

Minutes

Expert Task Group on Pavement Preservation

Bal Harbour, Florida

Sea View Hotel

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Introductions and Welcome

The meeting began at 8:32 am after which the agenda was reviewed and approved (See Attachment 1).

Mr. Denny Jackson, Co-chair of the Expert Task Group on Pavement Preservation (ETG), welcomed the committee members and guests and thanked them for their attendance. See participant list (Attachment 2).

Mr. Jackson then sought approval of the September 15, 2004 Meeting Minutes and in the absence of any changes, a motion was made by Mr. Peshkin to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Jerry Geib (MNDOT). The motion passed by voice vote.

“Federal Highway Bill” Update:

Mr. James Sorenson (FHWA), the ETG Co-Chair, then reported on the status of the “Highway Bill”. He stated that Congress had yet to pass the Bill and in their current forms neither the Administration, the House nor the Senate has specific language or platform for pavement preservation. Mr. Sorenson noted that in light of FHWA’s policy strongly supporting preservation, there may be other areas, such as F-SHRP, and FHWA R&D Program from which we may be able to promote preservation activities.

Mr. Sorenson also stated his belief that pavement preservation does need a multi year/multi million dollar research program begun immediately. He felt that if the “Highway Bill” passes near the three hundred billion dollar level we may see some action as an afterthought. (If there are any significant developments on this issue prior to the meeting minutes being published, we will include the information with the minutes).

Five Year Strategic Plan Task Force Reports:

Mr. Jackson, ETG Co-Chair, having outlined the strategic plan updated in Saratoga Springs, New York during the September 2004 meeting (Attachment 3), called for the presentation of task force reports.

Pavement Preservation Acceptance & Implementation. Mr. Jerry Geib (MNDOT) highlighted the various accomplishments of the committee during the last six months.

The first short term goal was to review the final drafts of the Pavement Preservation Technical Advisory. Chris Newman (FHWA) stated that a pavement preservation technical policy memo was distributed on October 8, 2004. There is a new question

and answer section on the FHWA website to provide more clarification of the document (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/preservation/>).

The second short term goal was to develop ideas and scope for training courses (certification level) and curricula with the Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TCCC). Mr. Newman noted that the TCCC had recently developed curricula in five areas for technicians, inspectors and contractor personnel. Currently, no states have formal certification for inspectors and contractor personnel in the thin surface treatment area. The TCCC has been established to coordinate these efforts in training and certification.

Mr. Sorenson stated that all personnel must be trained and qualified on all federal-aid jobs(under 23CFR637.) He felt it was important to establish a certification program as we develop more federally funded preservation projects. The certification program goes hand in glove with end product or performance contracting. However, Mr. Sorenson noted that certification programs are a state/industry responsibility. He believed the best way to accomplish this would be to have the NCPP work with the industry groups to develop and promote the certification programs through the TCCC. Mr. Bill O'Leary (FP2) stated that he felt the industry groups would be willing to work with the NCPP to establish certification programs and that the use of one-day regional programs would be the best approach.

There was a general discussion and it was the group's consensus that the industry was ready for contractor certification which could best be accomplished by having the ETG and industry develop a course to be coordinated, facilitated, and delivered by the NCPP. Ideally the same certification should apply equally to contractor and agency personnel. Mr. Larry Galehouse (NCPP) will contact the various associations to facilitate these programs.

The committee felt that the results of the NCHRP 20-07 Task 184 survey would help define training and certification needs.

Mr. Newman also noted that California's Maintenance Technical Advisory Guide (MTAG) is to be converted to a web-based training format. A Request for Proposals (RFP) had already been posted and a contract was being awarded. The completed product will be due and available later this summer.

Mr. Sorenson discussed the continuing need for preservation training. After suggesting that a new PP ETG Training Task Force be formed, Mr. Peshkin was named chairman of the new Task Force by PP ETG Co-Chair Dennis Jackson. ETG members also suggested that the new task force deal with certification. Mr. Sorenson felt that this committee should be asked to identify industry training opportunities and develop a plan to expand these opportunities. Mr. Sorenson also noted that the industry needs to support the specialized training which would be required. Mr. Eller (FP2), expressing his concern with the low-bid process, noted that any certification must begin at the state level and that a national program would be needed to assure

uniformity among the states. Mr. Sorenson stated that the national organization was the TCCC and the states training program. Mr. Jackson agreed to modify the new task force information to include both training and certification.

