

PROJECT SUMMARY

“Coordination of Pavement Activities in the Northeast”

Pooled Funds Project TPF-5(62)

This report summarizes activities and products for the subject project for the period July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004.

INTRODUCTION – Departments of Transportation (DOT) in the northeastern United States have determined that there is a continuing need to address pavement issues and pavement technology in a timely, cost-effective manner on a regional basis. Further, it was determined that a center where DOTs can distribute the results of their research and experience to other states and transportation agencies was required.

The Connecticut Transportation Institute (CTI) was selected as this center and the following objectives were set forth to address the DOTs’ concerns:

1. Provide a management framework to coordinate activities in the area of pavement technology in the northeastern United States;
2. Promote the implementation and use of new, innovative and cost-effective elements of pavements and paving technology;
3. Manage a website to: (a) provide data and information on paving technology; and, (b) assemble performance data and information collected by individual states; and, lastly,
4. Conduct and/or manage research on specific problems in pavement technology, which are of concern to the northeastern states DOTs.

Six work tasks were developed to address these objectives. Each task had assigned deliverables scheduled within the one-year project duration. The following outlines project results to date.

Task 1 – Project Management and Direction

An Advisory Panel was established to provide project guidance and DOT input. All Northeast DOTs were invited to participate; however, only sponsoring states had a vote on the Panel. Non-contributing states, classified as “friends” of the project, were invited to all meetings and received all correspondence and reports.

A policies and procedures document was developed and reviewed by all DOTs. Sixty five copies of the document were provided to ConnDOT for their distribution to all

sponsors and friends (See Report 2). The document is based on an extensive review of like procedures in place for NCHRP and the New England Transportation Consortium (NETC).

A survey of state DOT needs in pavement technology was conducted. Ten DOTs were visited beginning in August, 2003, and concluding October 7, 2003. The report on this activity provided consensus information on pavement technology needs confronting the DOTs (See Report 1). Prioritization of technology needs and action recommendations are presented. Initial results of the survey were presented at the October 2003 Meeting of the Northeast Materials Engineers in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Numerous phone calls and other contacts were made by ConnDOT staff seeking to obtain reports and other documents from Penn State University for review. Although promises were made to provide these papers, none have been forthcoming to date.

Task 2 – Coordination

The majority of travel required to obtain the needs survey cited above was accomplished as part of this task and then reported as a management function.

Quarterly project activity reporting and this annual summary are part of this task. Two Advisory Panel meetings were held: the first in August, 2003 in Connecticut; the second at TRB in January, 2004. Both meetings were sparsely attended due to state travel restrictions. This lack of attendance prompted the recommendation that appropriate panel meetings be video conferenced to increase state participation. Meeting minutes were distributed to all sponsors and friends; however, more face-to-face conversation will, no doubt, improve panel direction and input.

Task 3 – Website Management

Development of the pavement website was begun in the fall of 2003. About 25 existing websites were reviewed for application to our needs. Plans to upload the site in January, 2004, were delayed when our webmaster underwent spinal surgery. Our first draft was uploaded in March and comments solicited. Site refinements, which reflect on-going and completed work in the northeastern states are highlighted as well as additional pertinent library accessions.

The website address is: ---- <http://www.cti.uconn.edu/ti/pavement/index.htm>

Task 4 – Library

Library accessions in the pavement technology area are listed on the website. No other library searches have been requested.

Task 5 – Newsletter

At the August, 2003 Advisory Panel meeting, it was determined that this task would be dropped. Newsworthy items will be included on the website and E-Mail notifications sent to the Advisory Panel and friends as intermediate notices.

Task 6 – Technology Transfer and Implementation

Initially, when this project proposal was being developed, implementation and technology transfer was believed to be a priority for the states. The effort required was reflected in the original project estimate of \$200,000. Subsequently, the states reduced the project cost to \$80,000, with attendant reductions in cost per task. Work on this task and Task 5 was deferred by the panel until the technology needs of the northeast were defined and prioritized. Funding for Tasks 5 and 6 were then assigned to complete the needs survey and augment the development of the project website. When the needs survey was completed, the top priority implementation items were being addressed by other agencies, i.e., FHWA and TRB. However, it is believed that complimentary technology transfer and implementation efforts will evolve as part of the project continuation.

PROJECT REPORTS and DOCUMENTS

1. Dougan, C.E., “Summary of Pavement Technology Needs in the Northeastern United States”, January, 2004, Report Number CT-TPF-5(62)-1-03-11.
2. Dougan, C.E., “Policies and Procedures for the Coordination of Pavement Activities in the Northeastern United States”, April, 2004, Report Number CT-TPF-5(62)-2-04-8.

June 11, 2004