



Joint Training and Certification Program

Advisory Council Meeting – April 19, 2024

SUMMARY OF OPEN ACTION ITEMS:

New Action Items from 04/19/2024 Meeting	Action Owner
Share with DMEs the potential of removing CT 105	Richard / Clinton
Send an email to vote on whether or not to remove CT 105	Richard / Clinton
Send out proposal to be voted on by the Advisory Council for whether to allow T 30 to be given outside of the JTCP or to keep it in the program.	Richard / Clinton

AGENDA ITEM 1: Introduction – Roll Call – Review Agenda

- Attendees: Shadi Saadeh, August Smarkel, James Auser, Richard Hibbard, Kelly Lorah, Clinton Edmiston, Charles Stuart, Russel Snyder, Michelle Craig, Ragu Thangavelatham (for Joseph Dongo), Brett Soldano, Jinesh Mehta, Tim Greutert, Jacquelyn Wong
- Not in attendance: Charley Rea, Chris Long, Chris Smith
- The conflict of interest is available to be signed for in person; online attendees approved.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Acting JTCP Program Manager – Clinton Edmiston

- Richard Hibbard has moved to Construction on a temporary assignment for the next 6 months. Clinton Edmiston is acting in his place.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Review Previous Action Items

Previous Action Items	Action Owner	Status
Send out next meeting invitation to AC	Richard / Clinton	ASAP
Send out pre-read items in advance of meeting to improve effectiveness of the meeting (to include Agenda, previous meeting minutes, JTCP statistics, any additional info)	Richard / Clinton	2-3 weeks prior to meeting
Send out DRAFT and the FINAL meeting minutes	Richard / Clinton	Recurring
Look into the feasibility of alternative training for CT 125 (Virtual component? How does IA fit in?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 04/2024: Tom Carter (METS/Atlas) currently developing training videos for METS Academy. TC members have offered to provide video for use in creating various material sampling videos. 	Technical Committee	Open
Route the cut sheet for JTCP for distribution to jobs programs to the group for comment. The current sheet has the verbal content. Once the verbiage is	Richard / Kelly	Ongoing

Previous Action Items	Action Owner	Status
confirmed, graphic designing will occur, then it will post to Caltrans website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEW ACTION ITEM: Clinton to work on graphic design for cut sheet. 		
Develop policy for certification extension requests as related to enrollment and session date	Richard / Clinton	Complete
Determine what funds are available for training and share how to access them.	FHWA TBD	Hold
Add in a chart to the dashboard to identify how many new vs veteran students are taking these courses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 04/2024: Session data needs to be input into SIAD and adjust the system to allow it to see who's a new student or not. It will take some time to determine how to go about getting it done. The intent is to determine the attrition level. 	Richard / Clinton	Open
Determine, by industry sector, who are the 59 technicians who maintain HMA II certification only.	Richard / Clinton	Complete
Reach out to the Technical Committee to review: Look at AASHTO T 30, CT 125, and should HMA I be a mandatory prerequisite for HMA II?	Richard / Clinton	Complete
Send out the Technical Committee Roster for review and updates	Richard	Complete
After the Technical Committee Roster is updated and final, ADA and post to JTCP website	Kelly	In Progress
Reach out to the Technical Committee regarding AASHTO T 30 potential integration into JTCP, need for external CT 125 training, and HMA I as a prerequisite to HMA II.	Richard / Clinton	Complete

Bin List	Action Owner	Status
Develop a formal recognition for Advisory Council participants	Richard / Clinton	Bin List
Develop a CT 125 only module after the PMPC updates to CT 125 are complete	Richard / Clinton	Bin List
Track additional comments related to the inclusion of CT 216 in the Soils and Aggregate module	Richard / Clinton	Bin List
Research the feasibility of renewing the CT/CSULB contract to last 5 years (after the current 3-year contract expires)	Richard / Clinton	Bin List
Cost analysis and breakdown for JTCP initial training and recertification	Richard / Jeremy	On Hold
ACI Concrete Strength Testing Technician as possible additional module added to JTCP PCC	AC	On Hold