The third short term goal was to help define the roles and responsibilities of the ETG. Mr. Geib reported that Mr. Galehouse had written a draft paper defining the roles of the different Pavement Preservation groups. Mr. Galehouse then addressed the ETG and showed the flow chart he was developing. A document detailing the roles and responsibilities of each group had been originally requested to help guide AASHTO's Subcommittee on Maintenance (SCOM) when considering the proposed resolution to establish an AASHTO Pavement Preservation Technical Services Desk. Mr. Sorenson provided the ETG with an overview of the AASHTO resolution for support, and the need for clarification of the different organizations and their roles. He explained that this resolution had been approved by SCOM and this subject would be presented for approval in the Spring 2005 to AASHTO's Standing Committee on Highways (SCOH) meeting. Final approval of the resolution would enable establishment of a technical services program for pavement and bridge preservation at the NCPP. Mr. Sorenson, in referring to the NCPP as the SICOP (Snow and Ice Pooled Fund Cooperative Program) of preservation, stressed the importance of this issue and felt that the paper needed to be finalized during this meeting. In response, the committee asked Steve Mueller (FHWA), Larry Galehouse (NCPP), Jon Rice (NACE), Gerry Eller (FP2), Jerry Geib (MNDOT), and John Vance (MSDOT) to meet later in the day to finalize the paper.

Mr. Sorenson felt SCOH's confusion may have stemmed from the multiplicity of preservation groups and partnerships under development and generally not found in other areas. Preservation has the FP2, NCPP, Regional Partnerships, and also the up-and-coming Texas and Western States Pavement Preservation Centers. He noted that California's Western States Center has established a task item to coordinate their efforts with the NCPP, something that Texas has also indicated they would do.

Mr. Shakir Shatnawi (CalTrans) stated that the Western States Center wants to be involved and work closely with the NCPP, upon which the California pooled-fund effort will rely for partial support. He also felt that California and many western states have unique regional concerns. Mr. Sorenson felt the NCPP was at a critical juncture and that we must carefully consider the relationships between all of preservation institutions without jeopardizing NCPP's long term survival and success. Regional Partnerships and Centers will form but they should not differ greatly from the national direction.

Mr. Mueller expressed concern about maintaining a unified front for the preservation movement, despite the obvious demand for support from the states for training, education, and research in preservation. Mr. O'Leary reported that the FP2 is considering a national seminar to help address this concern.

Research Programs

Mr. Keith Herbold (FHWA) reported for the ETG Task Force on Research Programs and thanked Janice Williams (LADOT) for representing him at the last meeting.

The committee had several short term goals, of which the first was to provide technical advice as needed to the NCPP. To date, the NCPP had not requested any research advice from the committee.

The committee's second goal was to support NCHRP (National Cooperative Highway Research Program) problem statements by reviewing the statements and reporting recommendations to the ETG. After reviewing NCHRP Report 184, the committee felt it was a good draft, adding that they believed the report would help point to new research directions for the preservation program..

The third goal was to review the status of previous NCHRP problem statements to identify potential stumbling blocks. Mr. Galehouse observed that the NCHRP and TRB have pursued very few pavement preservation research initiatives, of which "*NCHRP 35-02 - Chip Seal Best Practices*" is one of the few studies in the last eight years. TRB seems to have been somewhat reluctant to advance Pavement Preservation Research. The Transportation Research Board (TRB) Roadway Pavement Preservation Workshop is meeting in Kansas City, Missouri on October 31 and November 1, 2005 in conjunction with the Asset Management Conference.

