



## Joint Training and Certification Program

Advisory Council Meeting – May 9, 2025

### SUMMARY OF OPEN ACTION ITEMS:

New Action Items from 11/06/2024 Meeting	Action Owner
Consult with METS OCL/HMA branch regarding issues with a split of AASHTO T 308.	Richard
Based on T 308 split, determine HMA 1 & 2 training content and initiate development of training material.	Richard / TC
Create a sub-committee for determining HMA 1&2 training content and certification day exam procedures.	Richard / TC

### AGENDA ITEM 1: Introduction – Roll Call – Review Agenda

- Attendees: Richard Hibbard, Brett Soldano, Jacquelyn Wong, Joseph Dongo, Shadi Saadeh, Russell Snyder, Cameron Richardson, Michelle Craig, Charles Stuart, Jinesh Mehta, Jim Auser, Kelly Hutchins, Augie Smarkle, Mike Shami, Sarmad Dalal, Tim Greutert
- Not in attendance: Chris Smith, Hamid Rahai, Christopher Long
- FHWA Rep Intro** – Welcome, Mike Shami!
- Tim Greutert** – Retiring today!

### AGENDA ITEM 2: Review Previous Action Items

Previous Action Items	Action Owner	Status
Send out next meeting invitation to AC	Richard	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	1-2 weeks prior to meeting
Send out DRAFT and the FINAL meeting minutes	Richard	Recurring
Look into the feasibility of alternative training for 125. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>METS developing videos for the METS Academy.</li> <li>TC members have offered to provide video for use in creating various material sampling videos.</li> </ul>	Technical Committee	Open
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"> <li>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.</li> <li>Edit evaluation forms to define level of experience more accurately</li> </ul>	Richard	Complete
After the Technical Committee Roster is updated and final, ADA and post to JTCP website	Kelly	Recurring

Previous Action Items	Action Owner	Status
Industry org members to review training structure and provide recommendations for program improvements.	AC	Complete
Provide schedule for 2025 recertification sessions based on previous attendance statistics. Post to CSULB enrollment website.	Shadi/Richard	Complete
Develop rules for recert session enrollment. Share with AC for comment. Post to CSULB enrollment website.	Shadi/Richard	Complete
Work with TC to formulate options for T 308 certification	Richard/TC	In Progress
Research the feasibility of renewing the CT/CSULB contract for a 5-year term versus the current 3-year term.	Richard	In Progress
Add in a chart to the dashboard to identify how many new vs veteran students are taking these courses.	Richard	Complete

Bin List	Action Owner	Status
Develop a formal recognition for Advisory Council participants	Richard	Bin List
Develop a CT 125 only module after the PMPC updates to CT 125 are complete	Richard	Bin List
Track additional comments related to the inclusion of CT 216 in the Soils and Aggregate module	Richard	Bin List
Cost analysis and breakdown for JTCP initial training and recertification	Richard	On Hold
ACI Concrete Strength Testing Technician as possible additional module added to JTCP PCC	AC	On Hold

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: JTCP Dashboard / Session Statistics**

- **New Dashboard Based on Revised Evaluation Form**

- The “Average Course Evaluation by Experience Level” chart was removed. Demographics and Experience Level charts were created. The Cumulative Yearly Student Volume is now a part of the main dashboard.
- “First Timer” data was added to the total sessions and enrollment table.
- ACI-related evaluation data was added to Course Materials and Facility evaluation tables. ACI instructors were added to the “Average Written Test Passing Rate” table.
- The Monthly Student Volume table has been modified to show enrollment in recertification sessions.
- The Cumulative Yearly Student Volume chart demonstrates how the recert sessions have improved the program capacity in JTCP “high season”. The orange 2025 line is well above previous years for January through March, visually demonstrating that added capacity.
- The “Demographics” table shows some enrollment under “other.” Some of these enrollees are people hoping to gain a skill and become more employable. This suggests there may be a market for potential new technicians who are not currently associated with materials testing or others who have engineering degrees/experience that need a resume boost.
- The program plans to distribute updated dashboards to the AC and TC on a quarterly basis.

- **Recertification Enrollment Statistics**

- The revised scheduling plan appears to be working much better than last year. Through 12 session offerings, only 2 have been cancelled (see tables below). However, with the exception of HMA 2, the sessions generally are not filling to capacity as we had hoped. Of the nine HMA 1 + S&A sessions, only one had reached full capacity.
- The combination of HMA 1 and HMA 2 recerts in the same week at CSULB or SJSU has proven to be popular. We will look to ensure that these pairings are available at both locations for 2026.
- Based on enrollment for this year, the plan will be to schedule recert sessions for winter and early spring, during “peak certification season.” Unfortunately, summer does not have adequate enrollment to support recert sessions, so none will be offered. There will likely be some sessions in late fall, depending on how the session work out in 2025.

