



New England Transportation Consortium

NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 11:00am – 12:30pm ET

LOCATION: GoToMeeting Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/628554149> Dial-in: 646-749-3122;

Access Code: 628-554-149

Ulrich Amoussou-Guenou, MaineDOT	Emily Parkany, VTrans
Edgardo Block, ConnDOT	Dale Peabody, MaineDOT
Colin Franco, RIDOT	Greg Rowangould, UVM
Chris Jolly, FHWA	Ann Scholz, NHDOT
Matt Mann, UMass	Kirsten Seeber, CTC & Associates
Tanya Miller, VTrans	Maina Tran, CTC & Associates
Andrew Mroczkowski, ConnDOT	Nicholas Zavalas, MassDOT
Lily Oliver, MassDOT	

1) Open Project Review (August 2020)

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
18-1: Development of MASH Computer Simulated Steel Bridge Rail & Transition Details	Chuck Plaxico, Malcom Ray, Roadsafe LLC D. Peabody K. Seeber Jeff Folsom, ME	This project is complete. Dale shared a document, regarding their process for determination of bridge rail crashworthiness, with the TAAC on 7/28/20.	6/1/20 \$230,244
18-2: Framework of Asphalt Balanced Mix Design for NE Agencies	Walaa Mogawer, UMass Dartmouth A. Scholz M. Tran Joseph Blair, NH DOT	Tasks 3 is 75% completed. Tasks 4- 5 are in progress. Project status meeting is planned for end of August/early September. PI expects to begin drafting final report sometime in September. Contract ends 12/31/20.	6/30/20 \$127,499
18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs	Jag Mallela, WSP E. Parkany M. Tran Jeffrey DeCarlo, MA DOT	Task 3 is completed. Task 4 is in progress. The PI Adrienne Lindgren has been replaced by Jagannath (Jag) Mallela. Project status check-in meeting on Task 3 was held on 8/20/20.	3/31/2021 \$146,632
19-1: Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design	Adam Stockin, WSP E. Parkany K. Seeber Alex Bardow, MA DOT	A TC meeting to review Task 1 and to discuss the TC's comments on the load testing and monitoring proposal is scheduled for 9/10/20.	3/31/2022 \$151,316

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
19-2: Multi-Scale Multi-Season Land-Based Erosion Modeling and Monitoring for Infrastructure Management	Aimee Mountain, GZA A. Scholz M. Tran Neil Olson, NH DOT	Task 2 is due 12/31/20. Task 3 begins in September. A project status check-in is scheduled for 9/24/20.	2/28/2022 \$148,035
19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Steel Beam Ends	TBD N. Zavalas K. Seeber Alex Bardow, MA DOT	ME is still finalizing the contract with UMass. The kickoff meeting is scheduled for 9/24/20.	TBD \$180,000
20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Bridge Railings	TBD D. Peabody K. Seeber Jeff Folsom, ME DOT	ME is finalizing the RFP for posting. The posting order will be: NETC 20-4 NETC 20-1 NETC 20-3 NETC 20-2	TBD \$120,000
20-2: Current Status of Transportation Data Analytics and A Pilot Case Study Using Artificial Intelligence (AI)	TBD A. Scholz M. Tran Susan Klasen, NH DOT	ME is finalizing the RFP for posting.	TBD \$200,000
20-3: Investigating Thermal Imaging Technologies and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Improve Bridge Inspections	TBD D. Peabody M. Tran John "Sam" Maxim, ME DOT	ME is finalizing the RFP for posting.	TBD \$175,000
20-4: New England Connected and Automated Vehicle Legal and Regulatory Assessment	TBD E. Parkany/N. Zavalas K. Seeber Daniel Sullivan, MA DOT	ME is finalizing the RFP for posting.	TBD \$100,000
Re-Creating NETC	Kirsten Seeber/Chris Kline, CTC & Associates A. Scholz K. Seeber A. Scholz	The meetings for Task 1 are scheduled for 9/22/20 and 10/20/20.	TBD \$50,000

Discussion:

- 18-1
 - Dale – The document he sent to the TAAC describes a process ME can use to determine if any bridge rail, guardrail or hardware is crashworthy. Their FHWA Division Office requested that ME demonstrate their crashworthiness process. The Division Office assisted ME in creating the document.
 - Ann forwarded ME’s document, and the link to the project webinar, to their bridge folks. She hasn’t heard back from anyone.
 - Chris Jolly – FHWA won’t approve if the rail can be used. FHWA is concerned that the states have a process in place to approve the rail for use on their roads.