AGENDA ITEM 4: JTCP Dashboard / Session Statistics

- Course and Facility Evaluations**

- Written tests scores are slightly lower, likely due to the influx of new testers.
- The facility evaluation scores are rising (along with the classroom and lab temperatures). CSULB has

had issues with cold weather, however a negotiation has taken place and now if the weather is unseasonably cold, CSULB will shut the roll-up door. The fire marshal recommended that CSULB keep the roll-up door open, but it is not clear if this is a recommendation or a mandatory requirement.

- **Cumulative Enrollment by Year**

- This year is off to a strong start, and we should break 1,000 enrollments. A typical year is between 900 and 1100 enrollments.

- **Recertification Module Enrollment**

- We created recertification modules to reduce costs and per diem for returning technicians. Also, the recertification modules increase program capacity because 2 sessions can be scheduled in one week at a facility. However, we seem to be getting a tepid response to this option and we are having difficulty filling sessions. Many of the sessions have been postponed due to low enrollment.
- Options:
 - Offer one module session per location per quarter (or some type of similar interval).
 - Scrap HMA I and S&A recert modules since they seem to have the most difficulty filling.
 - Scrap all recert modules.
- We need a full season's worth of data to develop reasonable options. Scrapping the recert modules is a last resort if we cannot reach an acceptable level of enrollment. Some type of interval possibly quarterly makes the most sense. Without the recert modules, the program may get overwhelmed in the peak enrollment months, Jan – May. We may need to look at opening a third facility.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Break

AGENDA ITEM 6: Technical Committee Updates:

1. CT 125 Sampling – Training Development

- No particular concern with sampling in the field notes.
- No interest in a “sampling only” module.
 - Russ reported that the TC meeting had interest; this needs to be looked at again.
- METS is developing videos in-house (METS Academy).
- TC members stated they can help with videos.
- JTCP training guides have been provided for certification outside of the program.
- The TC has found that the sampling is inconsistent out in the field. This is an ongoing improvement.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Richard/Clinton – Follow-up with the TC to determine if there is a desire to have a “sampling only” module.

2. AASHTO Versions & the CT Std Spec

- Current Caltrans standard spec is citing 2015 AASHTO test methods.
- Current JTCP handbooks utilize 2022 AASHTO test methods.
- TC wants to use current/more recent AASHTO test methods as much as possible, voted to keep handbooks as they are.
- JTCP may help with PMPC decisions regarding the Section 39 spec.

3. CT 105's Future in JTCP

- TC questioned the value of CT 105 in the program.

- Adds difficulty and complexity to the Soils & Aggregate module.
 - Many entry-level technicians in S&A.
 - Should be placing more focus on CT 216, CT 202, and other relatively complex test methods.
- Removing CT 105 from HMA I will allow space to add in AASHTO T 30 and provide more time for sample calculations regarding AASHTO T 27 Sieve Analysis.
- TC voted to remove CT 105 from both HMA I and S&A as soon as possible.
 - CT 105 is a prerequisite; removing it will remove a barrier for technicians to receive certifications in other test methods. CT 105 is rarely used by the average testing technician. Front office staff typically perform all calculations related to CT 105.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Richard/Clinton – Discuss with DMEs the impact from removing CT 105.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Richard/Clinton – Send an email to vote on whether or not to remove CT 105.

