



Midwest Bridge Preservation Partnership

Agenda – Monthly Teleconference

Tuesday July 7th, 2020

1:00 – 2:00 PM CST

• **Roll Call –**

Name	Organization		Name	Organization	
Darlene Lane	NCPP	X	Javier Romero	Cook County, IL	
Ed Welch	NCPP	X	Adam Post	Indiana DOT	X
John Hooks	NCPP	X	Scott Neubauer	Iowa DOT	
Chris Keegan	NCPP	X	Joe Stanisiz	Iowa DOT	X
Bill Oliva (<i>Chair</i>)	Wisconsin DOT	X	Don Whisler	Kansas DOT	
Sarah Sondag (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Minnesota DOT	X	John Culbertson	Kansas DOT	
James Leaden (<i>Secretary</i>)	Kansas DOT	X	Joe Molinaro	Missouri DOT	
Jeremy Hunter (<i>Past Chair</i>)	Indiana DOT		Jacob Creisher	Michigan DOT	
Sarah Wilson (<i>Director</i>)	Illinois DOT	X	Jason DeRuyver	Michigan DOT	X
Josh Rogers (<i>Director</i>)	Kentucky TC		Paul Pilarski	Minnesota DOT	
Glenn Washer (<i>Director</i>)	U of Missouri	X	Kent Miller	Nebraska DOT	X
Patrick Conner (<i>Director</i>)	Indiana LTAP	X	Mark Traynowicz	Nebraska DOT	
Nick Graziani (<i>Director</i>)	Watson Bowman	X	Nancy Huether	North Dakota DOT	X
Tom Donnelly (<i>Vice Chair Non-State Agency</i>)	Transpo	X	Barry Kinnischtzke	North Dakota DOT	X
John Bunderson (<i>Social Media WG</i>)	Metal Fatigue Solutions		Mike Brokaw	Ohio DOT	
Scott Stotlemeyer (<i>Systematic Preventive Maintenance WG</i>)	FHWA	X	Andrew Blower	Ohio DOT	
Brandon Boatman (<i>Preservation Matrix WG</i>)	Michigan DOT		Walt Peters	Oklahoma DOT	X
Fouad Jaber (<i>Deterioration Modeling WG</i>)	Nebraska DOT		Todd Thompson	South Dakota DOT	X
Tim Anderson (<i>Director</i>)	FHWA	X	David Coley	South Dakota DOT	X
Larry O'Donnell	FHWA		Richard Marz	Wisconsin DOT	
Raj Ailaney	FHWA	X	Tim Woolery	Adv. Chem. Tech. Inc.	X
Dick Dunne	GPI	X	Lorella Angelini	Angelini Consulting	X
David Heilman	Jet Filter System		Pat Martens	Bridge Preservation and Inspection Svcs.	X
Greg Heilman	Jet Filter System		Travis Kinney		X
Mike Vandamme		X	Paul Jensen	Jensen Engr & Cnslt	X
			Dave Juntunen	Kercher Group	X
Derrick Castle	Sherwin Williams Co.	X	Drew Storey	Kercher Group	X
Michael Hill			Kyle Bartfay	Phoscrete Concretes	X
Jerry Goodman		X	Mike Stroia		X
Ken Kajikawa		X	Brian Mintz	Phoscrete Concretes	X
Matthew Keilson		X	David Brodowski	True Tech	X
Kevin Stumpf	Uretek U.S.A.		Kristian Leier		X
Richard Huza		X	Allen Scarborough		X
Tim Woll		X	Diana Hellman	Fuji Film	X

- **Approval of Minutes – June 2nd, 2020 Monthly Meeting**

Drew Story made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 2nd, 2020 teleconference. Jason DeRuyver seconded it. There was no opposition. The minutes were approved.

- **2020 MWBPP Annual Meeting (TBD) – September 2020** John Hooks -
 - *Discussion from the DOTs on what they know and expect for Out of State Travel in 2020*
 - *Concepts of virtual Annual Meeting*

John Hooks started off by taking control of the screen. He continued by showing a recap of the new schedule for **2021**. There are tentative dates for 3 of the 4 meetings (the NEBPP meeting has no date, but it should be in early to mid-October in 2021). These are tentative because the contracts have not been signed (waiting on the hotels).

