

2003-2004 Work Plan Accomplishments

AASHTO Subcommittee on Construction

1. Computers and Technology Section

1. Continue to provide leadership and guidance for the enhancements of the AASHTO Trans*Port software. Specifically for next year, provide status update of the CHAMP software.

This activity is an ongoing initiative to improve the operation and functionality of the AASHTO Trans*Port software. The next release is scheduled to be sent shortly, and Brad Parks from Info Tech will make a presentation at this summer's meeting to bring everyone up to date on the current products. Owners of CHAMP are still negotiating with AASHTO to try to bring that under the AASHTO umbrella. New Mexico DOT is using CHAMP, independently of Site Manager, with moderate success.

2. Solicitation from states to become a clearinghouse of Trans*Port extensions available (e.g. RTF templates, DWR templates, plug-ins, spreadsheets, etc.).

Preliminary analysis has been complete on several extensions and data has been placed on the Cloverleaf website. We'd like to pursue additional funding for further development of these tools to catalog and for future retrieval. More specific information will be presented at the summer meeting in NM.

3. Continue to provide oversight and guidance for the information that is housed on the AASHTO Subcommittee on Construction web site. (ALL)

This is an ongoing initiative. Items are reviewed and comments are submitted on an as needed basis.

4. Develop a survey on technology in construction. Focus on field surveying, construction practices, documentation, environmental compliance, and traffic control/incident management. (Jerry Jones)

Survey sent to all states on February 25, 2004. Responses were due by March 30, 2004, and we received 17 responses. A presentation of the results will be shared at the summer meeting.

5. Review sections 300 and 400 of the AASHTO guide specifications. (**George Raymond and Danny Shealy**)

Comments on both sections have been received, and will be shared at the summer meeting

RESEARCH

Danny Shealy, Vice Chair and Research Coordinator, is no longer a member of the section and a replacement was solicited. Dexter Newman volunteered to serve as Vice Chair of the Section and representative to the Research Group.

The group brainstormed topics, including a review Byron Coburn's presentation on "Next Generation of Trans? Port" for submission for Research. Bob Orthmeyer gave an overview of the technologies that have been identified for use in pavement smoothness. Below are topics agreed to for submission to Research review.

1. Best Bridge painting practices-encapsulated or not
2. Innovations in technology in industry standards that will affect DOT practices
- 3. Tracking plant/site and inspected material**
- 4. Electronic plans, moving from design to construction**

George Raymond volunteered to represent the Section on the Guide Spec rewrite committee

2. Contract Administration Section

1. *Unbalanced bidding procedures*
Jerry Yakowenko gave an overview of the results of this survey. The results will be posted on the AASHTO SOC CA Section web site.
2. *Best practices for pay reduction for sub-standard quality*
Gene Wortham gave a PowerPoint presentation overview of the results of this survey. The results will be posted on the AASHTO SOC CA section web site.
3. *Dispute resolution and enforcement mechanisms for prompt payment*
Cal Gendreau gave a PowerPoint presentation overview of the results of this survey. The results will be posted on the AASHTO SOC CA section web site.
4. *Liaison with FHWA's Performance Specification Program*
Amar Bhajandas, PennDOT was not able to provide a report on these activities but Jerry Yakowenko provided a brief summary of FHWA's activities in this area. Ken Jacoby, FHWA , 202-366-6503 has the lead for FHWA in coordinating Performance Specifications.
5. *NPHQ coordination*
Amar Bhajandas – was not present to report and another Subcommittee member should be designated to provide coordination for the Subcommittee.
6. *Guide spec update :*
 - a. *Section 100* : A draft final edited version is currently ready.
 - b. *Section 500* : no action was taken during the past year.
 - c. *Pulling innovative contracting tech provisions into guide*
Jerry Yakowenko reports that these innovative contracting special provisions are already published in the Primer on Contracting for the 21st Century as Appendix B. See: <http://www.transportation.org/download/ContractPrimer.pdf>. This seems to meet the intent of the work plan item.
7. *Best practices for capturing unit cost information on lump sum contracts.*
No progress was made on this work item but Ananth Prasad volunteered to provide Florida DOT's experience with lump sum contracts for the 2004-2005 work plan.
8. *Fraud – (especially related to materials test fraud)*
 - a. Steve DeWitt received some survey responses, however, Steve indicates that he would like to make some additional contacts with industry and other State DOTs to revise the survey results.
 - b. NCDOT, FHWA, and NH DOT have developed fraud related PowerPoint presentations that will be posted on the SOC web site for others to use.
9. *Engineering items to reduce cost; how can we reduce the costs without exposing ourselves to risk?*
Jerry Yakowenko reported that the CA Section did not complete this work item, however, in late 2003, the AASHTO Subcommittee on Quality released “Strategies for Reducing Highway Project Delivery Time and Cost” (see: http://downloads.transportation.org/Quality-FinalReport_Partnering.pdf). This report seems to address many of the objectives of this task.

3. Environment and Human Resources Section

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

1. Constructibility Review Best Practices Guide. Lead: Jeff Lewis (FHWA-CA). Jeff and Bob Pieplow (Caltrans) have conducted a survey on this topic, have tabulated the results, and Jeff will present their findings to the Subcommittee at the meeting.
2. Environmental Commitment Compliance Best Practices. Lead: Jeff Lewis (FHWA-CA). Jeff and Bob Pieplow (Caltrans) have conducted a survey on this topic, have tabulated the results, and Jeff will present their findings to the Subcommittee at the meeting.

