

2003 Annual Meeting

SAN DIEGO, CA– From April 27 – 30, the NTPEP2003 Annual meeting was held in beautiful southern California. The Doubletree Hotel Mission Valley, San Diego, was the venue for this year’s activities, with a total of 135 attendees, including representatives from 25 states. This year’s meeting proved to be the most productive to date.

The first day of the meeting was set aside for NTPEP’s cooperative organizations to convene their industry membership. As well, the ATSSA-AASHTO Joint Review Evaluation Committee (JREC) met alongside NTPEP’s Administrative Task Force. The industry members associated with ATSSA gathered Sunday afternoon. A Chairman’s Reception was held on Sunday evening, where the group was addressed by NTPEP Vice Chairman Tom Baker of Washington State; Don Fogle of CalTrans graciously welcomed everyone to San Diego; Roger Wentz, ATSSA’s Executive Director, addressed the group on the positive gains made with JREC; Richard Goodrum of Colbond Geosynthetics spoke on behalf of members of the Geosynthetic Materials Association (GMA); and Tony Johnson of American Excelsior spoke on behalf of the Erosion Control Technology Council (ECTC).

Early Monday morning began with a “First Time Attendees” Orientation breakfast meeting where NTPEP Associate Coordinator Michael McGough presented on the origins of the program, as well as information on how interested individuals may get involved with NTPEP.

The opening general session set the tone for the rest of the meeting with two key highlights: California DOTs Chief of the Division of Engineering Services, Bob Buckley, delivered a motivating speech that challenged everyone to do their part to contribute to improving transportation through forums such as AASHTO, and make our roads safer for the public. A second attention grabber was the official launch of “NTPEP DataMine.” The presentation was given by Jim Swisher of Virginia DOT and Jason Davis of Louisiana DOTD.

The remainder of the conference was directed toward the individual project panels in the NTPEP program. A complete list of all of the project panel minutes can be found on the NTPEP website, www.NTPEP.ORG. Up to this point the annual meeting of the NTPEP Oversight Committee was the only place for Project Panels to meet and resolve any issues concerning the testing program. However, beginning this year, Project Panels will have two conference calls outside of the scheduled annual spring meeting. These conference calls will be held in Fall and Winter. The detailed Fall schedule can be found at the end of this publication, and a full schedule can be found on the program’s website.

Keep your schedules open the NTPEP 2004 Annual Meeting will be held in Columbus, OH – the actual May dates have yet to be determined. This will be the 10th anniversary celebration of the NTPEP, and promises to be the most influential, productive, ground breaking meeting where new benchmarks are set.

Project Panel Minute Highlights

Bridge Deck Sealers

- Steve Hall (TN) was selected as Chairman, and Robert Stewart (UT) as Vice Chair, of the Project Panel.
- A survey of state field evaluation practice will be prepared and sent after the Fall conference call.

Concrete Admixtures

- The program is ready to launch, pending contracts between AASHTO and Minnesota DOT, with lead testing state of MnDOT and Missouri.
- Request for products (RfP) will be prepared for a summer solicitation.

Concrete Curing Compounds

- Project panel timelines and performance measures were established.
- Solicitation for product submittal will be prepared by July for launch of testing.

Geotextiles and Geosynthetics

- A survey of industry showed that the cost for NTPEP testing is well below the costs for private lab testing.
- AASHTO and the Geosynthetic Materials Association (GMA) are under negotiations to allow GMA distribution rights for the AASHTO M288 Specification on Geotextiles.
- Tony Allen (WA) gave a presentation on WSDOT Test Method 925, which is a protocol for testing and evaluation of geosynthetic reinforcement products. Following discussion, the group decided to move forward on developing a work plan to incorporate this into the NTPEP testing.
- Geotextiles will be one of the next reporting modules for NTPEP DataMine.

Joint Sealers

- Minnesota DOT has agreed to be the host state for a field test deck this summer.
- Project Panel is ready to solicit submittals from industry immediately.

Plastic Pipe

- HDPE Pipe testing has begun.
- A work plan for PVC Pipe is under review by the panel members.
- Small Diameter HDPE Pipe is under review by the panel members.
- Program timeline and performance measure were established.

Pavement Marking Materials

- The development of a test deck photo log for determining the durability of the pavement markers was presented and discussed.
- Traffic paint composition Form and standardization of the evaluation equipment were issues discussed concerning the future work plan.

- Eliminating the Wear Index Test from 2002 forward, was approved by the Project Panel.

Reinforcing Steel Bars

- Final revised version of PP45 to be sent to AASHTO Subcommittee on Materials for balloting in July.
- Final revised version of the work plan to be sent to Project Panel members for acceptance in July.

Rolled Erosion Control Products

- Photos of products will be added to the front page of NTPEP reports.
- The ASTM D4595 test on Turf Reinforcement Mats will be changed to ASTM D6818 to be more in-line with new industry practice.
- First report anticipated to be available for publishing in July 2003.

Raised Pavement Markers

- RPMs is scheduled to be one of the early product lines to have a NTPEP DataMine module developed.
- Georgia DOT will host the 2001 “sun country” RPM deck. Ohio DOT has agreed to host a 2004 “plowable” RPM deck for NTPEP.
- Timelines and performance measures were established for identifying decks, starting decks and reporting results.

Rapid Set Concrete Patching Materials

- Kansas agreed to continue lab testing for AASHTO/NTPEP.
- Timelines and performance measures were established for product submission and reporting.
- Field testing section will be hosted by Ohio DOT and will include digital photos.

Structural Steel Coatings

- A preliminary inspection review checklist has been developed for possible QA reviews of the laboratories in the upcoming year. Representatives from Kentucky, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, AASHTO and FHWA have volunteered to be team members.
- Bill Corbett of KTA-Tator, AASHTO-select private testing lab, presented a summary of their interlaboratory study, which is an FHWA-funded research project.
- Structural steel coatings will be one of the early product lines to have a NTPEP DataMine module developed.

Sign Sheeting Materials

- Tom Bliss (3M Company) provided information indicating that costs for NTPEP testing is in line with costs in the private sector. Costs unique to NTPEP which are not available for private sector comparison were discussed by the Project Panel.

- A proposal was discussed to eliminate field test decks in North Carolina and Flagstaff, Arizona. The matter was recommended for full Oversight Committee ballot. (*Editorial*:the matter was balloted and approved.)

Temporary Traffic Control Devices

- Two new industry members were officially appointed to the project panel, which meets to discuss delineators, drums and PCMS / flashing arrow panels.
- Decided to strictly abide by deadlines in the WorkPlan, permitting no more extensions.
- A new sampling procedure was presented by the lead state, Tennessee DOT.

Portable Changeable Message Signs

- Industry requested time to review a recently balloted and approved WorkPlan. A timeline of activity was decided, including schedulee re-launch of coordinated evaluation by North Carolina in February 2004.
- A presentation by North Carolina DOT showed how “Smart Zone” technology has helped mitigate congestion and resulting accidents.