

The Maintenance Manager

A quarterly newsletter of the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Maintenance Volume 2, No. 3

Message from the Secretary:

As we look to FY 08 and our work activities, it is intimidating to realize all the work activities and the accomplishments the SCOM has achieved.

We have been deeply involved into introducing "Maintenance Contracting" in our highway community. To address changing technologies, the SCOM developed new MMS Guide. This Guide is based on output and outcomes to move from the 60's legacy-based MMS. The new performance based MMS will support the move to Asset Management and be more responsive to customer demands we all must address. An MMS training course was developed and made available through NHI with the guidance of the Management Systems Focus Group. The SCOM can meet these challenges

The emphasis on workforce development recognizes the wide turnover of experienced agency and contractor personnel at a time when our maintenance challenges are becoming more complex with new technologies and increased traffic and congestion.

Caltrans will be hosting our next meeting the week of July 13th in Monterey. As we did last summer, we will be partnering with other subcommittee(s). More details to follow.

- Jim

(Jim Sorenson, FHWA, is the current secretary of the SCOM)

Subcommittee Activities

Performance Measures Focus Group -

The Performance Measures Focus Group was well attended when it met in Madison at the annual AASHTO Subcommittee on Maintenance. Topics discussed included how to conduct condition assessments and developing performance measures. Both North Carolina DOT and Wisconsin DOT made presentations on their programs.

A research project submitted last year on developing a national level of service has been funded and work is beginning. The necessity of common measures and terminology between state highway agencies that will be necessary to make this research a success led to group to decide that a follow up to the 2004 MQA Peer Exchange was needed.

Additional information will be forthcoming, but currently a Maintenance Quality Assessment Peer Exchange is being planned for September 2008 in Raleigh, North Carolina. This event will be held just prior to the National Workshop on Highway Asset Inventory and Data Collection Expo being sponsored by TRB, FHWA and AASHTO.

Snow & Ice Task Force –

FHWA Holds Maintenance and Operations Decision Support System (MODSS) Stakeholder Meetings

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Road Weather Management Program held a series of stakeholder meetings in late February and early March 2007 to gather requirements for the new Maintenance and Operations Decision Support System (MODSS). The meetings, held at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, CO, are an extension to the successful winter Maintenance Decision Support System (MDSS) project. The MDSS combines state-of-the-art weather forecasting with computerized and customized winter maintenance rules of practice (i.e., snow and ice control).

The MODSS meetings were used to host two new stakeholder groups: maintenance beyond snow and ice control and traffic management. It is our expectation that introducing and integrating advanced technology into the standard operating procedures of these groups should result in new efficiencies and improve safety. For example, the effects of weather on herbicide spraying, mowing and lane striping generated a lot of discussion in

the maintenance meeting. Likewise, traveler information, incident management and signal control were extensively discussed in the traffic management meeting. Building weather-related decision support capabilities that provide guidance on when and where to execute these actions will lead to such efficiencies and improvements.

The next meeting of the MODSS stakeholders will take place in September 18th & 19th, 2007 where they will be able to review draft Concept of Operations documents for customized MODSS. Persons interested in finding out more about MODSS should contact Paul Pisano, Team Leader of the FHWA Road Weather Management Program, at Paul.Pisano@dot.gov or 202-366-1301.

TSP² Update

Utilization of the TSP² Help Desk during the second quarter of 2007 demonstrated a continued high level of interest among state highway agency (SHA) and local roadway agency practitioners. During this period, the TSP² Help Desk provided assistance and technical support on a wide range of preservation related issues, including the use of chip seals and the stabilization of drainage ditches; the use of epoxy/polymer based seals on bridge decks; life-cycle cost analysis; network evaluation tools and processes; sealers and rejuvenators; infiltration rates of various surface treatments; failed pavement mitigation measures; the M-E Pavement Design Guide; asphalt emulsions; pavement management systems; and a variety of treatment construction issues.

Several Canadian Provincial transportation ministries are actively participating in, utilizing, and/or evaluating the services offered through the program. Moreover, accelerated interest in bridge preservation issues has been noted, with plans currently underway to augment the website in the upcoming months to better address these technical issues.

States or other member agencies not currently participating in the TSP² program are encouraged to contribute by contacting Ken Kobetsky at AASHTO at 202-624-5254 or by emailing kenk@aaashto.org. To access the TSP² Help Desk or to order copies of "At the Crossroads" or any other NCPP publication, contact the NCPP at (517) 432-8220, or visit the TSP² website at <http://www.tsp2.org>

Regional Events

The Alaska DOT & PF hosted the 2007 Western Maintenance Tour last August 15-17. The itinerary included tour of highways and facilities in the Anchorage, Copper Center, Valdez and Whittier areas, in the south-central region of the State. This tour was truly multi-modal incorporating air, highway, ocean ferry, and railroad segments. Representatives from 12 WASHTO States, the FHWA, and the US Forest Service participated in the scanning tour. Topics of interest covered are the Alaska's maintenance management system, the problems dealing with permafrost, the automated anti-icing system recently installed on the 1,500-foot-long Knik River bridges and its successes, and the Whittier Tunnel computer control systems dedicated to help staff operate the tunnel in a safe and efficient manner.

Calendar of Events

- **7th National Conference on Transportation Asset Management** – November 6-8, 2007, New Orleans, LA; contact Lacy Love – NC, (919) 733-3725; David Floyd – TRB, (202) 334-2966 or Francine Shaw-Whitson – FHWA, (202) 366-8028
- **National Data Collection Expo** – September 24-26, 2008, contact Lacy Love - NC (info is still tentative, updates to follow)

In Memoriam

John H. Emerson, Bridge Engineer, NCDOT, an active member of the Bridge Task Force, passed away on August 18, 2007 at the age of 61. John served as head of the NCDOT Department of Bridge Maintenance and Design

Please e-mail any news articles you want to share with the Subcommittee to Celso Gatchalian:
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Also make sure to visit our Subcommittee website:
<http://maintenance.transportation.org/?siteid=76>