



AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Construction

2007 Summer Meeting
Biloxi, Mississippi

FHWA ISSUES

James B. Sorenson
Senior Construction & System Preservation Engineer
Federal Highway Administration



Presentation Overview

- FHWA Stewardship and Oversight
- Other FHWA Programs & Initiatives



FHWA Stewardship and Oversight

- Major Projects
- National Review on Local Public Agency Program
- USDOT/ AASHTO/ Industry Work Groups
- Quality Assurance Stewardship Reviews
- Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule



Major Projects

- Projects that receive Federal assistance and are estimated to cost \$500 million or more
- Currently tracking 45 Major Projects in 22 states
- Almost 200 potential Major Projects in 37 states (NEPA or Planning stage)
- Project Management Plans and Annual Finance Plans required for Major Projects
- Annual Finance Plans for projects that receive Federal assistance and are estimated to cost \$100 million or more



National Review on Local Public Agency Program

- Result of FHWA Risk Assessment Survey
- Reviews started in 2006 as stewardship of 23 U.S.C § 106(g)(4) [as amended by SAFETEA-LU]
- Raised concerns to the effective administration of Federal-aid projects by local public agencies
- Scope – Multi-disciplinary FHWA team review, STA processes and procedures for LPA-administered projects
- Goal - To assist STA's to develop/ enhance comprehensive LPA programs
- Reviews completed in 7 states, 39 projects, 37 LPAs



USDOT / AASHTO / Industry Fraud Awareness and Suspension/Debarment Work Groups

- Groups did not meet in 2007
- Goals are essentially complete
- Documents available:
 - Suspension and Debarment - Frequently Asked Questions
 - A Sample Code of Ethics Guide
 - A Sample Code of Ethics Model
 - A Sample Compliance Program Guide
 - A Sample Compliance Program Model

For additional information, see:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/construction/cqit/suspensi.htm>





Quality Assurance Stewardship Reviews

- Reviews started in 2003 as routine stewardship of 23 CFR 637
- Late 2003 we received reports of fraud
- Raised concerns about use of contractor test results
- Scope – DOT implementation strategies, policy and procedures, and office records
- FY 2007 reviews in PA, NM, SC, WY



Quality Assurance Stewardship Reviews

Positive Findings

- Technician and Laboratory Qualifications
- Electronic Materials Management Systems
- Use of low permeability mixes PCC

Opportunities for Improvement

- Strengthen verification procedures
- Control contractor supplied data
- Control of sampling locations
- Biased retesting provisions

For the full report, see: www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/stewardship.cfm



Quality Assurance Stewardship Reviews

New Guidance -

- Non-regulatory Supplement

- NS 23 637B

www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/directives/fapg/0637bsup.htm

- Questions and Answers

www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/materials/qanda637.cfm



Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule

An Update -

- Compliance by October 12, 2007
- 13 States currently in full compliance
- Most other States have draft WZ policies

For assistance, contact your FHWA Division Office



Other FHWA Programs & Initiatives

- FHWA/ AASHTO/ Industry Construction Management ETG
- Construction Price Increase Issues
- Pavement Technology Programs
- Work Zone Peer-to-Peer Program
- Context Sensitive Solutions
- National Highway Specification Website
- Training Opportunities

FHWA / AASHTO / Industry Construction Management ETG

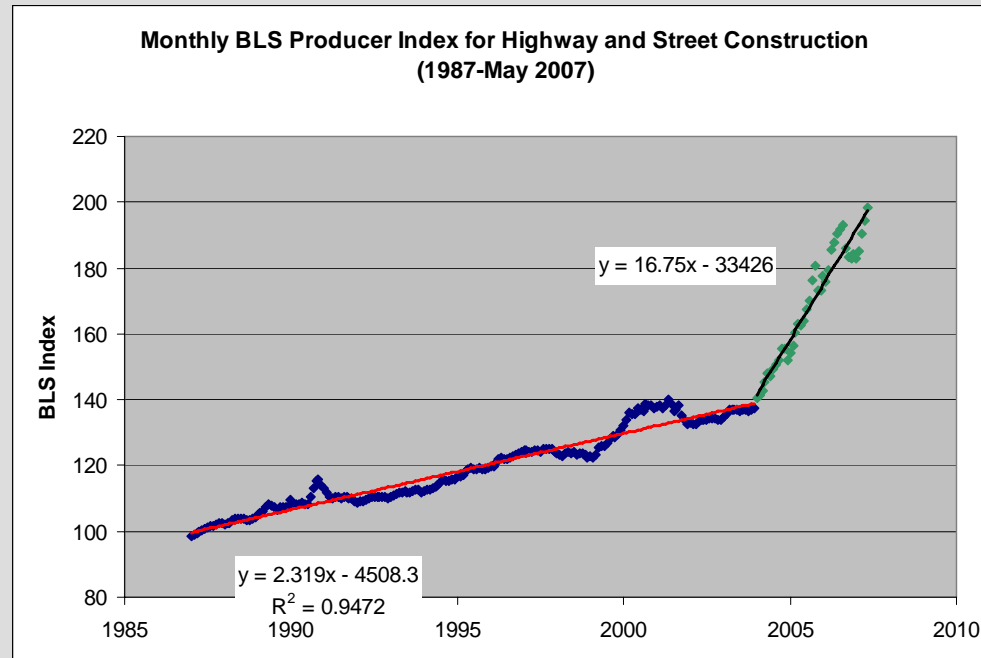
- Goal – To improve transportation construction management programs
- FHWA funding to date: \$ 465,000
- Top priorities for 2007:
 - Pilot risk management workshops in (FL, NC, TX)
 - Planning for the 2008 International Construction Management Conference

