

Transportation Pooled Fund Program Quarterly Progress Report

TPF-5(201) New England Transportation Consortium (V)

July – September, 2009

Background: This is 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(168), SPR-3(089), SPR-3(029), and SPR-3(009). The objective 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, on-going state and federal research activities and other national programs such as the Cooperative Research Programs of the National Academies.

In 2008 the existing Lead State Coordinator (Connecticut DOT) announced they were no longer in a position to act as the lead. In early 2009 in an effort to maintain the existing program the FHWA CT-Division Office offered to take over the program and assume duties as the lead entity. Thus, the establishment of Project TPF-5(201) with FHWA, CT- DIV now identified as the lead agency.

Progress This Quarter:

- The FHWA CT-DIV Office now under the leadership of a new Division Administrator has decided that it is not prudent for the FHWA CT-DIV Office to continue to be the lead of this study and we should look at transferring this responsibility to another organization or cancelling this project all together. We are presently in the process of coordinating with the NETC Advisory Group to seek another New England State DOT to take over the program. It is our hopes that we have a new lead State entity established by 2011. Until then, we will continue to work with the NETC Advisory Group in overseeing the program, assist them in establishing a new lead entity, and assist them in completing research studies that are presently in-progress but need FHWA contractual support to finish.

- Initiated new contracts/Purchase Orders for the execution of 6 Research studies:

NETC 03-6 Fix it First: Utilizing the Seismic Property Analyzer and MMLS to Develop Guidelines for the Use of Polymer Modified Thin Lift HMA vs Surface Treatments; Contract Agreement with UMass-D effective 1 October 2009; Period: 24 months

NETC 04-3 Estimating the Magnitude of Peak Flows for Steep Gradient Streams in New England; Contract Agreement with UNH effective 1 October 2009; Period 12 months

NETC 05-1 Develop Base Resistance Load Displacement Curves for the Design of Drilled Shaft Rock Sockets; Contract Agreement with UMaine effective 1 October 2009; Period 12 months

NETC 05-6 Employing Graphic-Aided Dynamic Message Signs to Assist Elder Drivers' Message Comprehension; Contract Agreement with URI effective 1 October 2009; Period 12 months

NETC 05-8 Evaluation & Implementation of Traffic Simulation Models for Work Zones; Purchase Order dated 22 Sept 09 with UMass-A; Period: 9/22/09 to 3/21/10

NETC 06-1 New England Verification of NCHRP 1-37A Mechanistic-Empirical Pavement Design; Contract Agreement with UNH effective 1 October 2009; Period 24 months

Products Delivered This Quarter:

None

Planned Activities Next Quarter:

- Continue discussion with NETC Advisory Group to transfer Lead State activities from the FHWA CT-Division Office to another entity (probably VT DOT).
- Prepare research contract for NETC Research Study NETC 05-5 Measuring of Adhesion Properties Between Topcoat Paint & Metallized/Galvanized Steel with Surface-Energy Measurement Equipment
- Prepare research contract for NETC Research Study NETC 06-5 Winter Severity Indices for New England