Mr. Galehouse speculated that the National Transportation Product Evaluation Program (NTPEP), which is administering a test for crack sealants, may use the NCPP for the testing. The NCPP is inviting the voluntary participation of agencies in the four environmental zones. Mr. Colin Franco (RIDOT) discussed the lack of a relationship between the crack seal pooled fund research study and the product evaluation process under NTPEP. Mr. Galehouse noted that NTPEP, which is run by AASHTO, evaluates products for three years and then only provides test results without conclusions. More information may be obtained from the NTPEP's web site, www.ntpep.org. The next NTPEP meeting is scheduled for May 8 – 11, 2005 in Groton, CT.

In view of his impending retirement, Mr. Herbold suggested that Janice Williams or Todd Thomas would be good replacements as committee chair. In discussing his committee's participation, Mr. Herbold noted that Basem Muallem, CalTrans, had not yet attended any meetings. The committee then decided to remove his name from the ETG active roster.

Customer Needs

On behalf of the Customer Needs Task Force, Mr. Gary Hildebrand (Telfer/WFC) reported that the committee had not accomplished the tasks assigned at the last meeting and will continue to work on the tasks for the next six months.

Support Pavement Preservation Centers, Regional, and State Organizations Task Force

Ms. Lita Davis reported that the committee's short term goals were to obtain power point presentations on Pavement Preservation for inclusion on the NCPP and FP2 web sites. Mr. Jackson collected presentations provided by ETG members. Ms. Patte Hahn (NCPP) will distribute copies of the presentations to the ETG members with the meeting minutes. They will also be posted on the NCPP web site (www.pavementpreservation.org).

Ms. Davis noted that the committee will continue to work on the speakers' bureau and the website reviews. Mr. Gerry Eller noted that the FP2 has just finished updating their website. Ms. Davis noted that the committee would review and comment on the new site prior to the next ETG meeting. Mr. O'Leary stated that the FP2 is currently developing an online library. Mr. Galehouse also stated that the NCPP is proceeding with the development of an online library. Messrs. O'Leary and Galehouse will coordinate the two libraries to avoid duplication.

The committee then had a general discussion of the ETG's composition. The National Association of County Engineers (NACE) now has a representative on the ETG committee. Mr. Jon Rice of the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) stated that NACE is now capable of moving their pavement preservation vision forward. He feels the NCPP needs to be the key proponent and instrument to promote and organize pavement preservation among the NACE membership. Mr. Sorenson volunteered to invite a representative from the American Public Works Association (APWA) who could represent APWA national issues for the preservation program area to the next ETG meeting.

Integration of Pavement Preservation into Pavement Management Systems

Mr. Peshkin stated that the committee had been unable to accomplish the first two tasks of developing scopes of work. They had accomplished Task Three the previous day with the presentation of a one-day, condensed Preventive Maintenance NHI Course #131104 entitled "Integration of Pavement Performance and Pavement Management Systems."

The ETG then decided to re-name this committee as the Training and Certification Task Force to be chaired by David Peshkin with Tom Deddens, Larry Galehouse, and Colin Durantee as members.

Old Business:

Activities Update

1. NCHRP 14-14 – David Peshkin (APT)

Mr. Peshkin reported that NCHRP 14-14, now called Report Number 523, had been finalized. Based on ETG interest FHWA will consider developing a one day workshop. Mr. Sorenson will discuss this with NCHRP and others.

2. 20-7 (Task 184) Status Report – David Peshkin (APT)

Mr. Peshkin reported that 20-7 (Task 184), now in draft form, was a survey to which 33 states responded. The report summarized the survey results and compared state needs (as expressed in the survey) to actual research underway.

Mr. Franco observed that partnering was needed to further the research agenda. He felt that this could possibly be accomplished by working with Gary Hoffman (PennDOT) on the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Materials and Len Sanderson (NCDOT) on the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Construction as well as our contact with the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Maintenance. The ETG then discussed various research mechanisms. Mr. Galehouse informed the group that mechanism that had failed us was the pooled fund process. Mr. Sorenson noted that Mr. King Gee (FHWA) was now pushing to have the NCPP be a recipient of pooled funds with authority to manage them. Current pooled fund policy requires an FHWA office or a state highway agency or FHWA be the administrator of all pooled funds. There is reluctance to change the FHWA requirement because of a potential conflict of interest and the funding transfer mechanisms used by the FHWA and the SHA's.

