

The Maintenance Manager

A quarterly e-newsletter of the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Maintenance Volume 4, No. 4

Message from the Chair:

As we near the end of the year we often find ourselves looking back at the changes and challenges we encountered. I prefer to look ahead at all of the opportunities we will have to continue to make a difference for both our committee and our states. As I write this message our new Strategic Plan is currently being voted on by the Standing Committee on Highways (SCOH), and once it is approved we will be off and running to implement our goals.

Staffing our new committee structure will be our first order of business. Lacy and I discussed this a few weeks ago and have decided to give our current leadership team an opportunity to express interest in leadership opportunities with the new organization. Once we have determined who is interested, and in what role, we will then invite the rest of the committee membership to express their interests. My goal is to have our leadership team in place by the first of the new year, so that they can begin to work towards their program at the annual meeting.

As you also know, the SCOH is also working at revising its strategic plan (I just finished reviewing version 12!), and system preservation is front and center in the plan. I am confident that with our new focus and with the help and passion of the maintenance community we will be able to help the SCOH be successful with their goal of system preservation.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you for what you do on a daily basis to make our communities better and safer. Enjoy the holidays with your family.

- Carlos

(Carlos Braceras, UDOT Deputy Director, is the current Chairman of the Subcommittee on Maintenance)



Subcommittee Activities

Snow & Ice Task Force

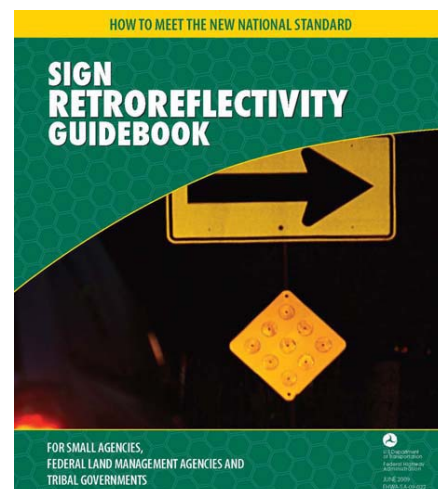
New Performance Measures CBT Being Developed

The NCHRP Project 6-17 entitled "Performance Measures for Snow and Ice Control Operations" has been completed and the research results are currently being incorporated into a computer-based training (CBT) program. A summary of the research can be found in NCHRP Research Results Digest 335, dated March 2009. A total of 133 storyboards have been developed and are under review by the Technical Working Group. When completed in Spring 2010 the new CBT will be the seventh in a series of interactive, self-paced, computer-based training programs for winter maintenance operations.

Traffic Services & Safety Task Force

Sign Retroreflectivity Toolkit Now Available

(reprinted from FHWA's *Centered on Service*, Dec. 2009 issue)



Adequately maintained traffic signs and pavement markings help improve highway safety, especially at night. The retroreflective properties of traffic signs

cause the light from vehicle headlights to bounce back toward the vehicle and the driver's eyes, making the signs appear brighter and easier to see and read. Because the retroreflective properties of traffic control devices deteriorate over time, agencies need to manage the maintenance of their signs and pavement markings.

To help in this area, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has developed a Sign Retroreflectivity Toolkit to provide information that will assist both small- and medium-sized agencies lacking traffic engineering staff to meet the new Federal requirements (set forth in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for maintaining traffic sign retroreflectivity. This toolkit is comprised of two elements. One is a stand-alone computer-based package (called the "Toolkit") on a compact disc, and it contains specific information, resources, and automated features. The second element is a hard copy print out of the computer-based package, known as the "Guidebook."

These materials are designed to assist small- and medium-sized agencies (for example, Federal Land Management, or Tribal agencies) in making informed decisions before implementing a retroreflectivity maintenance program while considering resource limitations. The two elements include common features such as:

- Simple step-by-step approach
- Inspection procedures
- Budget estimating tool

The toolkit will be available at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in January in Washington, DC.

For more information, visit www.fhwa.dot.gov/retro or contact: George Merritt, Safety Engineer, FHWA Resource Center, ph. (404) 562-3911 george.merritt@dot.gov

Equipment Focus Group

Equipment Technical Services Program

The Equipment TWG article in last quarter's newsletter provided a synopsis of the Advance Equipment Technology Operations (AETO) Technical Services Program (TSP) that was approved by the AASHTO Board of Directors last year. Since last quarter, the nominees that were selected to form the TSP oversight

committee have been approved by their state DOTs' CEOs to be members of the Highways Subcommittee on Maintenance (SCOM) and were appointed to the TSP oversight committee by the subcommittee chair. The oversight committee members and the AASHTO Regions they represent are listed below:

Erle Potter, Virginia DOT, State Equipment Manager, Oversight Committee Chair

W. James Smith, PENNDOT, Equipment Division Chief; AASHTO Region 1

Ronald Pruitt, Alabama DOT, Asst. Equipment Management Coordinator; AASHTO Region 2

Tim Cunningham, Kansas DOT, Field Maintenance Engineer; AASHTO Region 3

Steven McCarthy, Utah DOT, Equipment Operations Manager; AASHTO Region 4

Dick Baron, Connecticut DOT, Equipment Repair Manager; AASHTO Region At-Large

Alan Mills, CALTRANS, Statewide Equipment Manager; AASHTO Region At-Large

During the oversight committee's first meeting (by conference call) on November 10th, they approved the proposed work plan, tasks, and budget submitted by the contractor for this year, and unanimously supported AASHTO hiring the National Center for Pavement Preservation (NCP) at Michigan State University, as the contractor to provide assistance for the program. They also agreed to change the name of the TSP to the Equipment Management Technical Services Program (EMTSP).

The oversight committee is currently making arrangements for a strategic planning workshop for the early part of 2010.

