



Executive Committee Conference Call (11/17/04)

Jim Grove, Center for PCC Pavement Technology

TPF-5(066) Material and Construction Optimization for Prevention of Premature Pavement Distress in PCC Pavements

Purpose of Project: To develop optimal mix design and test methods for monitoring Key performance parameters and conduct demonstration tests in participating states.
<http://www.ctre.iastate.edu/pccpoolfund/>

Present:

Tom Cackler
Dan DeGraaf
Fred Faridazar
Max Grogg
Doug Schwartz
Jerry Voigt
George Woolstrum

Absent:

Jim Grove
Todd Hanson
Sandra Larson
John Volker

All calls will use the same call-in number and access code:

Call in number: 866-809-4014 Access Code: 294 8100

Next call date: December 8, 2004 at 8:30 AM.

Tech Transfer Discussion:

At the October meeting, the project team asked the executive committee to help formulate a plan for the tech transfer portion of the MCO project. One of the areas of discussion centered on the need for national buy in by established national groups. Upper management will need to be sold on the benefits of the testing before the testing becomes mainstream. And in order to sell the whole package, the project committee needs to develop a clear picture for the decision makers as to the background on the tests, the level of accuracy and/or limitations of the test results, the actual testing procedures, and most importantly, what are the savings. The committee discussed the need to consider whether the testing is designed as a quality control initiative or for acceptance. Before new test procedures will be considered for penalty and payment, contractors and agencies will need to have a great deal of information, including a discussion on risk and liability. A success story showing how the implementation of these tests resulted in cost savings through increased pavement service life will be necessary in order to persuade the contractors and agencies to invest in redesigning procedures or additional testing. The need for a national champion was noted. The committee indicated that “testing just for the sake of testing will not cut it; we need clear, concise reasoning and results to persuade upper management to buy in before we even get to train the technicians”. The following were discussed as possible means for disseminating the information to decision makers:

- National workshop – a chance for greater discussion and consensus, however costly and DOTs have limited travel budgets
- State workshops, perhaps in connection with ACPA state chapter meetings
- QC/QA plan

Some other areas of discussion for tech transfer were:

- Summarize Data:

The test procedures need to be written up in a clear, concise format beginning with the relevance of the testing, justification for the new procedures, limitations of the testing, etc – the what and why.

- Training:
 - Hands-on training: Many of the tests will not be successful unless the technicians have hands-on training. However, many test procedures require experience for reliable, accurate results. Some type of visualization will be needed in order to insure good repeatable results. The point was made that training is on-going; tests will continue to evolve and there needs to be a plan to accommodate future training.
 - Video: A video showing the tests could be an excellent tool when combined with a manual to clarify technique, although the cost of producing a quality video may make it prohibitive
 - CD & Interactive webpage: This may be more feasible than a video. It should be noted, a professional level video or CD will be costly and time consuming.
 - Technical assistance: Some type of on-call technical assistance and support may need to be available for questions and continued training
- Mobile Lab Second Visit:

A second round of visits by the mobile lab would have several benefits. It would give the project team a chance to demonstrate the final suite of tests and involve field personnel in hands-on training. Funding for a second round of site visits is not included in the present budget.
- National presentations:

TRB, AASHTO subcommittee meetings, national conferences such as the International workshop on Whitetopping April 12-15 in Denver, International Society on Concrete Pavements, August in Colorado, others