So, what will be done in the meantime? There was discussion during the MWBPP Agenda planning call, on June 17th, about setting up a sequence of virtual meetings. This included providing content for regional Monthly Calls (technical presentations), along with longer Webinars (4 to 5) that would run 90 to 120 minutes on topics yet to be determined. Another idea that was derived from the other regional partnerships was having virtual Panel Sessions on topics that would be current topics or critical interest topics (these could be regional or national allowing anyone in the country to login and participate).

So, John is requesting topics for these various virtual events. He sent out a list of topics generated from the 2020 regional partnership agendas. He showed that list to the group. He requested that participants look through the topics from the other regions that could be considered for the longer Webinars. This was sent out to all 4 regions, with responses trickling in. He's looking for a consensus on topics that generate the most interest. The topics could include ideas from this list or not (really, we want anything that would drive interest). For example, the NEBPP is having a Panel Session on dealing with budget shortfalls. Maybe a topic could be how DOTs are dealing with the pandemic's impact to operations.

John wants to have something put together before he sends it out to the 4 regions to get reactions. The TSP2 Pavement Groups are going to be doing the same thing with their audiences with hopes to start these in early August. Bill O. noted that this list was sent to the MWBPP planning committee, but could it be sent out to the general partnership as well? John said he could send it out. He would like as much input as he could get. Maybe not a consensus, but he would like to generate some type of schedule. Bill O. asked the members on this call if they had any input to share right now. Crickets...

John Hooks said he would send out an email with the list he presented on this call. Bill O. asked if John wanted input relating to what topics would be good for the different formats (a technical topic for a Monthly Call, a topic for a longer Webinar (regionally or nationally), or a topic for a Panel Session)? John said yes, that is exactly what he wants. He would like to have individual topics that would generate interest, and if makes sense to group a few topics together, that would be fine as well.

Sarah Wilson from ILLDOT said she was on a virtual meeting where there was a way to have the participants interact with the presenter. She thought that might drive better dialogue for certain presentation formats. John H. said he could look into that. Brian Mintz agreed with Sarah noting that keeping participants attention for 90 to 120 minutes and maintaining their attention is critical to having a quality and successful virtual event.

Bill O. noted that John H. will send out that list and he encouraged members to provide input on what topics would be proper for the upcoming different virtual event formats.

- **MWBPP Deterioration Modeling Working Group (Bill Oliva)**

- *Reoccurring monthly meeting Set up – Third Friday of each month at 9:00 AM CST Next is Friday July 17th.*

The Working Group met with the researcher a few weeks ago to talk about the approach for utilizing the data, and modeling. Ethan from WisDOT Research is balloting the DOTs on information sharing. To make sure that you see the information, and to ask questions about sharing with other DOTs, FHWA, or other agencies. Once results are tallied, they will be discussed on the next conference call, which is scheduled for July 17th, 2020. Overall, the project is progressing pretty well.

- **Monthly Preservation Conversations**

- **Brian Mintz** - *Discussion regarding this obstacle faced by industry due to the Covid. We need to figure out how best Industry and Agencies can work together for mutual benefit.*



TSP2 Industry
Challenges and 7 Pos:

Brian took control of the screen to begin his presentation. He encouraged other participants on the call to turn on their cameras (so others could see their image on this call) to help us “stay connected”.

Brian started off mentioning how he talked with the Partnerships in the 3 other regions. Generating discussion on the challenges and solutions regarding the obstacles faced by Industry. He presented what he found in the attached presentation and would later open it up for discussion with MWBPP members on the call. From Industry’s perspective, to be able to communicate with their customers is becoming more and more difficult and it impacts their sales efforts. The question is “how do we bridge the social distance so that Agencies and Industry can continue to work together for mutual benefits”.

He showed a little timeline of effects of the pandemic. From the beginning people were hunkered down in their homes. Work was restricted to only emergencies. There was no traffic on the roads (a perfect opportunity to do infrastructure work). The DOTs were frozen trying to figure out what to do and how to fund it. There were travel bans. Conferences were cancelled. Industry was concerned because there were no orders in April or May. Industry however is lucky to be an essential business. The pandemic has limited communication between colleagues because of socially distanced work spaces, masks, PPE, the use of cameras (or in some cases the lack of using cameras), Zoom meetings from home (along with distractions we aren’t used to), etc. Communication between partners has strained.

