



# New England Transportation Consortium

## NETC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 22, 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	Dee Nash, NHDOT
Josh Casey, CTC & Associates	Emily Parkany, VTrans
Colin Franco, RIDOT	Dale Peabody, MaineDOT
Brian Hirt, CTC & Associates	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) NETC Website Refresh

- Josh Casey, CTC's Web Designer, took the group through the development website.
- Home page - News items will go here. The home page has a flexible area that we can figure how best to use.
  - ~ Emily – Use the flexible spaces for latest projects, newly selected projects in the spring and most recently completed projects.
- Sidebar – We can choose which pages have sidebars and the content for each of them.
- Interior pages – Content for some of them taken from the current site.
- On the current site, the active and completed research projects are on separate pages. On the new site, Josh put them on one page with a sort function to allow the visitor to search for what they want. This makes it easier to navigate.
  - ~ Projects are filterable by project category and status. We can add a project completion date field.
  - ~ Any field in a project sidebar could be added as a filter on the page.
  - ~ A search box is also available.
  - ~ There is an option to have a separate page that displays all the active research projects. It would be a page that only has one filter of active research projects.
- Project pages – They have their own type of sidebars with project information. The categories won't appear on the page if they are empty.
  - ~ names will be on each project page.
- Josh implemented a file management system. Once a file is added and categorized, it will show up in the correct places on the site.
- Visitors will be able to sign up for the NETC emails.
- Member login area – We need to figure out what will go there.
  - ~ Project information – Parts of pages could be password protected. The content wouldn't be visible on the project page (or any other page) unless you are logged in.
    - Brian – Can you indicate that there is members-only content on that page? Josh – Yes.

- Emily – The AC should decide what wouldn't be public. She wants all TC meeting information available to everyone. **Action item:** Kirsten will organize this discussion.
- Dale – Once the website is live, can we put a count on the pages to see which pages are visited the most? Some websites have so much content and can cross the line into a document management website. Josh – Analytics will be available.
- Brian – Josh leveraged some of work CTC has done for other pooled fund websites, so you might see similar options on those sites.
- Next steps – Get comments from AC in the next week. Josh will make changes based on the feedback. Maina and Kirsten will also review the individual pages to update them prior to the site going live. The site should be able to go live in the next month or so, barring any major issues.
- **Action item:** Kirsten will send everyone the link to the development site and ask for feedback.

## 2) Open Project Review (September 2020)

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
<a href="#">18-2: Framework of Asphalt Balanced Mix Design for NE Agencies</a>	Walia Mogawer, UMass Dartmouth  A. Scholz  M. Tran  Joseph Blair, NH DOT	All tasks are completed. Project status meeting was held on 9/16/20. PI plans to have draft of final report completed by end of September. Will use early October for TC to review and provide feedback on report. Contract ends 12/31/20.	12/31/20 \$127,499
<a href="#">18-3: Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into State DOTs</a>	Jag Mallela, WSP  E. Parkany  M. Tran  Jeffrey DeCarlo, MA DOT	Task 4 is in progress and is expected to be completed in mid-November. Project status meeting on Task 3 was held on 8/20/20. Research team will rewrite Task 3 report.	3/31/2021 \$146,632
<a href="#">19-1: Curved Integral Abutment Bridge Design</a>	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 was held 9/10/20. WSP is further revising the proposal. The TC will meet to discuss on 9/24/20 and make their recommendation to the AC. WSP is revising the Task 1 report based on the TC's feedback.	3/31/2022 \$151,316
<a href="#">19-2: Multi-Scale Multi-Season Land-Based Erosion Modeling and Monitoring for Infrastructure Management</a>	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
<a href="#">19-3: Experimental Validation of New Improved Load Rating Procedures for Deteriorated Steel Beam Ends</a>	Simos Gerasimidis, UMass Amherst  N. Zavalas  K. Seeber  Alex Bardow, MA DOT	Contract fully executed on 9/18/20. The kickoff meeting is scheduled for 9/24/20.	3/31/23 \$179,995
20-1: In-Service Performance Evaluation of NETC Bridge Railings	TBD  D. Peabody  K. Seeber  Jeff Folsom, ME DOT	RFP posted in late August. Questions (3) and answers posted. Proposals due 10/1/20. Scoring meeting scheduled for 10/14/20.	TBD \$120,000