3. TXDOT Chip Seal over Geotextile fabric Project – Luis Rodriquez (FHWA)

Mr. Rodriquez (FHWA) gave a Power Point presentation on this project, whose objective is to assess the extent to which non-woven geotextile fabric underneath chip seal surface treatments reduces reflective cracking and moisture penetration, affects ride quality, and increases pavement life. Ms. Lita Davis and Ms. Emily McGraw (NCDOT) have been involved in this project along with Mr. Rodriguez from the FHWA Resource Center in Atlanta. The six test sites will continue to be monitored annually. Mr. Rodriguez will present annual updates for five years, and conclude the project with a final report.

4. CalTrans Task Group on Pavement Preservation (PPTG) Update – Shakir Shatnawi (CalTrans) and Gary Hildebrand (Telfer/WFC)

Mr. Shatnawi explained that the PPTG provides a forum to foster coordination and continuous improvement in pavement preservation in California. CalTrans and Industry both provide representatives for a balanced group. Meeting monthly, the task group serves mainly in a technical advisory role and does some work associated with specifications, guidelines, and policy changes. Mr. Hildebrand stated that the PPTG's purpose is to work with cities and counties to promote pavement preservation and toward this end, they have established task groups to address innovation, education, and recycling. Messrs. Shatnawi and Hildebrand are to provide Mr. Sorenson with a write-up for publishing in Focus magazine or some other publication.

5. NCPP Status Report – Larry Galehouse (NCPP)

Mr. Galehouse provided highlights of NCPP's activities. The NCPP facilitated a meeting of the Midwestern Pavement Preservation Partnership (MPPP) that was attended by approximately 100 individuals from state and local agencies and industry.

He also provided a view of NCPP's web page statistics which indicate a high degree of interest in the Center since its inception.

The NCPP has also authored a booklet on pavement preservation tentatively entitled ***“At the Crossroads: Preserving Our Highway Investment.”*** The booklet, currently being reviewed by FHWA and will be approved by both David Geiger and King Gee. Mr. Sorenson stated that after the booklet's approval, the FHWA will arrange for the final book layout, printing, and distribution. He felt that this booklet will be the ***“Good Roads / Bad Roads”*** document of the 21st Century.

Mr. Galehouse also informed ETG that the NCPP has made its first presentation of a new course entitled ***“Pavement Preservation – Applied Asset Management”***. The course was well received and will be offered again over the next several months. The NCPP is currently finalizing courses on Chip Seals and Ultra-thin HMA Overlays. Mr. Sorenson recommended that the NCPP seek peer reviews of their courses, using the ETG and regional partnerships. Mr. Sorenson also believed that the NCPP and TCCC need to work together. Mr. Galehouse responded that the Center will become involved with the TCCC.

6. NHI Pavement Preservation Training Courses - David Peshkin (APT)

Mr. Peshkin gave an update on the presentations of the NHI Training Courses on Pavement Preservation. **NHI Course # 131054**, **“Pavement Preservation: The Preventive Maintenance Concept”** was recently presented to engineers from Mexico by Messrs. Rodriquez and Angle Correa, NRC-Atlanta; **NHI Course # 131058**, **“Pavement Preservation: Selecting Pavements for Preventive Maintenance”** is still being taught, but less frequently; **NHI Course # 131103**, **“Pavement Preservation: Design and Construction of Quality Preventive Maintenance -Treatments”** was submitted to NHI previously, but has had no action; and **NHI Course # 131104**, **“Pavement Preservation: Integrating Pavement Maintenance w/ PMS”** is being presented and scheduled. Mr. Newman volunteered to contact NHI to ascertain the status of Course 3.

7. Recognition Awards Pavement Preservation Excellence – Jerry Geib (MNDOT)

Mr. Geib cited the need to recognize and award good pavement preservation practices through the United States. Although there are many types of awards presented by many different organizations, the National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) ***“Make a Difference”*** awards may be appropriate for recognition of pavement preservation excellence. Mr. Eller noted that there needs to be a good medium for the award presentations, so that entire communities can be informed of the awards. Mr. Sorenson promised to have the FHWA Public Affairs office assist in informational outreach efforts. Mr. Eller also informed the committee that the FP2 will also be working on an awards effort and will possibly tie something into the Annual Event in Texas this October. Messrs. Geib, Peshkin, and Eller will coordinate this effort.

