



NEBPP Conference Call Minutes

January 4, 2022

1. Roll Call: Darlene Lane, John Hooks, Sal Morello, Ed Welch, Robert Pavia, Nancy Huether, Richard Huza, Jennifer Hawkins, Bouzid Choubane, Mike Stenko, Paul Schwartz, David Hiscox, Steve Richter, Barritt Lovelace, Allen Scarborough, Greg Heilman, Tripp Shenton, Tom Pechillo, Tim Boodey, Rod Thornton, Lorella Angelini, Scott Snyder, Andy Castillo, Seth Burgess, Ben Foster

2. Motion to Approve Previous Teleconference Minutes:

- Minutes were approved unanimously

3. COVID Vaccination Requirements

- Maine
 - Not Implemented yet however significant concerns about impacts particularly about maintenance in the southern portion
 - Specific concerns about plowing. Union rule puts 15-hour limit with 8 hours off however with less people it will be more difficult.
 - Some camps have had COVID and had to shut down completely
 - Changed some things to one person per vehicle to reduce spread of COVID to everyone, cannot repair one bridge due to this policy
- Massachusetts
 - In effect vaccination requirement
 - Lost about 7% of staff including key staff
- Connecticut
 - Show proof of vaccination or weekly testing
 - September beyond hires need to be vaccinated
 - Issues returning to work because of quarantine - can't get tested because unavailable.
 - Staff availability is the greatest concern
- Delaware
 - Similar to ConnDOT
 - Week wait for testing but most have complied
 - Lots of missing staff however they are managing - again snow plowing is the biggest issue
 - Telecommuting for January
- Maryland
 - Requirement for all state employees to wear masks in public spaces in office buildings
 - No vaccination requirements
 - Contactor issues with getting people (outsource maintenance activities to contractors)
 - More funding issues than anything - needed to scale back state spending and more federal aid
 - Teleworking across the state
- New York State
 - Vaccinate or test
 - Employee health services contractor mails test instead of going to test sites



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- Hard time recruiting staff - down 10% of staff - not directly to COVID, payscale issue
- Pennsylvania
 - No vaccination requirements
 - Masking required
- New Hampshire
 - Not an OSHA state so no requirement
 - Treating vaccinated employees differently particularly with the close contacts
 - Providing N95 masks, about half people wear masks
 - Down 20% - vacancies
 - Volunteer plow list, likely going towards requiring anyone with CDL to plow

4. Update on Regional Meeting:

- June meeting in Harrisburg is scheduled for June 15-17.
- Agenda is being developed.
- Confirmation of speakers started and sending out draft agenda.
- Panel selection for topic of contracting work

5. Treasury:

- Current treasury balance unchanged with no expenditures due to lack of meetings and minimal research costs.
- Sending a 3rd person proposed at a cost of approximately (\$1200 - \$1800 per person)
 - Contact Ben Foster ben.foster@maine.gov if interested.
- Tom Pechillo to submit a proposal for a college scholarship.

6. Volunteer Contributions:

7. Partnership Business Topics/List of Action items:

- Any other items/issues that someone would like to discuss?

8. Working Group Report Outs:

9. Possible Future Presentations or Discussion Topics:

- Date TBD - Paul Schwartz, NYC DOT, and Gerald Oliveto, NJ DOT, - **Use of Space Under Bridge Spans**
- Issues with Performing Inspections over Amtrak
- How are States dealing with MASH requirements?
- States managing budget cuts due to COVID-19.
- Depth of Shear Key in concrete planks



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- Discuss the revisions to the standards for the NBIS.
- 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.
- Discuss the new FHWA Interim Final Rule for Indefinite Delivery and Indefinite Quantity contraction for Federal-Aid Construction
- Stimulus Funding – May Discussion
- Inspection hands-on and other policies – April Discussion
- Brian Mintz talk about ITD – Regional Meeting or July Discussion

10. Next Meetings Presentation or Discussion:

- Policies and Practices on bridge attachments, murals, flower baskets, etc.

Next Meeting & Adjourn:

- Next Planning Meeting conference call is tentatively scheduled for **Monday, February 7th at 2:00 PM.**
- Next monthly conference call is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, February 1 at 10:00 AM.**