



The Maintenance Manager

A quarterly newsletter of the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Maintenance Volume 2, No. 1

Message from the Chair:

I am very excited about an effort that is underway and would like to share it with you. Under the leadership of Gary McVoy, I have been serving on a steering committee that is looking at developing a methodology for determining "best practices" from over 11,000 items contained in the compendium of environmental stewardship practices for construction and maintenance, developed from the literature, state transportation agency manuals, and contributions of state DOTs and practitioners. One focus area is looking for better ways to beat snow and ice on our highways while reducing costs and protecting our environment. As the winter wears on, this is appropriate to those in the snow belt and some of you out of the snow belt this year.

In October 2006, a team of highly experienced individuals was assembled to evaluate current salt management practices and recommend Best Management Practices (NCHRP 25-25 Task 29) for inclusion in the "Best Practices from the Environmental Stewardship Practices in Construction and Maintenance Compendium". This team gleaned best management practices for reduced salt usage from published salt management strategies by Caltrans, NYSDOT, PENNDOT, OH DOT, and Transport Canada. Individual practices were evaluated for effectiveness, implementation cost, and operational sustainability. An evaluation matrix was used to compare the various practices.

Rating individual practices rather than entire programmatic approaches allowed the group to pull out practices that were good, even if they were embedded in programs that did not overall merit "Best Practice" selection. This should be a benefit to small DOTs who might not be able to afford to implement an entire program, or even large DOTs who don't have the funding to institute a program in one full sweep, but can implement it in phases.

The work was completed in early January and will now present the results of their evaluation to the

Steering Group. The Steering Group will determine how Best Practice recommendations will be presented within the Compendium itself. We are all looking forward to having access to the results of this project. A special thanks to the following members of this outstanding team: Leland Smithson (AASHTO) Chair, Dennis Burkheimer (Iowa DOT), Mike Lashmet (NY State DOT), Lynn Bernhard (Utah DOT), Wayne Lupton (Colorado DOT), and Don Miller (Iowa DOT).

(Carlos Braceras, Deputy Director-Utah DOT, is the current Chairman of the Subcommittee on Maintenance)

Subcommittee Activities

Snow & Ice Task Force – Members of the Snow and Ice Task Force are involved in organizing and developing two winter maintenance events. The 12th Eastern Snow Expo to be held in Columbus, Ohio on August 29-30, 2007 the development of a Winter Maintenance workshop to precede the Eastern Snow Expo. The purpose of this workshop will be to exchange ideas among the 34 snow-belt states and develop research problem statements for winter maintenance operations.

The Snow and Ice Cooperative Program (SICOP) has a joint project underway with the Clear Roads Consortium to develop CBT modules for winter maintenance snow and ice control operations. The Technical Working Group for this project has representatives from state DOTs, APWA and NACE to insure the training material reflects state, municipal and county operations.

Equipment Focus Group - Erle W. Potter, P.E., CEM, Equipment Focus Group Chair and State Equipment Manager for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) was named in the November, 2006 issue of *PUBLIC WORKS'* annual Trendsetters list. This list recognizes public officials, projects, and organizations. *PUBLIC WORKS'* looks for professionals who stand out among their peers by making a national impact on the public works sector, thereby influencing the public's quality of life on a daily basis.

TSP² Update

The National Center for Pavement Preservation (NCP) reports that the Transportation System Preservation Technical Services Program (TSP²) website received over 40,000 page view "hits" during the fourth quarter of 2006. The TSP² document and treatment photo collections have thus far proven to be the most popular features of the site.

The NCP reports that a number of state and local pavement practitioners continue to utilize the TSP² Help Desk. During the last three months, the TSP² Help Desk has fielded questions on preservation treatment technologies and construction practices, preservation network strategies, and a variety of contractor issues.

Through your continued support, the TSP² continues to provide a vital resource to pavement preservation practitioners nationwide. States 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, contact the NCP at (517) 432-8220, or visit the TSP² website at <http://www.tsp2.org>.

NCHRP News

- NCHRP recently published NCHRP Synthesis 363, *Control of Invasive Species*. The synthesis reviews the current practices relevant to invasive species control and vegetation management.
- NCHRP Project 13-02, *Guidelines for Selection and Application of Warning Lights on Roadway-Operations Equipment*, is nearing completion; the final report is expected by the mid-2007. The research will produce guidelines for selection and application of warning lights to improve the conspicuity and recognizability of roadway-operations equipment used for construction, maintenance, utility work, and other similar activities.
- In September 2006, the NCHRP solicited proposals for NCHRP Project 13-03, *Decision Making for Outsourcing and Privatization of Vehicle and Equipment Fleet Maintenance*. The objective of this research is to recommend a process for making decisions on outsourcing

and privatization of vehicle and equipment fleet maintenance. This process will address the full range of decision making from outsourcing a single activity or function to privatization of entire fleet maintenance operations. A contract award for this research is expected in the spring.

For further information, contact Amir N. Hanna, ahanna@nas.edu, (202)334-1892

Moving On

- Wayne Lupton, Colorado DOT Maintenance Engineer and Snow & Ice Task Force chair, retired December 1, 2006.
- Lee Wilkinson, Iowa DOT Maintenance Engineer and Snow & Ice Task Force vice chair, was promoted to Director of Finance and Operations Division.

Calendar of Events

- **WASHTO SCOM Meeting** – March 4-7, 2007, South Lake Tahoe, NV; contact NV DOT Maint. & Operations (775) 888-7050
- **Performance Maintenance Peer Exchange & Seminar** – March 19-21, 2007, San Antonio, TX; contact Jim Carney – MoDOT (573)751-8648, jim.carney@modot.mo.gov or Jennifer Brandenburg – NCDOT, (919)733-3725, jbrandenburg@dot.state.nc.us
- **National Bridge Preservation Workshop** – April 17-18, 2007, St. Louis, MO; contact Wade Casey, FHWA (202)366-4606
- **AASHTO Subcommittee on Maintenance Meeting** – July 15-19, 2007, Madison, Wisconsin; contact Cathy Meinholz – WisDOT (608) 266-3466, e-mail website:<http://www.dot.state.wi.us/news/events/scom.htm>
- **12th Eastern Snow Expo** – August 29-30, 2007, Columbus, OH; more info to follow

Please e-mail any news articles you want to share with the Subcommittee to Celso Gatchalian: celso.gatchalian@dot.gov

Also make sure to visit our Subcommittee website: <http://maintenance.transportation.org/?siteid=76>