final report and remaining final deliverables due to TC on 8/9/24. TC final comments due 8/16/24. Final deliverables due 8/20/24.
- TC meeting scheduled for 7/17/24.
- NCTE for new end date of 8/20/24 is in process.
- Project webinar scheduled for 9/25/24. Webinar invitation will be sent to the full NETC mailing list in early August.

2024 Topical Discussion Symposiums

- CTC will post the materials for all Topical Discussions on the NETC website.

NETC Research Peer Exchange

- CTC will draft the peer exchange final report and send to the host states and then the guests states for review and comment.
- CTC will finalize the report by the end of August.

Administration Contract

- CTC & Associates will facilitate and distribute minutes for the 7/9/24, 8/6/24 and 9/24/24 Advisory Committee meetings.
- CTC & Associates will continue project management of the final research project.
- CTC & Associates will continue to track implementation of research projects.
- CTC & Associates will transfer the NETC website, if MA DOT decides to host it once the pooled fund ends.
- CTC & Associates will complete the final report for the pooled fund.

## Significant Results:

See Progress This Quarter section.

**Circumstance affecting project or budget. (Please describe any challenges encountered or anticipated that might affect the completion of the project within the time, scope and fiscal constraints set forth in the agreement, along with recommended solutions to those problems).**

None.

## Potential Implementation:

18-1: Development of MASH Computer Simulated Steel Bridge Rail and Transition Details

- ME is implementing 18-1 results, confirming NETC steel bridge rail is MASH crashworthy and adjusting our standard details to reflect recommended changes (for improved performance). ME does not plan on having MASH crash tests done.
- VTrans S-360 series standards for the NETC 2-Rail bridge rail and approach rail are being updated to reflect the findings in the study by VTrans. S-361 series NETC 3-Rail bridge rail and approach rail are being developed. NETC 20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Bridge Railings is a follow up to this project.
- ME submitted this project as a High Value Research project and it was selected as a Sweet Sixteen project.

18-2: Framework of Asphalt Balanced Mix Design for New England Agencies

- VTrans will implement aspects of this project. VTrans will base their pass/fail criteria for performance test results during mix design review/approval on the anticipated traffic loads, at least for Hamburg results.
- NHDOT feels the lowest level of BMD may be realistic and beneficial for to implement at some point in the future.
- The Connecticut Advanced Pavement Lab is building a library of BMD test results, which will be implemented once the library is complete.

18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into Operations Conducted by State Departments of Transportation

- A UAS New England peer group formed as a result of this project.
- NH is pursuing a UAS implementation plan that will build off the NETC project. The NETC project provided a broad base while the NHDOT plan will be specific to New Hampshire needs.
- VTrans will use the project's results to look at new platforms, as a starting point to fill in gaps in their existing UAS procedures and workflows, and as a reference for future discussions in the peer group.

20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Steel Bridge Railings is a follow on project to 18-1: Development of MASH Computer Simulated Steel Bridge Rail and Transition Details.