

NEBPP Conference Call

Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2023



1. Roll Call

Alex Tetreault, Alyson Bedard, Andrew Trela, Aslam Siddiqui, Ben Foster, Blake Liberati, Bouzid Choubane, Christopher Seman, David Hiscox, David Miller, Dick Dunne, Gensis Poz Diaz, Gerald Oliveto, Greg Heilman, James H. Flynn, Joel Veilleux, Lou Ruzzi, Michelle Armiento, Nancy Huether, Rino Vona, Ron Taylor, Scott Snyder, Tripp Shenton, Timothy Boodey, Steve Richter, Tom Pechillo, Timothy Woolery, Ruel Sabellano

2. Motion to Approve Monthly Business Meeting Minutes

Dick Dunne made motion; Ben Foster seconded the motion. Motion is unanimously passed.

3. Topic: Discussion - Use of Space Under Bridge Spans

Massachusetts: All space usage is through Access Permits which are submitted through SHAPS system to the Districts. Inspection access is difficult with those living under structures and there are procedures for Districts to request law enforcement assistance in obtaining access for inspection.

Connecticut: Do not lease underneath structures unless exception on Chief Engineer Level (often parking lots permitted – parking under viaducts). No combustible. Don't typically fence off underneath. There is a homeless policy to provide notice and humanely locate. Additional policy for emergency for fire hazard with shortened timeline.

New Hampshire: Homeless encampments noted during inspection and maintenance notified if folks need to be relocated. Depends on if encampment is restricting access to determine if relocated. One bridge with small parking area (agreement with city for lift bridge workers to park there). No widespread use under bridges (some storage under interstate bridge with crew at yard each day so well policed for type of material under bridges).

Maine: Handful of parking lots with agreements. Not many written policies for anything. Fences haven't been successful. Shipping operation under the bridge in Portland that works with DOT to provide access to foundations etc.

New Jersey: Gerald Fencing in and preventing access in last couple of years. Restrict vehicular access where it became a nuisance. Homeless policy is that they need to go through homeless advocate for county. Most time they come back and therefore fencing installed which is a deterrent. No permits for parking under bridges. Working to restrict parking under bridges moving forward. Restrict flammable bridges under. Goal is open space no parking or storage under bridges.

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Dick Historic places has parking so in design guide provided parameters. Standoff distances from piers to protect and provide space.

New York: Encampments are a significant issue in the city. These are not small operations but rather structures with rooms and electricity. Flammable materials reported through inspection program. Recent FHWA guidance – using a Critical Finding when found.

Use and occupancy permits for DOT property. Parks, city, railroads often use space adjacent to structures (heavily loaded materials near substructures). Generally there is a need to use legal to get these things moved so not impacting the substructures.

Pennsylvania: Publications available on websites with related information:

- [23 Maintenance Manual](#)
- [100A Bridge Management System 2 \(BMS2\) Coding Manual](#)
- [238 Bridge Inspection Manual](#)

Contains information on how to handle homeless encampments, monitoring and removal of combustible materials, and other provisions.

[Lehigh Study on Construction Trailer Fires Under Bridges](#)

History of homeless causing fires under bridges. ACLU lawsuit determined policy. Post a notice that area need to be vacated within two weeks. After two weeks all things removed and brought to homeless shelter then area fenced off so no encampments could return.

Noted if states are starting from scratch they need to work with ROW as they often are receiving the requests and need to pass these uses by the bridge section. Include bridge units in the reviews to look at different hazards.

Rhode Island: Unknown if there is policy on homeless encampments.

Follow Up General Question: What is the distance propane is kept from bridges?

MaineDOT noted they have an area in Casco Bay with a large facility under the bridge. They have set a limit of 50 feet however this is not based directly on research or science.

Follow Up Action: Alyson to reach out to Jason (Delaware) to learn more about the loading adjacent to the pier including the presentation. Requesting additional information and any policy outcomes to share with the group.

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4. Update on National/Regional Meeting:

- Call for presentation is active. Encourage those within your organization to submit! The more engagement the better the conference is for all.
- Update on Regional – Looking into possibility of Worcester and Boston. Agenda planning meeting identified that driving and flying would need to be accessible for not only states but the vendors. Continuing to work towards gathering data about costs and possibilities.
- David Miller – Updated about possibility of American Society of Non-Destructive Testing (ASNT) Workshop prior to National Meeting at same location or nearby. Intended to be focused on bridge preservation activities through a hands-on workshop. Preference would be that states cover additional night in hotel and per diem. Please reach out with any topics of interest.

5. NCPP Update:

6. Treasury:

- Current treasury balance to be updated.

7. Volunteer Contributions:

8. Partnership Business Topics/List of Action Items:

9. Working Group Report Outs:

- Bridge Deck Preservation
 - Added a MassDOT person to attend.
 - Continued discussion about Synthesis Statements. Complementary bridge deck protection systems. Ongoing sealer synthesis sealer state.
- Bridge Inspection Working Group
 - Off and running.
- Innovative Technology Demonstration (ITD)
 - No update (no meeting)
- Construction Quality of Bridge Preservation
 - Added a MassDOT person to attend.
 - No update (no meeting)
- Bridge Preservation BMS
- Local Agency Outreach Working Group
 - No update (no meeting)
 - Call for local agency funding examples for bridge preservation.
- Bridge Preservation Coatings Working Group

10. National Group Report Outs:

- Bridge Preservation Expert Task Group (BPETG)
 - No meeting in November.
- AASHTO MaC Technical Working Group (TWG)

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11. Possible Future Presentations or Discussion Topics:

- Discussions
 - ***High Wind Events (protocols, bridge closures, moveable bridges) - January***
 - Issues Performing Maintenance when Railroad Flaggers are Required
 - Deck Replacement Evaluation and Prioritization
 - Indefinite Delivery / Indefinite Quantity (T&M) Contracts
- Presentations
 - Procedures & Policies for Repairing Impact Damage to Bridges (D. Dunne)
- Additional topics being proposed / gauging interest: <https://forms.gle/fogr6W7wwWXdvMkZ9>

Next Meeting & Adjourn:

- Agenda Planning: Canceled for January
- Conference Call: January 2, 2023 @ 10:00AM via Go To Meeting