

PMPC Sponsors/Steering Committee/ Executive Committee (EC) Meeting Minutes

Date: October 21, 2021

Time: 9:00 am-10:00 am

Location: Webex Meeting

Attendees: Shaila Chowdhury, Charley Rea, Sergio Aceves, Cory Binns, Ramon Hopkins, Nick Burmas, Raymond Tritt, Nabeelah Abi-Rached, Tom Ostrom, Brandon Milar, Tim Gruetert, Gudmund Setberg, Douglas Mason

1. Introduction

- I. Meeting started with introductions of Sponsors, Steering Committee, and EC. Shaila welcomed everyone to the Quarterly meeting.
 - a. Shaila reviewed the agenda items with the group.

2. Action Items from 7/15/2021:

- I. We will look into how to better and more quickly get DES involved in PMPC. (All) Completed, added a DES structure's specification writer in the PMPC M&QA STG and incorporated quarterly updates for work outside the PMPC for concrete.
 - a. Cory: How do the quarterly feedbacks happen in these meetings?
 - b. Tim: This is more in the concrete area and covered when we do quarterly task group updates.
 - c. Tom: We have struggled with this in the past and need to have all the stakeholders involved.
 - d. Tim: The specifications are reviewed by the Concrete task group
 - e. **Action Item: Make sure PMPC process engages at all levels, STG, TG, and EC for Specification Development in Structures. (All)**
- II. Develop criteria for pilot project selection for 40% RAP in HMA. (Pavement Program) Completed. Pavement team meeting with districts and have shared with districts the criteria we are looking for in a project for the pilot recycling projects.

3. Pilot Project Update (Shaila)

- I. Shaila gave a update on the Pilot Projects Status and briefed the group on how pilot projects are important element to allow us to assess the performance of innovative pavement strategies, whether these new strategies will work and help develop statewide guidance on their use for sustainability and recycling.
- II. Presentation covered the enhanced recycling strategies such as increasing recycled asphalt pavement (RAP) in HMA (Up to 40%), allow RAP in rubberized hot mix asphalt (Up to 10%) and adding roofing shingles to asphalt pavement. Shaila went over the district engagement efforts where Sergio spoke at the Project Delivery Advisory Committee (PDAC) discussing the urgency for the pilot projects and soliciting 1-2 projects from each district each year to test these innovative projects and to provide a heads up to District Management on follow-up meetings. Pavement Program staff developed potential SHOPP and HM projects that met the criteria the team was looking for in SHOPP projects in construction, projects in advanced stages of delivery, projects in PA&ED and PS&E phases, and FY 21/22 HM projects. Using the lists Pavement developed, Pavement Program held roadshows with Project Delivery and Maintenance deputies and staff for districts 1-7 and 10 so far where we solicited projects from lists from the districts.