Project # and Title	PI, Organization AC Liaison CTC Project Manager TC Chair	Update	End Date Budget
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	RFP posted late August. Questions (52!) and answers posted. Proposals due 10/8/20. Scoring meeting scheduled for 10/29/20.	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	RFP posted late August. Questions (21) and answers posted. Proposals due 10/6/20. Scoring meeting scheduled for 10/20/20.	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	RFP posted late August. Questions (8) and answers posted. Proposals due 9/29/20. Scoring meeting scheduled for 10/15/20.	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. Prep work for 9/22/20 meeting sent to TAAC for review and feedback.	8/12/21 \$50,000

#### Discussion:

- 18-2
  - ~ A TC meeting was held on 9/16/20. There were no concerns from the TC on how the project is ending. Walaa is working on the draft final report. He will also produce a fact sheet and a poster. Maina asked Walaa if he would do a webinar, which is not in his contract. **Action item:** Maina will schedule a TC meeting for a draft final report review for the end of October.
- 18-3
  - ~ Waiting for the PI to send the rewritten Task 3 report. **Action item:** Maina will schedule the next TC meeting.
- 19-1
  - ~ Emily – We need to find out if the TC is okay with the proposed extra task of load testing and monitoring. She would like to get approval in the next month before it starts snowing. Also, the PI will send a survey to bridge engineers nationally. She is frustrated with the research team.
  - ~ Dale – Additional costs? Emily – Approximately \$40,000. Dale – The contract will need to be modified also. Colin – He feels it will be more than \$40,000. Emily – She has concerns of scope creep, worth of it and how to integrate it into the project.
  - ~ Dale – Let the TC play it out, make a recommendation to the AC and then the AC will decide.
- 19-2
  - ~ Task 2 is long. The PI wants to incorporate information from Task 2 into Task 3. There is a TC meeting on 9/24/20 to get feedback on Task 2 so they can get started on Task 3.
- 20-series
  - ~ Projects still missing TC members.
    - 20-1 – MA – Lily – Bridge folks can't contribute at this time due to being short-staffed.
    - 20-3 – RI – Collin – We won't get a TC member for this project but keep him in the loop.

- Re-creating NETC
  - ~ First SWOT session for Task 1 is this afternoon.
  - ~ Should there be a page on the NETC website for this project? Ann/Dale – Not necessary. Colin – Need a website for members only.
- Lily – Do AC members have access to all information for all projects? Maina created some pages for project information for the TC only. AC members will have access to those pages and all areas of the website on the new site.

### 3) 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.
  - ~ 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.
  - ~ Questions for states to ask: What is the follow up on NETC 15-4 and would all states be open to collaborating? What can we do to make sure the QA programs at the NE states are in the synch with each other? Can there be standard specs and common QA protocols?
  - ~ Colin – He has calls into other materials folks and is going to have a meeting. Breaking this down into small bites first and see how the materials folks accept. He will need a GoToMeeting webinar from CTC. **Action item:** Colin will notify Kirsten when this is needed.
- All webinar recordings/presentations can be found on the project pages or [here](#).

### 4) Symposium – Ideas

- AC will decide on holding a virtual Symposium in summer of 2021 after the TRB Annual Meeting in January 2021.

### 5) Other Business

- [VTrans Virtual Research and Innovation Poster Symposium](#) – Emily’s comments
  - ~ Emily – Thirty-two projects are on the website, all with posters and fact sheets. Eleven projects also have Q&As. The projects are a mix innovations and research.
    - Ann shared 15 of the projects with NH staff.
- MassDOT Innovation Webinar Series – Lily
  - ~ Topics were selected for spring Innovation Conference, but it was cancelled because of COVID-19. They are using Zoom to hold the webinars.
  - ~ Ann – Will the webinars be recorded? Lily – Yes. Two have taken place and the recordings are available.
- Colin – NCHRP solicitation closing in early November. Any NETC problem statements that we want to put forward? **Action item: Kirsten will send list to the AC. Sent on 9/22/20.**
  - ~ The next NETC solicitation begins in December.

### 6) Adjourn

**Next meeting:** October 27, 2020 from 11:00am – 12:30pm ET