- 18-2
 - Maina – Walaa is still working on MA and RI data collection. The project will make state specific recommendations where they have data, as well as general recommendations. Walaa will address the TC’s concerns at the 9/3/20 meeting. Walaa will complete the project work in September and have draft final report ready for review in late September or early October. Maina will keep on top of Walaa to ensure the draft final report is done on time.
- 18-3
 - TC meeting held on 8/20/20. WSP is on their third PI, Jag Mallela. The new PI will rewrite the Task 3 report so it’s easier to read.
 - Colin – Is Jag a good fit for the project? Emily – Jag was the director from the same area that the previous PIs were in at WSP. He has taken over this project to provide continuity from WSP’s end. He has the support of other WSP folks and a good support team.
- 19-1
 - Colin – What are we really getting out of the project? Emily – States are eager to use this type of bridge and not be as conservative as they have been. They want to build cheaper bridges.
 - The TC is concerned about what the load testing/monitoring will provide and will discuss this at the 9/10/20 meeting.
 - Emily – WSP said they couldn’t get bridge data from UMass, Scott Civjan. Why would this go forward if they can’t get the data from them? WSP asked for the data from 10 years ago. VT doesn’t have the data in an accessible format and UMass doesn’t have the raw data. **Action time:** Matt will reach out to Scott.
 - ~ Emily – Why are we paying WSP to redo this when the data was already collected 10 years ago? VT folks are frustrated.
- 20-series
 - RFPs for 20-3 and 20-4 are the first two posted. Kirsten will send links to the RFPs to the NETC mailing list.
 - Dale – Share the emails at your leisure. ME has no rules about who they can be sent to. Emily – TC members can send the emails to their favorite consultants? Dale – Yes.
 - Emily – Proposals for all RFPs are due late September or early October.
 - Colin – Are these projects slanted towards PIs in the NE area or are they open to everyone? Dale – They are open to anyone.
 - **20-series projects still missing TC members.**
 - ~ **20-1 – MA**
 - ~ **20-3 – RI**
- Re-creating NETC
 - Emily – She listed this project in VT’s research work program. The TAAC spent time a few years ago figuring out the NETC processes. Now that they have the new coordinator (CTC) there are still issues about how to encourage folks to implement projects. Re-creating NETC has been a discussion for a long time, right? Ann – Yes. Having a coordinator will help the TAAC be a better consortium. NETC has never looked at how other consortiums operate, which this project will do. CTC coordinates other pooled funds, so this will also be helpful.
 - Colin – NETC started because research became a thing with pooled fund studies. Many studies are now conducting research. The question is where is NETC’s niche in all of this related to research and implementation. What should NETC be doing with the limited resources they have? Once the TAAC answers that question, then we need to determine how to get the processes in line with their mission.

- Colin – Should FWHA friends (Tom Harmon) be invited to talk to the TAAC? Dale – Part of Task 2 will be to figure out who NETC should reach out to for advice and information. During the October 20, 2020 meeting, the CTC will discuss the upcoming tasks with the group.