He continued, by noting that the government finally released the infrastructure spending package. So work is continuing. Industry is finding that their main business is coming from customers already familiar with the products, which generates reorders, but restrictions caused by the pandemic are preventing products from being introduced to new customers. Also, installation support is difficult now with travel restrictions, and virus hot spots coming and going in various locations. In the long term, things will change and open up, but there are no guarantees on when. When will schools reopen? What’s the risk of a second wave? Working from home is showing it can be productive for the Agencies. But without the ability to meet customers and prospects face to face and build relationships, Industry Partners are finding it more difficult to weather this pandemic. They are not sure when travel will resume, where they are welcome, or not welcome, and how or when the meetings and conferences will resume. In the meantime, they are keeping communication going by using virtual meetings.

In summary, obstacles faced by Industry are: The inability to meet face to face; Limited ability to provide on-site installation support; Calls to office numbers go unanswered, or are redirected to other numbers, or go to unchecked voicemails; Sales tend to be reorders, not new orders, because owners tend to buy what they know when Industry sales calls are being limited by this pandemic.

Brian noted that the Mission of the TSP2 bridge preservation partnerships is to keep bridges in good condition and extend their lives. The way we do that is by learning from each other and sharing our best practices. If everything was working perfectly, there wouldn't be a need for the organization. So, there is a need for us to talk, share knowledge, and share best practices with Industry amongst the Agencies.

Brian then went through the 7 possible solutions that he compiled from Agency and Industry input.

1. Invite more staff to monthly calls.
2. Encourage maintenance supervisors to communicate with vendors every week. Promote vendors as “their friend with something valuable to share”. Vendors are there to work with them and provide solutions. Vendors would rather hear “that’s not a good fit” than “Crickets”.
3. Encourage maintenance crews to engage with suppliers for best practices and product training (there are a lot of presentations out there). Invite crews and contractors to participate on webinars and training sessions. Consider TSP2 sponsored webinars intended for field personnel (for instance it wouldn't be a phoscrete sponsored webinar, it would be a TSP2 sponsored webinar showing best practices and product training of the phoscrete materials).
4. Use video calls for installation support when a person cannot make it to the site.
5. Create open-air ventilated areas for safety.
6. If there is interest in a specific product, use that product in a project to give yourself a chance to evaluate its performance (similar to the ITD Working Group that Brian Mintz chairs).
7. Reach out to Industry for engineering support. There is a lot of former Agency talent working for Industry now. Agencies can leverage that talent where there are furloughs or reduced budgets where projects need to be kept going forward.

Brian discussed other ideas that came out of the SEBPP June monthly teleconference:

Ed Welch suggested promoting case studies with industry and owners during monthly teleconference calls for the 4 Partnerships.

Graham Bettis of TxDOT said if you're not reaching who you need, call me first (call the preservation manager) to establish contact with the maintenance personnel you will eventually work with.

Jeff Pouliotte of FlaDOT suggested that we take the presentations we do 'live' on these calls and put them on the website with contact information driving people to the TSP2 website so they can review past webinars.

Jeff also suggested putting together good technical packages that managers can pass along to colleagues.

Mike Hill of Arkansas DOT pushed the idea of panel discussions to increase interaction and involvement of all participants.

Bill O. chimed in, limiting Brian's presentation at this point because of time constraints, and to start some feedback from MWBPP Members on this call. So, Brian opened the floor for suggestions and feedback. Lorella Angelini noticed a correction that needed to be made involving “QPL/APL managers of product categories engaged in bridge preservation”. Brian made the correction to his presentation on the spot.

Bill O. asked MWBPP Members to reach out to Brian Mintz with suggestions after this conference call. Those could be added to these minutes when they come in. No additional items were sent to me.

- **Travis Kinney, Major Bridge Maintenance Engineer, Oregon DOT** - *Discussion on the National Local Agency Outreach Working Group*

Travis started out by taking control of the screen to show a few slides. He is the Co-Chair of the National Local Agency Outreach Working Group. The WG is gaining traction, and this is just an update for the Group. He started off by showing a poster that was being developed for the Working Group. It is being advertised at the National LTAP conference that will highlight the partnership itself and as an introduction to preservation training. Its intended to give a background of the ‘hows’ and ‘whys’ to a variety of preservation treatments along with contact information for the Partnership. There is also a flyer for the Group developed which highlights a little more detail of what the group is doing and what training is available, as well as contact information for the Partnership. It is being distributed to the LTAPs and is being received well. A lot of Agencies are taking them up on the training opportunities (free training at that). Agencies suffering from low productivity because of the pandemic can take advantage of some of this free education.

