

SP&R Quarterly Progress Reports

Study No. SPR-2107

FY 2010

Date Prepared: 9/30/09

Quarter Reported: 7/1/09 to 9/30/09

Title Management - New England Transportation Consortium

Research Agency Connecticut Department of Transportation

Project

Started: January 1996

Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations
Office of Research and Materials
Division of Research

Funds Programmed for FY 2010 \$157,489 SPR; \$114,211 State

Quarterly Expenditures - See report from Policy & Planning.

Work Items:

ConnDOT Tasks

1. Attended a meeting with FHWA-CT on July 22, 2009, in Glastonbury, CT, to discuss NETC finances.
2. Attended a meeting with FHWA-CT on August 4, 2009, in Glastonbury, CT, to discuss the transfer of the Lead Agency designation.
3. Attended a Teleconference Meeting with FHWA-CT and TRB on August 18, 2009, to discuss the transfer of the Lead Agency designation.
4. Attended an NETC Technical Advisory Committee Teleconference Meeting on September 8, 2009.
5. Refer to the SP&R Quarterly Progress Report for SPR-0222, "Administration - Part II Research," for information on the following NETC-related TPF projects:
 - SPR-3(009), "New England Surface Transportation Consortium."
 - SPR-3(029), "New England Transportation Consortium (NETC): 1995-1999."
 - SPR-3(089), "New England Transportation Consortium (NETC): 2000-2006."
 - TPF-5(168), "New England Transportation Consortium (NETC) IV: 2007+."
 - TPF-5(201), "New England Transportation Consortium (NETC) V."
6. Distributed the following NETC report(s):

None
7. Sent an electronic version of the following NETC report(s) to TRIS/NTL:

None

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8. Received report URLs from TRIS for the following NETC report(s):

None

9. Agreements and Memoranda-of-Understanding (MOUs):

a. Refer to the "Problems Encountered" Section.

b. Continued processing of a 4th Amendment Agreement with the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, to provide administrative, fiscal and technical management of the New England Transportation Consortium (NETC) for CY10.

c. NETC 05-1, "Development of Supplemental Resistance Method for the Design of Drilled Shaft Rock Sockets"

Continued processing of a 1st Amendment Agreement [Agreement No. 3.05-04(07)] with the University of Maine to extend the term of the study from December 31, 2007, to December 31, 2008, at no additional cost, to conduct a research study for NETC Project No. 05-1.

d. For several quarters, the Department has not initiated any contractual activities for any projects requiring time extensions to complete the study, pending the transfer of the NETC Lead Agency designation to FHWA. (Refer to the "Problems Encountered" Section.) It is anticipated that FHWA will initiate contracting with the Universities for the completion of the projects.

NETC Coordination Tasks (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth)

1. Continued implementation process of recommendations contained in the Final Report for the 10-Year Review of the NETC Program.

2. Attended an NETC Technical Advisory Committee Teleconference Meeting on September 8, 2009.

3. Closed the following project(s):

None

4. Cancelled the following project(s):

None

5. Distributed the following report(s):

None

6. Produced the following paper(s) and presentation(s):

None

Problems Encountered:

Significant and repeated delays on processing PSAs have occurred during the last 24 months because of new State contracting procedures and requirements. This continues to be an on-going problem.

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Because of these on-going problems, the Department and the NETC Advisory Committee had requested one of the NETC member state transportation agencies or FHWA to assume the Lead State designation. In that capacity, the new Lead Agency will then assume all contractual obligations for NETC. During this past quarter, FHWA withdrew its offer to assume the Lead Agency designation due to manpower and work load restrictions. The NETC Advisory Committee is reviewing various options for designating the Lead Agency.

The Department will continue to administer any contractual obligations for currently active Agreements. However, any new contractual activity, including Amendments to currently active Agreements, is not being processed at this time. FHWA has offered and begun the process to contract, by Purchase Order Contract, with the Universities for the completion of any project that was not completed during the contract period under a Department Agreement. It is anticipated that the new Lead Agency will initiate contracting with the Universities for any new project that was not initiated under a Department Agreement.

By directive of the Office of the Attorney General, the contracting mechanism with the University of Connecticut is Memorandum-of-Understanding (MOU). The procedure for executing MOUs is much easier than that for Agreements because most of the new State contractual requirements are not applicable to MOUs. Therefore, the Department is still initiating new NETC contractual activities, including Amendments to currently active NETC projects, with the University of Connecticut.

See previous quarterly reports.

Is Work On Schedule?

Yes. Refer to the "Problems Encountered" Section.

Significant Findings:

None

Anticipated Work for Next Quarter:

ConnDOT Tasks

1. Continue efforts to facilitate the transfer of the Lead State Agency designation to one of the NETC member state transportation agencies.
2. Agreements and Memoranda-of-Understanding (MOUs):
 - a. Continue processing of a 4th Amendment Agreement with the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, to provide administrative, fiscal and technical management of the New England Transportation Consortium (NETC) for CY10.
 - b. NETC 05-1, "Development of Supplemental Resistance Method for the Design of Drilled Shaft Rock Sockets"

Continue processing of a 1st Amendment Agreement [Agreement No. 3.05-04(07)] with the University of Maine to extend the term of the study

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from December 31, 2007, to December 31, 2008, at no additional cost,
to conduct a research study for NETC Project No. 05-1.

NETC Coordination Tasks (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth)

1. Continue implementation process of recommendations contained in the Final Report for the 10-Year Review of the NETC Program.

Prepared by: _____
Dionysia F. Oliveira