



Executive Committee Conference Call (9/17/03)

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
Max Grogg
Jim Grove
Dale Harrington
Sandra Larson
John Volker
George Woolstrum

Absent:

Todd Hanson
Doug Schwartz
Marcia Simon
Jerry Voigt

Sandra indicated that at a recent meeting for the Research Advisory Council for Region 3, when the 10 states present shared some of their projects, she mentioned this pooled fund study. Many of the state representatives were very interested in how sharing between state, industry and federal money is accomplished. It appears this is a unique project, with high interest from other states. The general consensus was this type of joint project is very attractive and should be pursued for more research.

Tom Cackler mentioned that at the upcoming MC² conference, this project will be discussed and other subjects that lend themselves well to pooled fund studies, (i.e., ternary mixes, slag-cement durability, and surface characteristics of concrete pavements) will be brought up for review.

Agenda:

1. **Minutes** from the August 19th meeting were approved.
2. **Status report**

Administrative Procedures Plan

The procedures guide will be part of the packet of material given to the TAC at the October meeting. If anyone on the executive committee has any suggestions, send them to Tom Cackler before October 1st.

Survey

Jim has heard back from all but 5 states. The survey is key for setting up state visits, and Jim will begin setting up visits for the states that have responded. Demo projects & working on procuring the trailer have been the priority this past month. Jim is planning to make five state visits before the October TAC meeting.

Suite of tests

Scott has been looking at demo projects and the scope has changed a little from first envisioned. He is looking at the procedure for gathering information not necessarily just interested in the data on the project. Since there are no appropriate projects near Ames, this is taking longer than we'd hoped. On one project he got samples of cement and fly ash for every day of construction, and evaluations are being done on material variation. Frequency of testing is being discussed for future projects. More concrete samples from another project are being gathered this week; a project near Eddyville in a month will hopefully fill in the blanks. This will give us a good trial run with various tests which will help determine what is needed in the mobile lab. Let Jim know if there are particular tests that you can see are needed for this mobile lab.

Practices Manual

The tech transfer task of this project was submitted as part of the federal appropriation packet; the packet has been approved and the project is moving ahead. Dale Harrington will be heading up the effort, with a goal of having a manual in 14 months. The MCO manual committee has met and developed an outline, which was sent out to the MCO executive committee just prior to the conference call (a copy is attached). Instead of a guideline like the airport manual, it was decided this manual will focus on material and construction optimizations. It will be integrated material, on why it is important, what can go wrong, what can be done with testing, what are some common tests, etc. The manual will incorporate a suite of tests. A request for proposals is being worked on this month for technical editors with good background in materials and construction or a consortium of several experts writing the material and a technical editor that can tie the materials and construction sequence together. The RFP deadline will be December with decisions made by January for immediate work. There will be a technical advisory sub-committee (TASC) to review the technical material; the overall technical advisory committee for this manual will be the MCO executive committee.

Mobile Lab

Jim Grove and Karm Kellogg went out to Turner Fairbanks to look at a FHWA surplus tractor/trailer. The trailer is not really suitable — it has extendable sides for a classroom that are not workable for retrofitting into lab space. Tom and Jim have visited Featherlite to investigate a fifth-wheel type trailer, suitable for towing by a 1-ton truck. A meeting is being scheduled with Lief Wathne, FHWA, Greg Barger, Ash Grove, and Scott, Jim, and Tom to determine exactly what is needed in a trailer. This trailer will then be custom built for the lab, likely about 32 feet long with stabilizers and levelers. Featherlite custom makes trailers for nearly all of the NASCAR teams and has an excellent reputation for trailers that are well built, suitable for extensive travel. This winter's challenge will be to get this lab outfitted and running by early spring. Gordon and ICPA have agreed to be the banker for industry funding. Industry has been very supportive and thanks to their financial support we will move forward with this trailer.

3. MCO TAC meeting – October 14, 2003

The October 14th TAC meeting information has been sent out, register with Sharon Prochnow as soon as possible (prochnow@iastate.edu). The MC² conference will feature a Task 15 input session on October 15, with the state discussions following on October 16 in the morning. October 16 afternoon is an optional special workshop being organized by Ted Ferragut.