ITEM #1 & #2 done. Gene Mallette from Caltrans subbed in for Pieplow in assisting on the presentation to the Conference. 28 states were represented in the survey.

3. AASHTO Standing Committee on Environment. Liason: Dean Van DeWege (Colorado). The SCOE and SOD Meeting was combined this summer and Dean sent a representative to it. A CDOT representative will report to this Section on topics of interest.
4. AASHTO Subcommittee on Design. Liason: Dean Van DeWege (Colorado). See #3 above.

ITEM #3 & #4 done. See meeting minutes.

WORK ZONE SAFETY

1. Proposed FHWA Rulemaking on Work Zone Safety. Lead: Kevin Dayton (Washington). Most state DOT's have already commented on this. In June we asked if anyone would like to provide comment through this Section, to please forward them to Kevin, to be forwarded to the Subcommittee Chairperson. The comment period is now over.
2. Best Practices for Measuring Quality of Work Zones. Lead: John Grady (New York). John conducted a brief email survey of E&HR members on how the quality of work zones is measured and a NYSDOT representative will present their findings at our E&HR breakout session. **John handed out copy of NY's BMP. See meeting minutes for discussion.**

HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Customer Focus In Construction. Lead: Lee Onstott (New Mexico). Florida DOT has completed research on this topic. Lee will discuss their report at our E&HR breakout session. **Lee provided hard copy of report Copy to be posted on AASHTO site.**
2. Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TCCC). Liason: Lee Onstott (NM). This Section is charged with assigning a representative to the TCCC. Lee and Chris Newman (FHWA) attended the December meeting and Chris will report on it to the Committee. A research proposal to measure the effectiveness of technical training will be discussed at our breakout session, as will a proposed resolution supporting the training. **Proposed resolution was not made as it was determined to be the incorrect way to support topic. Chris provided update to conference attendees during env presentations.**

3. ADA Accessibility Guidelines. Lead: Chuck Correa (Alaska).
As reported on at the 2003 meeting, the U.S. Access Board was going through the federal rulemaking process to establish new ADA Accessibility Guidelines for public rights-of-way (www.access-board.gov/news/prow-update.htm). These will have a profound effect on state DOT projects. In addition, FHWA has concerns that state DOT's will eliminate or postpone pavement rehabilitation projects because of the costs associated with the required ADA improvements. To address this concern, FHWA is proposing a program, similar to the Highway Safety program, that would allow states to prioritize and pool ADA improvements into stand alone projects. Members were encouraged to increase awareness of the Access Board action in their Departments so that DOT concerns are voiced in the rulemaking process. Members were also encouraged to review the proposed FHWA program and submit comments to Chuck Correa, to be forwarded to the SOC Chairperson and on to FHWA. **No comments were received or forwarded.**

4. Attracting and Recruiting Young People to Construction. Lead: Bud Darby (NSPE/NICET). Bud has collected information from several organizations (NY City, American Subcontractors Assoc., NSPE, AGC, PennDOT) on recruiting young engineers and technicians. He will summarize the information for the Subcommittee. In addition, Tucker Ferguson (PennDOT) will make a presentation on his department's efforts to attract young engineers and technicians. **Bud and Tucker completed assignments.**

AASHTO GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS

1. Review and Comment on Sections 600 and 700. Lead: Chuck Correa (Alaska).
AASHTO intends to publish an updated "Guide Specifications for Highway Construction" in 2006. Each member of the E&HR Section was asked to review Sections 600 (Miscellaneous Construction) and 700 (Materials Requirements) of the AASHTO Guide Spec and provide comment. Three states provided comment, and those comments are being forwarded to the Committee. **DONE.**

E&HR SECTION PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentations for the 2004 SOC Meeting. Lead: Chuck Correa (Alaska)
The E&HR Section is sponsoring the following presentations at this year's meeting.
NCHRP 25-25(04) Compendium of Environmental Practices in Construction – Marie Venner (Venner Consulting)
Environmental Commitment Compliance Best Management Practices – Jeff Lewis (FHWA)
Attracting Young People to the Construction Industry – Bud Darby (NICET)
PennDOT's Highway Technology High School Curriculum – Tucker Ferguson (PennDOT)
Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TCCC) Update – Chris Newman (FHWA)
All 4 presentations were made as mentioned above.

2. Presentations for the 2005 SOC Meeting. Lead: Chuck Correa (Alaska)
We are soliciting ideas and presenters of Environment & Human Resource topics for the 2005 Meeting in Kentucky. These have to be ready by August 1, 2005. We need to have four or five presentations, and are shooting for two environmental topics, one work zone safety topic, and one or two human resource topics. Some of our work tasks should spawn presentations. **See next years work plan.**

4. Roadways and Structures Section

1. Reviewed Section 200 and 800 of AASHTO Guide Specs and recommended changes.
2. Provided comments on Performance Based Traffic Control Specification
3. Chair/Co-chairs have kept communication going throughout the year
4. Continued communication with industry through NAPA and ACPA
5. Draft “charge” for Section to be included in Operating Guidelines. Nothing was done.
6. Developed research needs for Roadway and Structures.
7. Developed presentations for next year’s meeting.
8. Explore different methods, in lieu of Tid Bits, to exchange information with subcommittee members. Considering creating a web site to disseminate information to interested AASHTO members.

5. Research Steering Committee

Of the research projects submitted by the SOC last year, the only one to receive funding by NCHRP is a project entitled, “Effectiveness of Pavement Warranties.” It is now NCHRP project #10-68. It was awarded \$500K by SCOR last March. The first panel meeting will be in September 04 and NCHRP expects to have the contract underway by May 05.