In addition to the LTAP training efforts, Travis also wanted to share what’s been going on with their efforts with the BPETG – there is a case study dealing with funding mechanisms and asset management plans and how they are being used to encourage preservation activities at the local level. They are dealing with State and Federal Funds. The trend is that the majority goes to Replacements and Rehabs because the selection process is based on “worst first”. The preservation world knows this is the last thing you want to do. If money is scarce, you have to focus on maintaining what you have. They noticed the difficulties local agencies have when it comes to encouraging preservation when setting up Asset Management Plans. This case study will give an in-depth look into 5-6 local agencies and find some shining examples of agencies that understand the benefits of having preservation atop the list of their Asset Management Plan. They also think it’s worthwhile to maybe have an Agency in the Case Study that doesn’t have a preservation process because barriers prevent it from happening. An Agency that Rehabs, and Replaces because that’s how they do it, “worst first”. That would be a good contrast in the Case Study so others can learn from those mistakes. Travis said to expect a short survey intended for the local agencies. They asked their partners in the LTAPs to help distribute it along with the State Agencies. They want to spot these Local Agencies that can be put on a pedestal as a shining example to show that preservation is an important part of a good Asset Management Plan.

- **Monthly Preservation Topic:**

- **Diana Hellman** - *Fuji Films (one of our newest industry members) provided a briefing to the WBPP on the software they are developing that is designed to use artificial intelligence (AI) to detect cracks in concrete from photographs. They also use AI to stitch together images to make a large image of a pier or column or other concrete component including decks.*



FujiFilm AI Photo
Crack Detection.pdf

This topic was moved to the August 2020 MWBPP teleconference.

- **All - Bridge preservation actives during covid-19, Round robin style, each state attendee shares issues/best practices/impacts.**

Bill Oliva asked in this new Normal with DOTs dealing with Covid-19 what are the DOTs experiencing now? Are any of the DOTs moving back into the office? Crickets... (not an affirmative feeling here). Bill noted that the WisDOT has a phased approach to go back into the office. He believes it will be at least a couple more months before people can go back to the office.

Sarah Wilson IllDOT said the central office in Springfield, and a couple of the Districts has a committee that was formed, and the committee is “reviewing options”. She doesn’t know what that means.

Nancy Huether added that the production staff of the DOT is generally not back. Managers started going back this week, but it is unclear when, or if, the rest of staff will go back to the office. They are talking about long-long-long-term teleworking from the staff. Although things seem to change daily.

Bill Oliva noted that WisDOT had big challenges with the Skype platform, and has had more stability with Microsoft Teams. He asked if any members have had good success with the meeting software that they use? Is there anything that works especially good like Zoom, etc.?

Brian Mintz responded that they have been using Microsoft Teams now internally for the last 2 years. He says it is awesome. Internally it is very effective. It has eliminated 90% of emails inside the company because it is easier to do the virtual meeting than email. External of the company it is not used much.

Kent Miller NebDOT added that they are requiring the bridge people to come into the office one day a week (looking to increase that). And that they use Webx for their communication software.

Nancy Huether NDDOT added that they use Microsoft Teams. It has helped a lot with meetings and sharing information. They just recently got rid of Skype totally. Bill O. added that he thinks WisDOT is on that track.

Jim Leaden KsDOT (me) added that KDOT has recently gotten rid of Skype and is using Microsoft Teams. They have limited people in the office (90% are working from home), which looks like a trend for the long term.

Joe Stanisz IaDOT stated that they started using Microsoft Teams at the beginning of the pandemic. They have had good success with it. He added that managers are coming back this week, and some of the rest of them will be going back over the next 3-4 weeks. Teleworking has changed their processes quite a bit. He foresees that there will be more options to employees in the future if they wish to choose this workstyle.

- **Other New Business**
 - *Monthly Preservation Topics for August - volunteers*

Diana Hellman's Fuji Films presentation will be carried over as a centerpiece to the August 2020 MWBPP teleconference.

John Hooks will be sending out a spreadsheet looking for people's opinions for the virtual presentations (topics and the different types of formats that can be used to present them).

- **Next Monthly Meeting**
 - **August 4th, 2020**

Meeting Adjourned

Bill Oliva thanked everyone for attending. The meeting adjourned at 1:59 PM CDT. Everyone exited the teleconference. Crickets...