2) Implementation - Closeout webinars for closed projects

- 15-4: [Quick Response Project: Optimizing Quality Assurance \(QA\) Processes for Asphalt Pavement Construction in the Northeast](#)
 - ~ Holdover item from 5/26/20 AC meeting. Further discussion?
 - ~ TAAC members were going to reach out to their materials folks about the project and pursuing implementation. Colin would follow up with the materials contacts at each state.
 - ~ Colin – This fell through the cracks. RI asphalt staff would like to do something. Colin feels it would be better for each state to talk to their asphalt folks.
 - Emily – What is the specific question she should ask? Colin – What is the follow up on 15-4 and would VT (and all states) be open to collaborating? What can we do to make sure the QA programs at the New England states are in the synch with each other? Can there be standard specs and common QA protocols? Leave business topics out of it for now.
 - Emily – Is the idea is to share what each state finds out and share at the next meeting? Colin – Yes.
- CTC is working on the issue of NETC emails going to people's junk folder.
 - ~ Members should forward emails to staff at their agencies, so it comes from them and is not sent to junk folders. Kirsten will send the AC members an email alerting them to NETC emails so they can forward them. This will start with the RFP posting emails.
 - ~ Nicholas – Does NETC have a subscriber list? Yes. **Action item:** A sign-up option will be added to the website.
- All webinar recordings/presentations can be found on the project pages or [here](#).

3) NETC Website Refresh

- CTC's web designer is close to wrapping up the infrastructure and then can convert project pages to the new format. He will have a live site ready in a couple of weeks. We will have more to show the AC in September.
- The AC will see the website before it goes live.

Symposium – Ideas

- Hold a two-part symposium with Part A as virtual in 2021 and Part B as in-person in 2022. Assess what type of activities/topics are better suited for a virtual meeting and which are better for an in-person meeting.
- Maina – The idea is to have a mini/virtual Symposium in 2021 to keep folks connected. Attendees at the 2019 Symposium may be wondering what happened to all the issues that were discussed? An advantage of a virtual gathering is that it's not limited to three topic areas. We can open it up to more attendees and more topics.
- What is goal for each of the meetings, Part A and Part B? Focus on outcomes and results.
 - ~ Maina – Networking is big part of the Symposium and an in-person meeting is the best option to facilitate networking.
- Ann – How much time would we need if we have a virtual event in the summer of 2021? Would CTC be able to wait until after the TRB Annual Meeting in January 2021? CTC – Yes.

- Dale – The AC decided at last meeting to wait until end of year to make the final decision on a virtual or in-person option. Keep the topic on the agenda. Any thoughts on it would be great to share between now and then.
- Emily – Can she use the 2019 Symposium Environmental topic registration list to advertise other environmental-related meetings? Dale – Yes, he encourages this type of sharing. **Action item:** CTC to share the list with Emily.
- Emily – Not sure what is the follow up on the Symposium topics from 2019. The value was that the staff from the different topic areas met and made connections.
- Emily – The AC needs to determine the goals for the Symposium. Everyone needs to think about that as we move forward. **Action item:** Send Kirsten or Maina an email with your thoughts.

4) Other Business

- TIDC conference on August 12th. Comments from those who attended.
 - ~ Ann – The presentations were pre-recorded, which made for less technical issues. She had a question and emailed it to the PI because they weren't on the call. It's important that the PIs are on the calls after the presentations to be available to answer questions.
 - ~ Emily – 8:30am – 5:00pm was too long for one meeting. She was impressed with the recordings and that some PIs were available to answer questions. They shared their screens to go to specific slides to address questions.
 - ~ Andrew – The time went by quickly, so he wasn't bored. Technically it went pretty well. He agrees that the PIs should be available for questions. When it's a daylong meeting, it's hard for the PIs to be there for the whole day. Scheduling it for a partial day would be better so the PIs can work it into their schedules.
 - ~ Dale – Pre-recordings kept them on time. He was able to do other things during topics that he was not as interested in.
 - Dale suggested to Jim Bryce that they hold one-hour topic webinars, like NETC does for completed projects.
- VTrans Virtual Research and Innovation Poster Symposium
 - ~ Emily – Did everyone received the VTrans newsletter last week? The web pages are ready but are missing the posters right now. There are 32 projects, 15 of which are research projects. Most projects are UVM-related, two are TIDC-related and the rest are innovations.
 - ~ Emily – 9/9/20 STIC meeting. One hour of breakouts to hear the advertisements of eight projects.
 - ~ Emily – Researchers will collect questions and respond to them and put them on the poster pages after 9/15/20.
 - ~ Emily is looking forward to sharing the research projects and innovations.
 - Kirsten asked Emily to jot down lessons learned to share for NETC future events.

5) Adjourn

Next meeting: September 22, 2020 from 11:00am – 12:30pm ET