

ETF Subcommittee on Quality Assurance, Education & Certification

Meeting – Virtual/Conference call, March 11, 2022

Agenda:

Meeting minutes and notes are posted on ETF website <http://tsp2-etf.org>

- Progress report on the Tack Coat QA Guide
- Volunteers needed for CIR and CCPR QA Guides
- Training syllabus/outline from Best Practices for Chip Seal and Micro Surfacing
- Proposed Incentives & Disincentives for Chip Seals and Micro Surfacing

Attendees:

Present: Nathan Awwad, Jody Bachini, Bobby Betsold, Rod Birdsall, Andrew Braham, Ding Cheng, Dennis Dvorak, Rex Eberly, Colin Franco, Larry Galehouse, Ben Sade, Matt Teto

Absent: Eric Biehl, Brian Cox, Steve Cross, Kevin McGlumphy

Meeting Notes:

- Progress Report – Tack QA Guide
 - Rod Birdsall – The draft Tack QA Guide has been circulated among the task force for review (Rod Birdsall, Andrew Braham, Eric Biehl) and the next step is to have a call on April 12 to finalize by the task group. After which it will sent to the subcommittee.
 - Rod Birdsall – Developing the Fog Seal QA Guide should be easy to generate because the Tack QA Guide is used as template. Its hoped to have both completed before next subcommittee call.
 - Discussion on guide format and content:
 - Andrew Braham – Chip Seal QA Guide was used as a template. How much can be modified and streamlined?
 - Larry Galehouse – The Chip Seal QA Guide was submitted to COMP TS-5c as a separate document. It followed the recommended format for a QA guide. The Construction Guide was sent to COMP TS-5b and finally to the Committee on Construction as a separate document.
 - Dennis Dvorak – A lot of boiler plate is contained in current QA Guide Specifications. When future QA guides are combined and published with the Construction Guides, a lot of content can be removed.
 - Rod Birdsall – Boiler plate should be included to avoid having to reference the long lists of documents.
 - Andrew Braham – There is an entire table of common tests that are not performed as part of field inspection. Does this table need to be included?
 - Matt Teto – A similar issue was encountered in developing the Sand Seal QA Guide. Does it need to list every emulsion test, or just reference the material specification (M208, M316) for emulsions?
 - Dennis Dvorak – Suggested that two guides could be made: QA guide for lab and QA guide for field

- Colin Franco – The new 2022 Interim Guide Specifications for Highway Construction has since combined the Construction Guide and QA Guide. Originally, the QA Guides were to be separate stand-alone specs because the Construction Guide is reviewed by COMP TS 5b and AASHTO Committee on Construction, while the QA Guides are reviewed by TS 5c. The original plan was to merge them together after being approved. Colin stated that the QA guide specs for the rest of the treatments follow the same format as the ones approved by COMP TS 5c
 - Dennis Dvorak – Suggested that if separate documents are submitted a list of all tests should be included
- Volunteers for CIR and CCPR QA Guides
 - Larry Galehouse completed a framework for the CIR and CCPR QA Guides in the AASHTO format. The Asphalt Recycling & Reclaiming Association (ARRA) has already done a fair amount of work in this area and Steve Cross will be contacted to finalize the new AASHTO guides.
 - Matt Teto offered to assist Steve Cross
- Training Syllabus/Outline for Chip Seal and Micro Surfacing
 - Larry Galehouse stated that the Best Practice Guides for both treatments are posted on the ETF website
 - Volunteers are needed to go through the Best Practice Guides and create an “outline” of critical topics and specific items that must be covered in future training. The completed “outline” will be shared with any group engaged in training about the specific treatment. These groups will be expected to compare the outline with their training course and identify subject matter gaps in the outline. The groups should also expand their training to include topics in the outline when necessary. The goal is to have consistency in pavement preservation training throughout the country.
 - Rex Eberly volunteered to organize a group to review the Micro Surfacing Best Practices. He will consult with people regarding the course content from ISSA, PPRA, NCPP, etc.
 - Larry Galehouse expects future the certification exams will be based on the Treatment Best Practices.
- Incentives and Disincentives for Chip Seal and Micro Surfacing
 - Dennis Dvorak - Recommends that the subcommittee should not have too many incentives or disincentives (I/D's). It's best to identify only I/D's MOST critical to job outcome.
 - Nathan Awwad & Jody Bachini – Today, agencies have downsized and it's difficult to meet all the existing requirements. Agencies are moving toward contracted inspectors, who typically have even less training than DOT personnel (i.e., very little to none).
 - Rod Birdsall – Workmanship is probably the biggest issue impacting any project. Inspection could take place after a project is complete. Best Practices guides are definitive on what needs to be done and it's up to each agency whether to inspect those items or not. A measuring stick of some sort is needed to assist the agencies.
 - Larry Galehouse – Requiring company certification is a no-cost way to ensure the job quality. The company certification requires the contractor to develop and

follow a detailed QC plan as outlined in the AASHTO QA Guide. Additionally, it requires in-house training of the field crews and individual treatment certification for specific personnel.

- Matt Teto – Speaking from experience with both HMA and Micro Surfacing, comprehensive QC Plans take some of the load off the agency. The QC plan will require the contractor to identify the processes and procedure need to produce quality work. The agency only must ensure the contractor follows their QC Plan. If the QC Plan has not been followed, it gives the agency an avenue to not accept the work.
- Dennis Dvorak – It has always been a challenge to get contractors to author good QC Plans. Contractors do not want to hold themselves responsible for practices above those required by the contract.
- Larry Galehouse – Each QA Subcommittee member needs prioritize the top 2 or 3 chip seal and micro surfacing incentives and disincentives to move forward. Submit your priorities to Larry by Friday, March 18th.