**Recert Session enrollment data – 2025**

Class	Session ID	Exam Date	Total Enrollment	Status
HMA 1 (24 seats)	HMA1_RC_SJ0005	01/24/25	24	
	HMA1_RC_SJ0008	04/02/25	17	
	HMA1_RC_SJ0010	10/14/25	5	Scheduled
	HMA1_RC_LB0006	01/15/25	7	Cancelled
	HMA1_RC_LB0007	03/07/25	20	
	HMA1_RC_LB0009	10/07/25	1	Scheduled
HMA 2 (12 seats)	HMA2_RC_SJ0010	01/22/25	12	
	HMA2_RC_SJ0011	04/04/25	11	
	HMA2_RC_SJ0012	05/07/25	4	Cancelled
	HMA2_RC_SJ0012	10/17/25	0	Scheduled
	HMA2_RC_SJ0012	11/05/25	0	Scheduled
	HMA2_RC_LB0009	02/05/25	12	
Soils & Agg (24 seats)	HMA2_RC_LB0013	10/10/25	1	Scheduled
	SA_RC_SJ0006	01/10/25	20	
	SA_RC_SJ0010	05/09/25	18	
	SA_RC_SJ0013	11/07/25	0	Scheduled
	SA_RC_LB0007	01/08/25	13	
	SA_RC_LB0008	02/07/25	18	
	SA_RC_LB0009	05/07/25	18	
	SA_RC_LB0011	06/03/25	1	Scheduled
	SA_RC_LB0012	11/04/25	2	Scheduled

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Break**

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Technical Committee Update**

- **AASHTO T 308 – AASHTO Update Plans**

- AASHTO is planning to expand the T 308 annex to include details on correction mixes that contain RAP.
- METS has provided comment on AASHTO changes and has suggested the Annex become a separate test

method.

- This change will add complexity and affect how this TM is certified within JTCP. The additional aggregate/RAP correction factor process may be too complex for JTCP.
- **T 308 & T 30 – Training & certification Issues, possible HMA 1 & 2 restructuring**
  - Possible move of T 308 to HMA 1: If we move T 308 to HMA I, it would fit with typical production technician activity and it would pair well with T 30 in the training. However, the training for the Annex portion of T 308 would require far too much time to make a full T 308 certification viable. The test method would need to be split for a “burn only” certification with training focused specifically on the burn procedure.
  - HMA 2 training modifications: If a burn-only T 308 becomes part of HMA 1, then a full T 308 certification could be developed for HMA 2. This training would take a more advanced look at the T 308 Annex with a focus on correction mixes including RAP.
  - How can T 308 be split? The options are: 1) Wait to see if AASHTO splits out the Annex to a separate test method; 2) Create a CT that specifies only the burn procedure of T 308; or 3) Have IA split the test method into “T 308.1” and “T 308.2” in the SIAD.
    - Option 1 will likely take too long. This was deemed unfavorable.
    - Option 2 would require changes to the Standard Specification, thus being problematic.
    - Option 3 can work with relative ease, but may cause some confusion with an AASHTO inspector performing an RE:Source accreditation. The AC generally thought that this would be a problem.
  - Action item 1: Richard to consult with OCL/HMA Branch to determine if a T 308 split is an issue.
  - Action item 2: Technical Committee to decide on HMA 1 & 2 training content, then begin development of training material. The advanced correction mix training will likely need a sub-committee for determining training content and certification day exam procedures.

**AGENDA ITEM 5A: Industry recommendation for a “Technician Level 1 module” (item not on original agenda)**

- Intention of the “Technician Level 1” module is to combine HMA 1 and S&A to a single module.
- The module would include CT 125 AGG, CT 125 HMA, R 47, R 76, T 11, T 27, T 30, T 176, T 255, T 329, CT 227/T 176 modified, T 210, and T 308 Burn-only. A total of 13 test methods.
  - Module would eliminate CT 201, CT 202, CT 205, CT 217, CT 226 (all crossover TM’s between HMA 1 & SA)
  - In relation to HMA 1, this module would eliminate T 335 and then add on CT 227 (or T 176 modified), AASHTO T 210 (CT 229 comp) and T 308 burn only.
- The general thought is this would save time and money and match typical needs for production technicians
  - Technicians should be lab oriented and trained in some testing before coming to JTCP. The added test methods should not be much of a hardship. This format raises the bar for technicians.
  - Technicians should be more accountable for failing exams. There should be some way to charge a fee for retakes or otherwise incentivize passing exams the first time.
  - We could possibly eliminate some redundancy between CT and AASHTO.
- Program manager concerns:
  - This is too much information to cover in 3 days of training. Yes, some technicians could handle it, but the entry- and mid-level testers would be overwhelmed. Yes, they should arrive at the session with a reasonable level preparation, but that is not always the case. Realistically, this session would need to go to 4 days of training with an exam day, but that would result in Sunday travel plus information overload/burnout.
  - Concrete and aggregate technicians are using CT’s and ASTMs. Plus, they don’t necessarily need HMA certs

like CT 125 HMA, R 47, and T 329. The most popular module is Soils & Agg because of extensive materials testing requirements outside of HMA.

- The Standard Spec would need a complete revision to match up with the adopted test methods. Aside from being a major lift, this will likely face much resistance in both Caltrans and industry. METS has already been creating CT's designed to cite specific national standards. We may need to have this process run its course.
- The practical exams currently require about 1.5 hr per technician for HMA 1 and about 1.45 hr per technician for S&A. This new format would likely push that to 2.25 hr per technician or would require larger labs with more stations for testing.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: JTCP Contract Update**

- The active contract expires 12/31/2025. The plan is to renew the contract with the current module structure.
- Will check with DPAC to see if a 5-year term is possible.
- Minor adjustments to modules will not affect fees unless there is a significant change in enrollment.
- Fees have not changed nor have they been affected by inflation since the start in 2018. CSULB hopes to maintain current fee structure for the new contract.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: Roundtable / New Items / Review Action Items / Next Meeting**

- **Roundtable (limited amount of time)**
  - Michelle Craig announced new ACI Chapter Certification Center which will hopefully open by January 2026. The location is on Business Park Dr, off of Bradshaw Rd in Sacramento.
- **New Items**
  - **New Action Items:**
    - Send JTCP brochure to Russ (already complete).
    - Work with OCL/HMA Branch regarding split of T 308.
    - Engage Technical Committee on module modifications regard T 308 split.
- **Next Meeting**
  - October 17, 2025