- III. The recycling pilot project status shows 10 pilot projects have been secured. Five for 10% RAP in RHMA projects(5 HM projects-delivery 21/22), four up to 40% RAP in HMA projects(2 HM projects – delivery 20/21-21/22 and 2 SHOPP projects – delivery 22/23-23/24), and one recycled shingle project (1 HM project - delivery 20/21).
- IV. Overall, there are 22 pilot projects in various stages: 10-RAP and RAS pilot projects, 6-post plant gradation pilot projects, 2-rubber chip seal pilots, 1-OGFC for environmental compliance and drainage, and 3-cold in-place recycling pilot projects.
- V. Next steps include continuing to work with districts and stakeholders to address any technical challenges with identified pilots, secure additional pilots, complete roadshows with the remaining districts, partner with districts to ensure a successful completion of pilots, monitor the pilot projects performance and develop statewide guidance.
- VI. Tim: Commend everyone for getting the districts to accept our pilot specifications for innovation. We need to make sure our pilot projects are cared for and we get the data we need.
- VII. Charley: Amazing the amount of effort to get finally 10 pilot projects, have they been awarded yet? How do you know if they will be delivered?
 - a. The projects are in both the Highway Maintenance (HM) and SHOPP funding sides of project delivery and are set for delivery in the upcoming fiscal years.
- VIII. Charley: Is there a money issue for future projects, we heard about \$8 million being set aside but not available this year?
 - a. Savings in Maintenance due to COVID allowed \$8 million to be set aside for FY 20/21. Project allocations had already been sent out to districts so the \$8 million for innovation will kick in next year.
- IX. Tom: With innovation and trying new things, it always has a risk it may fail. We may need risk managers in districts to identify issues so we can support district and contract team with their issues.
- X. Brandon: Thank you for the work you have done, but seeing how we are programming these projects for this year and next, and looking at another round of pilots to tighten the specification more, we are looking at 5 years out before we can implement or claim the benefits. Is there another way to fast track these work products, 5 years is way too long to wait to implement some of these sustainability products?
- XI. Shaila: We need to be strategic on how we use the \$8 million.
- XII. Brandon: Looking at pilot projects, incorporation of new mix design testing, we need to be mindful of our resources for all the evaluation of the testing protocols, there will be resource needs for METS, Construction, and Pavement.
- XIII. Tim: We need to get districts involved in the PMPC. District materials engineers (DMEs) and maintenance engineers, how do we get them involved.
- XIV. Shaila: Having quarterly meeting with district maintenance engineers and DMEs, we talked about engaging them in PMPC as early adopters of the strategies, but the districts are tied to project development and performance goals.
- XV. Nick: Several pilot projects use recycling, which is an efficiency and if done with SB1 funds can be listed as an SB1 efficiency.

4. Winter PMPC Workshop Update (Tim/Brandon)

- I. Tim shared the agenda for the upcoming winter workshop where we plan to recognize work groups and share with PMPC members Caltrans Mission, Vision and Goals and how that relates to direction we are going in the future with sustainability and reduction of GHGs.
- II. Brandon: We have had a large turnover within the PMPC organization from both industry and Caltrans. This will be an opportunity to meet with the PMPC group, discuss how we conduct

ourselves according to our charter and Standard Operating Procedures, and reinforce PMPC priorities. Think of it as an orientation or refresher program for the PMPC participants.

- III. Tom: Important to get the new folks started on the right foot since this is a unique group within Caltrans.

5. Industry Discussion (Brandon/Charley)

- I. Brandon: There is a lot going on with safety and equity on construction, but this is not really part of the PMPC. There is worry with over the available resources for both industry and Caltrans to carry out the PMPC workload. Some upcoming projects on the bin lists are heavy lift items that will require a lot of resources to accomplish for all the new testing.
- II. Charley: Lot of positive things happening in the PMPC such as Portland Limestone Cement, smoothness and 2-year mix designs but always have a few issues that don't seem to get resolved. One issue is test turnaround times which extend back 25 years when we were tasked to speed up test turnaround times, but Caltrans did not share their test results in the same timely manner as specified in the specifications. Caltrans delayed test results to the contractor results in the contractor being penalized or forced to replace pavement due to a failed test that came months after placement. It has been slow on the Caltrans end to see their improved test turn-around times.
- III. Shaila: Agree we have made progress and still have some long-term challenges with test turnaround times.
- IV. Brandon: Asset management, didn't know anything about it ten months ago. It is helping the Department with meeting performance goals and is proving to be a good program. It would be nice to tweak asset management, so districts are encouraged to try innovation by incentivizing them to take on a pilot specification test section in their projects.
- V. Nabeelah: Need some context on this.
- VI. Brandon: With pilot projects, we might have some sections that did well and some spots that fail. We need a way to manage risk failure. With asset management, the goal is to not touch the section again for 20 to 40 years which impedes trying new things that could fail.
- VII. Tom: Risk management is the key to reduce the risk.

6. Open Discussion (ALL)

- I. Nabeelah: Love the collaboration I am seeing. I am new to the group and still learning.
- II. Sergio: With asset management maybe, we can use the HM process to incentivize the SHOPP projects.
- III. Tom: Appreciate the tactful feedback from industry.

7. Decisions Made

- I. None

8. Action Items.

- I. Make sure PMPC process engages at all levels, sub task group (STG), task group (TG), and EC for Specification Development in Structures. (All)

Next Meeting scheduled for January 20, 2022