



NEBPP Conference Call Minutes

January 3, 2023

1. Roll Call

Al Kenz, Alyson Bedard (MassDOT), Aslam Siddiqui, Ben Foster (Maine DOT), Christopher Seman (TranSystems), Daniel Myers, Darlene Lane, Dave Brodowski, Greg Heilman, Gregg Freeman, Jason Arndt, Jen Hawkins, Jeremy Salvatori, Joe Navarra, Jonathan Sirianni, Karim Naji, Lindell, Kevin (DelDOT), Lorella Angelini, Lou Ruzzi, Mike Stenko, Mikhail Thomas, NAEEMUDDIN QURESHI, Nancy Huether, Rich Van Allen, Richard Dunne, Rod Thornton, Scott Snyder, Tim Boodey (NHDOT), Todd Shields (NCPP), Tom Pechillo (BL Companies), Tripp Shenton

2. Motion to Approve Previous Teleconference Minutes

- Minutes were approved unanimously for December

3. Topic: CSX Working over Railroads

New Hampshire

- CSX bought out a number of lines and it's issue for access over ROW. Issues for this particular vendor. Within ROW need railroad flagger and they haven't been providing a flagger.

Pennsylvania

- Have to hire consultant inspection firms because they cannot enter into rights of entry.
- 120 day leads ahead to get RR coordination / right of entry
- Consulting reimbursed directly and they coordinate with the railroad
- Successful consultant started at beginning of year and would schedule a full year out at once. 60 days in advance to get flagmen with constant follow up. Railroad Insurance Company, Right of Entry, and Flaggers – 3 to coordinate
- Accommodate railroads on weekends (railroad inspection contract on weekends because that's when flaggers available)
- Operations deal with schedule not even giving their own staff access for track time to do work
- CSX accepted Nationwide or other insurance; they accept if it is covered

TranSystems

- Decent response and accepted changes (revised language)
- Send previously agreed upon agreement
- Know the mileposts / speak their language
- Flagmen is bigger issue with staffing

BL Companies

- Similar experience to TranSystems with Keolis



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MaineDOT

- Flaggers through another section of the Department that has better relationship with the railroads
- Maine owns a number of their own railroads so they have better relationship and contacts.

New York

- Contract everything out

Massachusetts

- Contract a significant amount out

New Jersey (Dick Dunne)

- Utility Engineer Group deals with railroads and utilities; work through them to get permits for flagging etc.
- Provide 100% rail bridges through consultant so they must coordinate

4. Update on National/Regional Meeting:

- Regional Meeting (Chase Center, Wilmington, Delaware August 22-24, 2023)
 - o Call is 1/5/23
 - o Next up is Call for Presentations
 - o Save the Date Flyers coming out shortly
- National Meeting (Spring 2024)
 - o Call is being rescheduled due to holiday
 - o Looking in Salt Lake City & Texas

5. NCPP Update:

- Pocket Guides are available on website (11 total)
 - o Bridge Bearing App for iPhone available; Android in process
- Bridge Coatings Working Group Resuming

6. Treasury:

- Current treasury balance (**\$100,000+**).
- Potential research in cracking of decks
 - o Synthesis of existing studies / state experiences
 - o NCHRP Early Age Vulnerability of Decks; Gregg Freeman working with Group and will provide an update / overview for the NEBPP

7. Volunteer Contributions:



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8. Partnership Business Topics/List of Action items:

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

9. Working Group Report Outs:

10. 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
- 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
- Have any states tried using Federally funded contracts to perform maintenance repairs to bridges? Possible options that I know of:
 - Indefinite Delivery and Indefinite Quantity (ID/IQ) construction contracts
 - Special Experimental Projects No. 14 (SEP-14) innovative contracting to perform construction activities under a Time and Material (T&M) contract – Maryland has used recently since the pandemic occurred.
- How are states planning to use the future stimulus funding from the federal government? How will the state get local bridge owners to participate? This topic could be later in the year once more guidance is provided from FHWA.
- New Deck Cracking-EDC 7 – February
- Lane Closures and Police Protection – March
- Recruitment and Retention – April
- BIL Funding and RAYS Grant - May

Next Meeting & Adjourn:

- Next Planning Meeting conference call is tentatively scheduled for **February 6, 2023 at 2:00 PM.**
- Next Monthly Conference Call is tentatively scheduled for **February 7, 2023 at 10:00 AM.**