4. AASHTO T 30 – Where and How?

- TC wants AASHTO T 30 to be in the program and added ASAP.
- TC is split on whether it should be in in HMA I or HMA II.
 - AASHTO T 30 is similar to AASHTO T 27 & AASHTO T 11 in HMA I.
 - AASHTO T 30 is directly related to aggregate correction factor in AASHTO T 308.
 - Who in the lab will typically be performing the AASHTO T 30 sieve analysis?
 - It's likely going to be performed by the HMA I staff.
- One suggestion was to move AASHTO T 308 to HMA I along with AASHTO T 30.
 - Instructors and the JTCP program staff all believe this would be very problematic particularly with the complexity of AASHTO T 308 binder and aggregate correction factors and attempting to train 24 attendees at once. Each lab only has 1 oven.
- Regardless of where AASHTO T 30 ends up, HMA I should not be a pre-req to HMA II.
- ~50 people have HMA II only; everyone else has HMA I & HMA II.
- Richard's AASHTO T 30 proposal:
 - Remove CT 105 from HMA I, add in AASHTO T 30.
 - AASHTO T 30 is highly relatable to AASHTO T 11 & AASHTO T 27.
 - Most technicians are certified in both HMA I & HMA II.
 - With CT 105 removed, more time available for AASHTO T 27 exercises related to combined gradings.
 - Expand aggregate correction factor discussion in HMA II.
 - Use typical specifications and real-world gradation data to demonstrate aggregate correction factor.
 - Allow AASHTO T 30 certification outside of JTCP.
 - To cover some of the "HMA II only" technicians. This would be a 1-year/2-year cert per standard IA Manual rules.
 - Complexity of PPG is mostly with aggregate correction factor determination in AASHTO T 308.
 - TC voting on the AASHTO T 30 proposal:
 - Add AASHTO T 30 to HMA I, but allow certification outside JTCP (10 votes).
 - Add AASHTO T 30 to HMA I, but DO NOT allow certification outside of JTCP (1 vote).
 - Neither A or B. Continue the AASHTO T 30 discussion (0 votes).

- Due to the fact that ~50 technicians have HMA II only, the Advisory Council is leaning towards not allowing the certification outside of JTCP, just to keep everything standardized. The Advisory Council will talk to their respective groups. Allowing this test outside of the JTCP could set a precedent that other test methods could be allowed outside of the program.
- Proposal is to move AASHTO T 30 into HMA I and only offer it outside of JTCP to technicians already certified in HMA II. HMA II would now be a pre-req to outside certifications of AASHTO T 30.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Richard/Clinton – Send out proposal to be voted on by the Advisory Council for AASHTO T 30 to be allowed outside of the JTCP with HMA II pre-req or only allowed in HMA I.

5. Possible Options for the Future:

a. AASHTO T 308 “Light”

- Offer AASHTO T 308 certification outside of JTCP for regular production testers.
- Lab must have technician with full JTCP AASHTO T 308 certification.
- Would not be allowed to perform correction factor prep or calculations.
- AASHTO T 308 “light” would be a 1-year/2-year cert per regular IA Manual rules.
 - There’s concern that this could easily be abused. There are likely too few technicians to make this a worthwhile effort.

b. CT 216 Field Training Module

- Possible 1- or 2-day module with CT 231, CT 125, and CT 226.
- CT 216 would need to stay in Soils & Agg for the lab technicians that use it.
- TC has expressed varying levels of interest in a module like this.
- Advisory Council believes this could be a beneficial module for field personnel and the program as a whole since CT 231 has nearly 1,000 certified technicians.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Roundtable / Review Action Items / Next Meeting

- The Advisory Council would like to acknowledge and thank the Technical Committee for all their hard work and dedication! It hasn’t gone unnoticed and is greatly appreciated!

New Action Items:

- Richard/Clinton – Develop graphic design for JTCP cut sheet.
- Richard/Clinton – Share with DMEs the potential of removing CT 105.
- Richard/Clinton – Send out proposal to be voted on by the Advisory Council on whether to remove CT 105.
- Richard/Clinton – Send out proposal to be voted on by the Advisory Council on whether to allow AASHTO T 30 outside of the JTCP. Two options: keep it in HMA I and allow outside JTCP for those that have active HMA II cert, or only allow in HMA I without alternative options.
- Richard/Clinton – Follow-up with the TC to determine if there is a desire to have a “sampling only” module.

New Bin List Items:

- None