8. Pocket Checklists - Todd Thomas (Koch)

Mr. Thomas distributed a handout of the draft HIR and CIR checklist and gave a brief summary of checklists currently available, informing the group that the checklists are going through a final review, after which it will be published by the FHWA.

9. Update on Sealer / Binder Study – Denny Jackson

Mr. Jackson noted that the Principal Investigator (PI) of the Sealer Binder Study, Mr. Larry Scofield, has accepted a new position and will no longer be the industry PI. Messrs. Sorenson and Eller will discuss this issue and a replacement PI will be identified by FPP and submitted to the FHWA.

Strategic Working Group Plans and Development

The five Strategic Working Groups met to discuss the Revised Strategic Working Group Plans and Development. The revised ETG Work Plan is shown in Attachment 4. Each of the Task Force chairpersons reviewed their committee products and personnel changes.

Other Discussion highlights

Mr. Sorenson reminded the committee of the urgency of the AASHTO White Paper on the NCPP AASHTO Pooled Fund technical services center, which needs to be sent to Carlos Bracer0s as soon as possible.

Mr. Eller noted that the FP2 will host their 1st Annual Meeting in early October, 2005. He also informed the committee that the FP2 intends to send a thank you letter to the “*Better Roads*” Magazine thanking them for their efforts to promote pavement preservation over the past year. Messrs. Sorenson and Jackson also volunteered to write a letter of thanks from the ETG to the magazine and Mr. Sorenson will ask Mike Voth to write a pavement preservation article from the perspective of Federal Lands and present it for publication in various magazines.

The committee then had a general discussion of pavement preservation research needs. NCHRP 20-7(184) could serve as a launch vehicle for this effort. It was suggested that a mid-May or June preliminary meeting, followed by a presentation at the AASHTO SOM meeting and the Pavement Preservation Workshop in November would be a good plan to increase awareness of this lack of research. Mr. Galehouse suggested that a blitz of articles in “*Better Roads*” and other industry magazines could possibly help generate some helpful action. He also felt that the NCHRP 20-7(184) report should be on the program at the Asset Management Conference in November.

Mr. Sorenson expressed his feeling that we should write a 5-year research needs program statement by mid-May to early June, suggesting that this task should be assigned to the NCPP with its academic affiliation. In the first year, it may be possible to seek funding for establishing a research program by asking NCHRP, TRB, and AASHTO to include a pavement preservation line item in their individual research programs. Mr. Sorenson felt we needed a team of four or five people to generate the white paper. The group should consist of Todd Thomas, Larry Galehouse, Gerry Eller, David Peshkin, and one other representative from FP2. Tom Deddens (FHWA) will also be available to assist. Mr. Sorenson promised to ask Carlos Bracer0s to include a research needs white paper on AASHTO Spring Agenda.

Mr. Franco suggested compiling two to three research problem statements to submit to NCHRP by the research deadline of September 15, 2005. Mr. Galehouse will send two TRB problem / research statements to Mr. Sorenson. Mr. Thomas volunteered to write an article promoting Pavement Preservation Research needs for possible publication by AASHTO.

Mr. Newman reported that the FHWA's Office of Asset Management (OAM) is currently writing a Task Order for a five year contract to provide training expertise, audio visual support, ETG support, and other miscellaneous functions. The tasks, included as part of an Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract, would be funded at \$10,000 to \$100,000 per year for five years. With this contract in place, FHWA will be able to develop a short list of qualified applicants and OAM would then be able to direct the administration of pooled fund projects. FHWA anticipated it would take three to six months for the contracts to be in place.

Next ETG Meeting

The next ETG Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Texas AGC and the FP2's Annual Meeting during the first week of October, 2005 in Austin, Texas. Our ETG Meeting will be scheduled for October 5 and 6.

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 pm.

Note: Shaded segments denote action items.