



NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 10:00–11:00 a.m. ET

Attendees:

Ulrich Amoussou-Guenou, MaineDOT	Dee Nash, NHDOT
Brian Hirt, CTC & Associates	Emily Parkany, VT AOT
Devon Kleebatt, CT DOT	Jeff Pulver, MaineDOT
Matt Mann, UMTC	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates

New Advisory Committee Member – Mauricio Garcia-Theran is the new Research Supervisor at Connecticut DOT, replacing Melanie Zimycki. Melanie and Mauricio will both be on the Advisory Committee until Mauricio is up to speed.

Project Review (December 2024)

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
21-3: Initiating Seed Production for Effective Establishment of Native Plants on Roadsides in New England	Julia Kuzovkina, UConn D. Nash K. Seeber Arin Mills, NH DOT	Project complete. CTC remediated the final report, which has been posted on the project page, and sent to the TC and the national repositories. Kirsten sent an email to the full mailing list highlighting the 2024 project webinars. Bonnie Donahue, VT TAC member, sent a link to the final report to staff at VT AOT in which she listed project takeaways and highlights.	8/20/24 \$200,000

Idea Prioritization for using remaining funds in CTC contract (ends 9/30/2025)

- Remaining funds through 11/30/24 = \$47,054. Plan on \$40,000 for group projects.
- The table on the page 3 shows the five top ranked projects with CTC’s hours and cost estimates.
- Projects that total \$38,600: SME recognition, Section 508 remediation for VT Smart Growth and CT Bridge

AI Report, NETC At-A-Glance (AAG) and two research success videos.

- CTC's goal is to give the Advisory Committee the value for the funds you have left. CTC won't know the exact costs for the suggested efforts until they start working on them, but they have a good idea of approximate costs.
- SME recognition synthesis – A synthesis can be anywhere from 20-200 hours, depending on what you ask, who you ask, how you ask (surveys vs. interviews), follow up and how you synthesize the information. You get out of it what you put into it.
- Section 508 remediation of the VT Traffic Safety Toolbox – Brian and Emily will talk offline about the. It's a more expensive effort. Emily feels this is probably not worthwhile for NETC.
- Research success videos – The challenge is picking topics.
 - ~ Three-to-four minute video with interviews with the project champion and PI, plus footage anyone has from the project. A script is written. CTC has a proven process they have used for other videos of this type.
 - ~ Target audiences include DOT SMEs, managers who oversee the project area, executives to help them understand the project, and the public to help them understand what the DOT is doing. The videos are not educational because they are not teaching someone how to interact with a transportation item, such as a roundabout.
 - Educational videos take a lot of hours because the content is original and created from scratch. An educational video would have to run by legal, which makes it a different animal.
 - ~ How to select topics? Emily – Related to potential implementation topics in the next section.
- NETC At-A-Glance – Feature a few homerun projects in addition to showcasing what you have done in terms of numbers, and type of activated NETC has done.
 - ~ Emily wants to include a link to the webinars page in the AAG as we summarize what we did this phase.
- Emily likes the NETC At-A-Glance, remediation of two reports and the SME recognition synthesis.
- Jeff feels one or two of the research success videos would be good.
- **Selected efforts are listed below.** CTC will want to identify a key person to work with on each effort. The full Advisory Committee will review and approve the key projects.
 - ~ **Research success videos key contacts** – Jeff and Devon
 - ~ **SME recognition synthesis** – Dee and Jeff
 - ~ **NETC At-A-Glance** – Emily
 - ~ **Report remediation** – Devon and Emily
- Brian – Feature the topics in AAG and refer readers to the videos in the AAG. Tie these together.
- Emily – NETC AAG
- Let MA and RI know about the selected projects. Put in the minutes.
- Brian – Katie Johnson will be working on these projects since she does these types of projects for other CTC clients.

Effort	Notes	Hours	Cost Estimate
Selected			
Methods for SME recognition – Synthesis and summary of national practices. Include a very short RAC survey.		85	\$10,158
Section 508 remediation of key reports			
VT - Smart Growth	Alt text and contrast appear to be straightforward. Nesting and table errors could get complicated but should be fixable.	18	\$2,151
CT - Bridge AI Report	Appears to be straightforward.	10	\$1,195
NETC At-A-Glance brochure – Four designed pages; featuring overall program stats and specific project highlights		90	\$10,755
Videos on selected research success (suggested: pedestrian crossings) – 3-4 minute narrated videos, with SME or PI interviews intercut with stills and footage. Cost for two videos.		120	\$14,340
Not selected			
Educational videos for the public (suggested: yellow flashing lights; roundabouts) – 3-4 minutes narrated videos. Script development in consultation with SMEs and custom animation likely required. Cost per video.		150	\$17,925
VT - Traffic Safety Toolbox (Section 508 remediation)	Very little real text (many pictures of text). Extensive alt text needs. Once made accessible (at the cost at right), it may be an awkward end product that loses its original visual appeal.	50	\$5,975

Implementation/Tech Transfer

- TAAC members to report on any implementation activities for recently closed projects.
- Kirsten added the implementation activities for 21-3: Initiating Seed Production for Effective Establishment of Native Plants on Roadsides in New England to the NETC website.
- Emily suggested an implementation meeting among the DOTs for a few specific projects. It would be a chance to get everyone in the room to discuss the next steps for projects.
- Projects to consider for an implementation meeting:
 - ~ [18-3 Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(UAS\) into Operations Conducted by State Departments of Transportation](#) – ME, NH and VT are using UAS in various capacities.
 - Combine with the UAS for bridge inspection project.
 - ~ [19-1 Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design](#) – CT and VT incorporating into their bridge design manual. ME will use the guidance if they build a curved steel bridge.
 - ~ [19-3 Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Unstiffened Steel Beam Ends](#) – Simos Gerasimidis wants to do a follow up research project with the New England states on bridge repair.
 - ~ [20-2 Current Status of Transportation Data Analytics and Pilot Case Studies Using Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#) – AI is a hot topic so this project could be the basis for an implementation discussion around AI.

