

Message from the Chair:

Carlos Braceras



Hello from Utah. I am not sure when this edition will find its way to you, but as I write this article it's two weeks before the holiday season. I keep thinking that things will start to slow down soon, but I still can't see the light.

As you all know, the one thing about maintenance is that you don't always know what will be expected. Take for example the wind storm that we had come through here last week. We had wind gusts over 100 mph, which blew over 14 semi's, too many road signs for us to have a count yet, part of the roof on one of our maintenance stations, and thousands of trees. Davis County was a mess. Our folks spent all of Friday and Saturday cleaning up our Right-of-Way, and they were preparing to take Sunday off. Then the call came from the Governor's office, there were indications that another windstorm would hit on Sunday evening, and the Governor wanted our maintenance folks out to help the community clear as much debris as possible so that there wouldn't

be flying projectiles. With a threat of a snow storm coming in before the wind storm we didn't want to take too many sanders out of our trucks, so we were really moving equipment around to "get the job done".

Well, thank goodness the wind storm was nothing like the last one and our folks have spent the entire last week working as lumberjacks clearing the community of downed trees. The community is so thankful for the help; it really helped elevate the respect they have for the Department. But, isn't just "getting the job done" what our maintenance folks do day in and day out. When we are doing the activities that our public normally sees us doing, they get use to it, but when we are out helping out in ways we don't normally do it really gets noticed.

Take the time to tell your folks how much you appreciate them, and don't forget the family needs to hear it as well. Enjoy the holiday season friends.

Carlos

MQA Update:

Jennifer Brandenburg

In October a domestic scan took place in Anaheim, CA to look at various MQA programs from around the country. This scan was structured in a peer exchange format, providing an opportunity for representatives from approximately 13 state highway agencies to participate in discussions structured around the following topic areas:

- Establishing reliable and cost-effective methods of monitoring the quality of maintenance and operations activities.
- Using MQA data to establish accountability with internal and external stakeholders.
- Using the MQA results to set budgets, establish performance targets, allocate

resources, justify needs, establish strategic plans, monitor customer satisfaction, and measuring contributes to an agency's strategic performance targets.

The scan was conducted over a 3-day period with sessions organized to examine the organizational and institutional structures, programs, policies, operational practices, and delivery mechanisms that have enabled agencies to successfully use performance-based management practices for highway maintenance and preservation.

The scan team included several SCOM members: Mr. Russ Yurek, Maryland State Highway Administration, Mr. Lonnie Hendrix, Arizona Department of Transportation, Ms. Nancy Albright, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, and Ms. Jennifer Brandenburg,

North Carolina DOT as well as several others. Ms. Katie Zimmerman, Applied Pavement Technology, Inc. (APTech), served as the Facilitator/Report Writer for the Team and scan organization, and travel support was provided by Arora & Associates, Inc. Mr. Harry

Capers and Ms. Melissa Jiang were instrumental to the success of the scan.

The results of the scan will be documented in a final report and presented at the Summer meeting in Seattle

Subcommittee Activities

Equipment Technical Working Group

Equipment Management Technical Services Program (EMTSP)



The Northeast and Midwest EMTSP regional partnerships held their 2011 Northeast/Midwest Joint Equipment Management

Meeting on August 15-18, 2011 at the Great Wolf Lodge, 10401 Cabela Drive, Kansas City, Kansas. The meeting included many technical presentations, equipment displays, and roundtable discussions on new equipment technology and issues concerning the regional members. Each of the two regional partnerships also conducted breakout sessions for conducting their business meetings to develop bylaws and elect regional partnership officers.

The Western EMTSP regional partnership held its 2011 **Western States Highway Equipment Managers Association (WSHEMA)** annual conference on August 29 – September 1 at the Marriott Seattle Waterfront, Seattle Washington. The WSHEMA conference included many technical presentations and equipment displays related to new technologies, corrosion prevention, and engine emissions and included a tour of a Washington DOT fleet maintenance facility. Each state in the regional partnership provided updates of their fleet operations, participated in roundtable discussions on current issues, and participated in electing officers for their EMTSP regional partnership for the coming year.

The EMTSP Oversight Panel is collaborating with TRB Committee AHD60, Maintenance Equipment, to schedule a nationwide joint TRB/EMTSP Equipment Management Workshop in Mobile, Alabama on June 24-28, 2012. A steering committee for this workshop, consisting of members from each EMTSP regional partnership, the EMTSP Oversight Panel, and the chair and members of TRB Committee AHD60 continue meeting via conference calls for planning the agenda

for this meeting. In addition to the technical presentations and equipment displays will be breakout sessions for each of the regional EMTSP partnerships and TRB Committee AHD60 to conduct their business meetings and hold discussions germane to the individual groups. More details of this nationwide equipment management conference can be found at the following link:

<http://www.emtsp.org/national2012/index.php>

AASHTO Guide - Decision Making for Outsourcing and Privatization of Vehicle and Equipment Fleet Maintenance

The results of NCHRP Project 13-03A and the published NCHRP Report 692, *Decision Making for Outsourcing and Privatization of Vehicle and Equipment Fleet Maintenance* were presented SCOM at the annual meeting in July. The AASHTO Engineering Program office recently distributed an electronic ballot of the SCOM membership for their votes for the contents of NCHRP Report 692 to be formally accepted for adoption by AASHTO and published as an AASHTO guide. At the conclusion of the ballot, a quorum of affirmative votes was received for approving to publish the AASHTO guide. The next steps in this process are to ballot the Standing Committee on Highways (SCOH) and notify the AASHTO Board of Directors for this final approval.

NCHRP Project 20-7 –Task 309 – Challenges and Opportunities: A Strategic Plan for Equipment Management Research

As a result of the 1-1/2 day workshop in June, the consultant facilitator provided the final report of the workshop deliberations and findings. This final report addresses the grand challenges that face the organizations that manage highway maintenance equipment and the research needed based on the input provided by the participants of the workshop.

As a result of this research, the Equipment TWG has begun developing research problem statements related to the findings contained in the final report. The first research problem statement from this process developed by the Equipment TWG is “Guidelines for the Development of Highway Operations Equipment Replacement Lifecycle Criteria.” The proposed research aims at developing an automated process to help fleet managers make rational decisions regarding equipment replacement. Such process is expected to

improve fleet reliability and provide economic benefits. The problem statement was submitted to NCHRP for review and has now been evaluated by NCHRP and designated as NCHRP Problem 2013-F-04. The next step in this process is to send the problem statement to the AASHTO Standing Committee on Research (SCOR) and the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for balloting in mid-December. Selection of projects for the next program will be made by SCOR in late March of next year.

Safety and Reliability Technical Working Group

The July AASHTO Subcommittee on Maintenance meeting provided a good opportunity to bring together national leaders focusing on efforts of interest to the Safety and Reliability TWG. The TWG held three well attended sessions, with participation reaching over 40 individuals. Those who participated approved the TWG Statement of Direction and finalized the 2012 Work Plan. These documents can be viewed at: <http://maintenance.transportation.org/Pages/TaskForce.s.aspx>.

The TWG had a number of interesting topics presented including: Flood Preparedness; Strategies to Attract and Retain a Capable Transportation Workforce; Hurricane Preparedness; Vehicle Connectivity; TowPlow Implementation and others.

The TWG submitted 2 research proposals for consideration and partnered on a third. All three have made the initial cut and are a possibility for moving into active project status.

- NCHRP Problem 2013-F-05, Sustainability in Maintenance Operations
- NCHRP 20-7: Review of Alternative Delivery Methods for Winter Operations (synthesis)
- NCHRP Problem 2013-F-02, Developing a Consistent Coding and Training System for Emergency Structure Inspections (partnered)

On a related note, possibly the most successful Winter Maintenance Peer Exchange ever held occurred in Bozeman, Montana this past September. The 2011

National Winter Maintenance Peer Exchange held in Bozeman, Montana, September 20-23, attracted 84 representatives from 37 state DOTs, District of Columbia DOT, APWA, NACE, FHWA, and TRB. Thirty new research needs statements were developed and prioritized by the attendees and will be considered by Aurora, Clear Roads, TRB, and the AASHTO’s Winter Maintenance Technical Service Program for inclusion in their 2012 or later programs. Progress is posted and will be updated quarterly on the Peer Exchange website

<http://www.westerntransportationinstitute.org/professionaldevelopment/peer-exchange/>. Progress on meeting unmet research needs from the 2007 and 2009 Peer Exchanges are also posted on the web site.

And finally, mark your calendars. The 2012 International Conference on Winter Maintenance and Surface Transportation Weather is scheduled for April 30 - May 3, 2012, in Iowa City, Iowa. Papers from authors in Canada, Korea, Sweden, New Zealand, Japan, Norway, Austria, China, and the United States will be loaded with the latest results of road weather and winter maintenance research and state of the art practices. Comments from past attendees have stated, “It is like going on an international winter maintenance/surface transportation weather technology scanning tour, only the technology is brought to our doorstep.” More details are posted on the SICOP website at www.sicop.net or <http://www.trb.org/Calendar/Blurbs/164319.aspx>.

Bridge Technical Working Group

The biggest news worth reporting is bittersweet. The Group has lost their long time FHWA liaison,

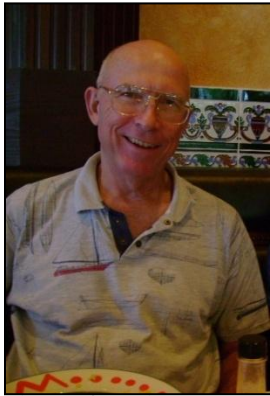


Photo of Wade Casey

Wade Casey. Wade wasn't just a go-between. He listened, he reiterated, he suggested, then he documented. He kept the records. He was instrumental in the development of the Bridge Preservation Strategic Plan. He kept the group on track and helped generate support for bridge preservation and maintenance. Wade could always be counted on with laptop and memory stick. He attended all the conferences and made all the meetings, and was always helpful. Wade is now working on completing the FHWA Coding Guide. Where Wade goes, good things happen.