For additional information, see:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/contracts/cmetg.cfm>



Construction Price Increase Issues



- Producer Price Index for Highways and Streets continues to rise; averaged nearly 17% since 2004
- AGC / ARTBA / AASHTO / FHWA will co-sponsor a one-day workshop on price issues – September 11, 2007

For details, see: FHWA's Highway Construction Cost Increases and Competition Issues web page <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/contracts/price.cfm> 13

Concrete Pavement Technology Program

- Best practices workshops and conferences delivered to DOTs & Industry in 44 states
- Innovative testing equipment demonstrated and loaned to DOTs in 21 states
- Two years remaining in 5-year program



Precast *Prestressed* Concrete Pavements

- Innovative technology for accelerated rehabilitation, and long-life performance
- Demonstrations completed in California, Iowa, Missouri and Texas



Precast pavement for bridge approach in Iowa



Work Zone Peer-to-Peer Program

- Launched in April 2007
- Goal – Facilitate exchange of information to improve work zones and WZ safety
- Provides short-term assistance to agencies interested in improving WZ safety and mobility
- It is **FREE!**



For additional information, see: <http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/p2p/index.htm>



Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)

Recent strategic planning activities with AASHTO resulted in four AASHTO/ FHWA CSS strategic goals:

- 1) Build CSS Knowledge and Skills
- 2) Make the CSS Case
- 3) Advance Application of CSS Principles in Planning and Projects (including construction) – see the Kentucky Transportation Center report (contact keith.moore@dot.gov)
“Integrating CSS in Construction” (due Fall 2007)
“CSS State-of-Practice Survey of SHAs” (completed)
- 4) Build Leadership and Coalition



Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)

For additional information, see:

– **CSS Clearinghouse**

www.contextsensitivesolutions.org

– **FHWA CSS website**

www.fhwa.dot.gov/csd

National Highway Specifications Website



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

FHWA Home | Feedback

National Highway Specifications

Search FHWA: Go!

[FHWA](#) > [Infrastructure](#) > [Construction](#) > NHSW Home

NHSW Home

Specifications Library

Search Specifications

Discussion Forums

Links

Administrative Access

Welcome to the **National Highway Specifications** website (NHSW). This site consists of a searchable library of highway specifications from across the country. The site also features Discussion Forums to enhance communication and interaction in the development and use of various types of construction specifications.

If you have any questions or comments on the content of the National Highway Specifications Website, please contact construction@fhwa.dot.gov.

Internet

www.specs.fhwa.dot.gov



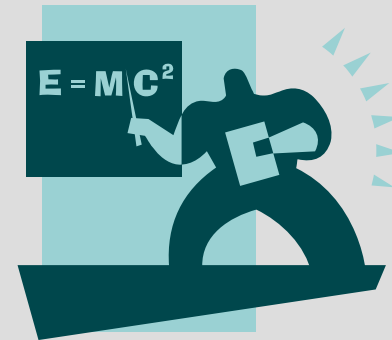
NHSW Improvements

- NHSW changes will include:
 - Updated State standard specifications
 - Improved upload procedures
 - Improved search capabilities
- Expanded content:
 - Alternative and emerging specifications
 - Construction manuals and links to standard plans
- Anticipated finish – Spring 2008



Training Opportunities

- **National Highway Institute**
 - www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov
- **Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TCCC)**
 - <http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/tccc/>



New Training Courses in 2007

- Inspection of Bridge Rehabilitation Projects
- Pavement Preservation: Preventive Maintenance Treatments, Timing, and Selection
- Risk-based Cost Estimating for Major Projects (scheduled to be available in FY 2008)
- Environmental Factors in Construction & Maintenance Operations
- Quality Assurance Technologist Course
- Inspection of Mechanically Stabilized Earth Walls and Reinforced Soil Slopes
- Partnering for Improved Project Delivery
- Alternative Contracting





Thank You

Questions?

James B. Sorenson
Senior Construction & System Preservation Engineer
Federal Highway Administration