- ~ [20-4 Coordinating State Policies, Laws and Regulations for Automated Driving Systems Across New England](#) – A discussion could be had about what states are doing and if/how they are working together as a region. Is this being addressed regionally by the Eastern Transportation Coalition?
 - 20-04 – Is this being addressed via the Eastern Trans Coalition? Emily – Yes, but recently it has been an all TETC state conversation (along the eastern seaboard). She feels this is a TETC/national project.
- ~ [21-1 Quality Review and Assessment of Pavement Condition Survey Vehicle Data Across New England](#) – A discussion could focus on next steps for the region.
- ~ [21-3 Initiating Seed Production for Effective Establishment of Native Plants on Roadsides in New England](#) – The TC is definitely interested and activated by the project results. A discussion could focus on the next steps as a region.
- ~ Emily – Two meeting plan. Meeting 1 – Convene the SMEs to see if they are excited about their projects. Meeting 2 – Present a project summary, have a couple of states share how they are implementing or using the project results, and next steps.
 - Emily wants to take advantage of CTC’s facilitation. The conversations would clarify which projects to do videos on.
 - Brian – This would populate the videos with content and identify who to talk to and what to ask them.
- ~ Dee is interested in 21-3 (seed project) and 18-3 (UAS uses) but is open to all projects.
- ~ NETC 21-1 (pavement condition survey vehicle data). This is a hot topic for ME recently. Having some anomalies with rutting data and other states might be having issues.
 - Ulrich – The ME SME was not impressed by the work from the project because they didn’t get what they expected.
 - Dee – While the deliverables had a lot of value, the goal of the project was to set up common sites where all states could go to cross check vehicles against each other, which didn’t happen.
 - NH was already set up to do some of the activities and other states came there to verify their vehicles against the NH test site. This connection was a direct benefit. Potential video.
 - Jeff – Interstate rutting is a problem in ME, and they are questioning the data they are getting from their vehicles. The data suggests they are experiencing 4 times the typical yearly rut. VT is having the same issues on their interstate. NH’s pavement is impeccable, so what’s going on? Jeff doesn’t know about 21-1 specifically but data collection in general is a hot topic.
 - Emily – Was there going to be test site in MA also? Reach out to TC to find out if there has been follow up on this project and get responses by email before set up a meeting.
- ~ NETC 18-3/20-3 (UAS uses and UAS for bridge inspection)
 - Dee – The UAS project is a good example of successful regional collaboration. NH built on directly from the project.
 - Jeff agrees. The original UAS project followed by the UAS for bridge inspection project and then the Advanced Air Mobility symposium, and the regional group that came out of it, is all a good story that started with NETC.
 - Emily – 18-3 is fun because it showcased six different applications. Find out how each state is using UAS. Dee – A video could demonstrate the timeline and development of their state UAS programs.
 - Brian – This video might be more time intensive because it involves multiple projects.
- ~ Emily – Two SME groups to contact to determine if they are interested.
 - 18-3/20-3 – UAS projects
 - 21/1 – Pavement quality project

~ Kirsten will draft an email and send it to Emily.

Website

- The pages to be migrated to the MA website are listed below. The pages will consist of tables that will have links to documents and recordings.
 - ~ [Complete Research Reports](#)
 - ~ Events (Symposiums, Topical Discussions, Research Peer Exchange)
 - ~ About NETC (Links, Accomplishments pages) – Suggested by Nicholas
- MA IT to review the content and pages the Advisory Committee would like to transfer to the MassDOT site. What questions do they have? Any potential issues do they see?

NETC Research Peer Exchange (CT, ME, NH)

- The final report is available on the [NETC Research Peer Exchange page](#). Final report [link](#).
- The final report is available on the AASHTO RAC Peer Exchange Reports [page](#). The only peer exchange posted for 2024!

Pooled fund final report

Final Report and Summary (from TPF website)

A final report of work processes, findings, and recommendations will be required for each project. An executive summary will accompany each final report. The summary may be in a format that the lead agency proposes (e.g., a short multipage report, or flyer), should provide concise and useful information on the study, and should provide direction on how readers may easily gain access to the full report and to information on other individual deliverables. When appropriate, the final report should include the following:

- A discussion of the problem that was researched.
 - A review of current practices.
 - An in-depth review of the procedures and processes used to conduct the project.
 - Conclusions and recommendations.
 - References.
 - A bibliography.
 - Acknowledgments with a listing of TAC members for the project.
 - The lead agency and TAC members, consistent with the project plan of work, may request additional elements.
- Does Maine require a final report as part of CTC's contract?

Adjourn

Next meetings: January 28 at 11:00am ET.