Taking Wade's spot is Anwar Ahmad, Bridge Preservation Engineer in the FHWA Office of Bridges and Structures. Prior to joining FHWA in October of last year, Anwar served as the Assistant State Bridge Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation and has been a member of the Bridge Technical Working Group. Anwar walked the walk. He knows firsthand what a maintenance program looks like and what it can do for a network of bridges. We welcome Anwar wholeheartedly.

One good piece of news was delivered last October. The BTWG's research needs request to investigate the use of pavement preservation products as low cost waterproofing treatments for bridge decks was approved for funding as a 20-7 project. We look forward to the results of that project.

AASHTO TSP-2

Upcoming Activities

Mark Your Calendar

All roads will lead to Nashville, Tennessee when the 2012 National Pavement Preservation

National Pavement Preservation Conference

August 27-30, 2012



Nashville, TN



Road Trip: Driving the Message for Change

Conference convenes August 27 through August 30 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel in

the heart of "Music City." The conference will offer pavement practitioners across the country an opportunity to hear from experts in the preservation field and to observe several pavement preservation treatment strategies in dynamic placement demonstrations. Leaders from the preservation industry, government, and academia will be on hand to lend their individual perspectives about the need to protect our roadway investment through preservation. Designed to serve as a forum for the AASHTO TSP-2 Regional Pavement Preservation Partnerships, the conference will draw representation from all the state DOTs and many

Canadian Provinces. Although the partnerships typically conduct their annual meetings at different times and locations throughout the country, this unique gathering will offer an inter-regional networking opportunity to share major preservation issues affecting today's agencies.

Seven exciting session tracks are being planned by the Conference Technical Committee, covering all aspects of pavement preservation. Sessions will run concurrently giving each conference participant the flexibility to attend topic areas of greatest interest. Presentations will be geared to specific tracks and limited by invitation to ensure relevant high quality subject matter adds value to the conference. Tracks include:

- Pavement Preservation Practices for Rigid and Flexible Pavements
- Pavement Preservation in a Pavement Management/Asset Management World
- Pavement Preservation Research and Innovative Technologies

- Sustainable Benefits of Pavement Preservation
- Hot & Cold In-place Recycling
- Pavement Preservation Training, Communication and Public Relations
- Pavement Preservation for Local Agencies

An off-site visit has been organized by the Conference Demonstration Committee to showcase many familiar and emerging pavement preservation treatment applications. The treatment toolbox will demonstrate specific treatments for both rigid and flexible pavements. The variety of preservation treatments will offer a holistic view of the available *right* treatment options. Live placement samplings will include micro-surfacing, thin HMA overlay, several specialty chip seals for flexible pavements and ground-in surface texturing and dowel bar retrofit for rigid pavements. Many additional treatments are being planned to heighten both awareness and recognition of cost-effective treatments that are currently available.

From the Editor's Desk:

A couple of weeks ago I was listening to a presentation by the FHWA bridge office on a Bridge Preservation Guide. A copy of the guide can be found at the following location on the web:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/preservation/guide/guide.pdf>

For those states who want to begin using federal funds for systematic preventive maintenance this guide is a good place to start.

Summer Meeting:

It is time to start thinking about the SCOM summer meeting in Seattle Washington. There is a web site located at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/partners/scom2012/>

The hotel web address is:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1106135985&key=679B1>

There have been a few changes from FHWA on the SCOM. Below is a list of the FHWA TWG Liaisons.

Anwar Ahmad	Bridges
Steve Mueller	Pavement
Chris Newman	Roadway/Roadsides
Paul Pisano	Highway Safety & Reliability
Jim Stevenson	Equipment

And of course Brian Cawley is the SCOM Secretary.

Will Beatty

The Renaissance Nashville Hotel is perfectly positioned in downtown Nashville a short walk away from Nashville's Country Music Hall of Fame, Wildhorse Saloon, "Blues" clubs and other evening music entertainment. A special rate of \$110 per night has been negotiated for conference attendees and guests. A spouse program is being planned with informative and entertaining tours of Nashville's top attractions. Not to be missed, the conference promises to be informative, fun, and worthy of your participation. More information is posted on www.nationalpavement2012.org

Larry Galehouse

Editors Note: As a reminder it is the contributions from organizations such as AASHTO members that allow the TSP programs to cover the expenses for agency personnel to attend the partnership meetings and national conferences. Without your support it is not possible.