NCHRP Project 13-03A - Decision Making for Outsourcing and Privatization of Vehicle and Equipment Fleet Maintenance

The research agency, Booz Allen Hamilton, focused recent efforts on how key factors that drive outsourcing decisions relate to fleet outsourcing at the state and local DOT level. Recent work also dealt with identifying an initial outsourcing decision model and developing a framework to analyze the key financial issues associated with the outsourcing decision. The following items will be addressed as part of the remaining work tasks:

- Compile Comparable External Fact Base
- Develop Tools for Outsource-Ability Assessment
- Develop Business Cases/Scenarios
- Identify Implementation Risks to Address
- Identify Program Governance and Accountability Issues

Project completion is expected in late June 2010.

State DOT News



NCDOT - I-40 Rock Slide



Early Sunday morning, Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009 Interstate 40 in North Carolina was shut down when a major rock slide occurred. Several cars were damaged in the slide with some minor injuries reported. The rock slide, at mile marker 3, closed I-40 at from Exit 20 in North Carolina to Exit 451 in Tennessee. More than 25,000 vehicles per day, half of which are commercial trucks, depend on I-40, making it a critical highway artery for North Carolina, Tennessee and surrounding states.

The slide, approximately 150 feet high and 200-300 feet wide, is estimated to contain approximately 300,000 to 400,000 cubic yards of rock to be removed. Engineers estimate the repair will take approximately four months to clear the rock and stabilize the mountainside. NCDOT is planning to open 2 lane - 2 way traffic as soon as it is possible to do so safely.

Tennessee DOT has aided NCDOT in rerouting traffic and educating and assisting motorists during this event. Both DOTs and their respective Departments of

Tourism have worked together to inform the public and provide information about alternative routes in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. Other outreach efforts used by NCDOT include Incident Management Patrols (IMAP), the Department's web-based Traveler Information Management System (TIMS), Twitter and 511

Quick Clearance efforts in both states have been very helpful to remove accidents and reopen the roadway as quickly as possible. NCDOT has developed a separate large vehicle towing contract to remove large vehicles without quickly without having to follow standard Highway Patrol rotation services.

Check out the latest I-40 rockslide information at www.ncdot.org



TxDOT Pilots Epoxy Friction Surface

An epoxy overlay system that can be applied to large or small areas where there is a need to increased skid resistance was piloted in the Beaumont and San Antonio District. State forces installed the overlay system in both districts.

Studies have shown that the application of this system significantly reduces accidents and decreases wet-weather accidents by up to 57% with proven crash reduction on sharp ramps, high risk curves, bridge decks, and intersection approaches.

Brian Dodge, Maintenance Supervisor Port Arthur, said "the material is still holding very well. Seems to be performing as expected also. We have seen a drop in run off the road accidents at this location".

Troy Whitt, Maintenance Supervisor Kerrville, claimed, "I feel this product has performed as well as they claim. We have not had any wet weather accidents in this area since the application was made. I have noticed some small areas where the material has worn off and the original surface is exposed. At this time I don't feel like it will have any negative effects on the performance."

If you are interested in additional information on TXDOT's experience with this product, please contact Tammy B. Sims, P.E. TxDOT, phone (512) 416-2476, or e-mail tsims@dot.state.tx.us.

SCOM Website Updates

The SCOM website was recently updated as part of the AASHTO's ongoing upgrades of the AASHTO website. The roster of State DOT members are essentially up to date. Ms. Marty Vitale, AASHTO Administrative Coordinator for Engineering and the webmaster of the SCOM website, provided a form on the State DOT member's webpage for any changes needed in the posted information.

Members are being encouraged to review the information posted and let Marty know if there is a need for updates. However, the information for the Task Forces and Focus Groups will remain until such time that the new organizational structure is in place with all if not most of the leadership positions filled.

Following up on the new organizational structure, Mr. Lacy Love, Subcommittee vice chair, started receiving responses from some members showing their interests to serve on various positions in the Leadership Team for the new SCOM organization. Please visit our website here; <http://maintenance.transportation.org/Pages/default.aspx> and click on "Strategic Direction" to learn more about the new Subcommittee Strategic Direction and Organizational Structure.

Savannah, Georgia in 2010

From: Eric Pitts, Asst. State Maintenance Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation

Having just finished a festive Thanksgiving and as we move into the Christmas Season and the New Year, I know you have numerous things on your mind but I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the Subcommittee's Annual Meeting. We at GDOT are excited to be hosting the 2010 meeting in beautiful Savannah, GA the week of July 11 – 15. While there are still many things to plan you can be sure that we will include some good Southern cooking and hospitality. As more information on the location and events become available we will provide it to the committee.

Please make plans to attend this year's meeting as we transition from our previous structure into our newly adopted structure.

Looking Forward to seeing ya'll in Savannah.

- Eric

Calendar of Events

- **Webinar: Best Practices Bridge Management Decision-Making** – December 17, 2009, 1-3 pm EST, www.nhi.fhwa.gov/resources/webconference/web_conf_learner_req?webconfid=1884
- **TRB Annual Meeting, AH010, Surface Transportation Weather Committee meeting**, January 11, 2010, 7:30 PM, Marriott Hotel, Washington, DC.
- **TRB Annual Meeting, AHD65, Winter Maintenance Committee meeting**, January 12, 2010, 7:30 PM, Marriott Hotel, Washington, DC.
- **PIARC XIII International Winter Road Congress**, February 8-11, 2010, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada www.piarcquebec2010.org
- **AASHTO Subcommittee on Maintenance Summer Meeting**, July 11-15, 2010, Savannah, Georgia. More info to follow.

Please e-mail any news articles/events that you would like to share with the Subcommittee members to Celso Gatchalian: celso.gatchalian@dot.gov