

NEBPP Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2020

1. **Roll Call: Darlene Lane, Aslam Siddiqui, Ben Foster, David Heilman, Ed Welch, Gerald Oliveto, Jennifer Hawkins, Rich Van Allen, John Hooks, Chris Keegan, Scott Snyder, Seth Burgess, Michael Stenko, Pat Martens, Rod Thornton, Tripp Shenton**
2. **Motion to Approve Previous Teleconference Minutes** May meeting minutes approved.
3. **Update on October 2020 Regional Meeting:**
 - John Hooks provided update in regards to continuation of the planning for all partnership meetings due to COVID related restrictions for travel and large groups
 - The potential exists for virtual meetings throughout the remainder of the year to continue distribution of information and networking
 - Four or Five webinars that are devoted to topics that would be at a national interest (90-120min), to be selected by all four of the regions
 - Harrisburg Hilton October 5-7, 2020. *Reviewing potential of cancelation.*
 - John Hooks' provided update on presentation agenda. *Currently have 30 potential presentations*
 - Ed informed that industry will be included in the decision that would provide recommendations on how they would prefer to conduct virtual presentations and demonstrations
 - Scott Snyder inquired if meeting is cancelled, will Partnership look to keep the 2021 conference in Harrisburg, PA. John Hooks informed that keeping location would be ideal considering contracts may be able to be revised with current venues
 - Conversations continued in regards to potential speakers and utilizing the current list of presentations but will require a prioritizing of topics to coincide with other regions
4. **General Discussion:**
 - **Policies/Procedures for Repairing Impact Damages to Bridges**
 - Information normally gathered
 - Repair methodologies
 - Reference materials used for design
 - Repairs done by advertisement, open-end contractor, or state forces
 - Does any state have a sacrificial beam to protect low clearance bridges?
 - Are policies/procedures in place for getting reimbursement for damage?
 - Reports or policies you would be willing to share

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Highlights of Discussion:

- Keegan – Some bridges provide overhead clearance pre-warning
- Foster – Covered bridges typically provide prewarning
- Welch – Redesigns on trouble bridges usually occur during
- Burgess – CT utilizes pre-warning signs/notifications and try to address inadequacies during rehabs/replacements
- Thornton – Specific bridges have signs but cost to modify or replace cost is too high so looking into proactive techniques to inform public
- Burgess – informed that CT utilizes “D” numbers to tie any associated costs for bridge hits which is tracked. If damage is minimal, inhouse maintained forces may address but if beam is beyond repair, the repair is sent through design to our Construction Department for oversight on repair
- Thornton – Informed MD has bridges that are frequently hit (trouble locations) that go through repair cycles
- Snyder informed that he would share PA’s procedures
- Foster – Maine encounters many occasions where truckers cause impacts. Maine implemented a program with State Police to try to spread word about these occurrences. Maine DOT gets notified of hit, inspector is sent out to determine evaluation of structure, insurance costs are tracked as well. Maine bills insurances based on estimates. Maine decided that after a bridge is hit, lidar is utilized to document actual distortion for credibility and liability.
- Foster – Maine has conducted some heat straightening on a couple structures but specialist recently retired
- Thornton – Are there any civil penalties assessed against the company when negligence occurs? Informed MD has enacted laws to the company not their insurance
- Snyder – PA has a reimbursement procedure that is utilized to track costs for the risk management division that is utilized against insurance companies
- Shenton informed that a case study was conducted on bridge hits which Dick Dunne has compiled results from. Approx. a 12-page case study (draft) that compiles information from the study with State responses.
- Foster will send out once ready for distribution hopefully by next call
- Thornton – Has there been any technology being used to notify truckers that low clearances are ahead?
- Foster – Maine informed that there are some systems that begin flashing when over height vehicles approach low clearances
- Snyder – PA might have in some locations an IT solution that assists with pre-notifications
- Tripp – Problem statements for NCHRP – has project to kick off next year for mitigation strategies
- Burgess – Informed he had heard within CT that a partnership was being utilized with Google to assist drivers using GPS of low clearances
- Thornton inquired about how States address different materials (steel vs concrete).
- Snyder informed PA has had both impacts and repaired both steel and concrete

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- Van Allen – added that prestressed concrete the State of Texas provided a great presentation during the last National conference due to impacts
- Snyder – PA does have ITS prewarning system in Pittsburg for a specific tunnels that would be able to share
- Thornton summaries that pre-warnings seem prevalent but prior protections is not as widespread. Repairs seem to be similar based on available budgets

5. Treasury:

- Current treasury balance (\$75,819.09). *Ed reported that large treasury could be helpful should states have budgetary issues.*

6. Volunteer Contributions (Last months):

- Update (NOTE ***States may find it difficult to pay next year's contribution because of pending budget issues. ***) *Reminder to be sent out as needed*

7. TSP2 Website Development:

- Discuss the request to provide updates to the TSP2 website regarding any recent work development within the Work Groups so as to provide accurate information for everyone using the website. *Seth provided report. Need to add local agency representative. Need to update working groups.*
- Ed will continue working on revisions to the website.

8. Local Agency Involvement: Discussion Items

- Virtual 2020 NEBPP conference may make local agency involvement more feasible
- Partnership has agreed to cover up to 10 local agency registration costs.

9. Attendance of the MaC & the Other Partnerships:

- Scott Snyder, Ben Foster, and Eric Belanger have volunteered to attend the MaC. *Scott Snyder, Ben Foster cannot attend with current travel ban in their states. Status of MAC uncertain at this point.*
- Upcoming Events:
 - All regional meetings are currently being discussed due to travel restrictions
 - AASHTO SCOBS *Virtual meeting week of 6/1.*

10. Other Business & List of Action items:

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Possible Future Conference Call Topics

- Discuss the revisions to the standards for the NBIS (Scheduled for July's Call)
- What evaluation process do States use to determine which decks to selected for replacement?
- Policies/procedures for repairing impact damage to bridges.
- Share experiences with the usage of Unmanned Aircraft Systems for inspection.
- Any topic you would like to present?

11. Working Group Report Outs:

- Status or progress made? ***No updates.***

12. Research:

- Any more discussion on possible research projects in conjunction with all four partnerships? ***Tripp indicated the four partnerships' Research Directors have been discussing potential combined research topics and hopes to have a report for us by next month's meeting.***
- Tripp updated four academic directors have gotten together and would like to report out at next meeting to provide enough time to cover
- Any other research to report on? ***No updates.***

13. Training:

- Update on Local Agencies training. ***No updates.***

Schedule Next Meeting & Adjourn:

- Next Planning Meeting conference call is scheduled for **July 6, 2020 at 2 PM**
- Next monthly conference call meeting scheduled on **July 7, 2020 at 10 AM**