

The PPTG - What Needs to be Done to Make it Work Better?

March 20th, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

MACTEC Office

4704 Roseville Road, Suite 108

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Draft Meeting Notes

Attendees: Shakir Shatnawi, Gary Hildebrand, Skip Brown, Basem Muallem, Scott Dmytrow, Jack Van Kirk, Hans Ho, Joe Platt, Don Matthews, Lowell Parkison, Gary Hicks, Edgard Hitti, Haiping Zhou

Note Taker: Haiping Zhou

Handouts included the following:

- Meeting agenda
- Copy of the presentation given by Shakir
- Pavement Preservation Task Group Charter
- Pavement Issue Resolution Flowchart
- Various Logos of CP2
- Innovation Process including the Innovation Pre-Proposal, Proposal and Final Report Format

1. Purpose of meeting/opening remarks

Shakir opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and appreciated everyone's participation. Shakir emphasized the partnership of the PPTG at the beginning of the meeting.

Gary Hildebrand indicated a need to fix some of the growing pains of the PPTG so that the PPTG will continue to progress and succeed. Gary announced that Hans Ho will be his new backup co-chair for industry.

Shakir mentioned that Basem will be his back co-chair for Caltrans. Basem is Deputy Director for D8 and has been devoted to PPTG efforts since the beginning. Basem was the Education Group co-chair.

Basem indicated that to make the PPTG work we all need to be honest with one another. Basem started his college studies in premed and Biology, but finished with a BS and MS in Civil engineering specializing in water resources. He found the work not too exciting until he began working on pavements and roadway maintenance and has enjoyed this work since 1999. Basem recognized that there is a lot of red tape within Caltrans and complemented Shakir and Gary's effort in making the PPTG a success.

Basem indicated that many counties and cities do not have a lot of pavement expertise. If Caltrans is only the organization doing the work, the pavement preservation effort will not succeed. We need PPTG's support. We need be honest about the perception of problems between Caltrans and PPTG. As a group, we have a lot of brainpower and we want to make sure the PPTG succeeds. We need to consider the following:

- Have guidelines based on trust
- Be honest and open minded
- If we make commitments, we need to follow through on them

2. PPTG Accomplishments

Shakir made a presentation on PPTG-Concept, accomplishments, etc. The presentation was provided as part of the handouts.

Shakir indicated that PPTG members do not represent their individual company; they are experts in a specific field or fields. All co-chairs are equal and they are to provide their expertise in pavement preservation. The PPTG sub-groups are like technical panels. The members are chosen because of their expertise and experience.

Within the PPTG sub-groups, everyone is equal in their say. There is dispute resolution process, so if there are disagreements, members are encouraged to submit their ideas through a process.

More than 100 people attended Lodi meeting; many from local agencies. We now have 22 task groups. Why so many, because we need specialized expertise in a specific field. Caltrans will learn from industry. Some of the concerns raised included:

- Keeping the PPTG involved with the planning of future meetings
- Developing a review process for presentations
- Co-chairs of sub-task groups should give the presentations

The PPTG provides a level playing field for all groups. Last year in Diamond Bar, we had over 300 people at the first conference. This year we expect even more people to show up and we have 26 companies signed up for the booths. Representatives from Caltrans, FHWA, cities and counties will give speeches. Most speakers were from Caltrans and industry.

Shakir also discussed the overall accomplishments of the PPTG including development of several NSSPs, which is an important deliverable of the PPTG. Shakir then discussed innovation sub-group's accomplishments. He indicated that most of the sub-groups have been very active. Some of the inactive groups need to be revitalized.

The innovation group developed the process for implementing new products. A draft was sent to all co-chairs. **Action- the innovation process needs to be finalized and redistributed.**

The CP2 Center was established early this year to be a credible 3rd party. The CP2 Center will be tracking innovative accomplishments from all groups and helping the sub-groups as needed. **Action- The exact role of the Center will play with the PPTG still needs to be clarified.**

Communications have been a problem for the group. Gary Hildebrand suggested that everything should go through Shakir for him to distribute. Hans Ho indicated we need a clear way to deal with the other groups. Shakir mentioned we need to set up a process to coordinate all the various communications. **Action- this process needs to be clarified and documented.**

Gary Hildebrand stated that if the sub-groups follow the process (make a proposal, submit it to Shakir and Gary), changes can be made. Hans mentioned it is all about communications. Issues outside of the PPTG, but within Caltrans are the responsibilities of the Caltrans co-chairs. **Action- revisit the communication process within Caltrans and make needed changes.**

Shakir reemphasized that the specs are approved when they go through the PPTG process. The NSSPs are not on the Caltrans server because they are non-standard; the list of the NSSP titles will be placed on the Centers server in the near future. If anyone needs a copy of a specific NSSP, please contact Gary Hicks. The NSSPs will be posted on the Center website.

Hans Ho suggested the PPTG be marketed better. It has been successful, but most people are not aware of its accomplishments. The communication process between the various groups needs to be improved so everyone is aware of the various success stories. Also, the PPTG has to be represented at the Rock Products meetings even though it is currently undergoing re-organization. **Action-develop a marketing plan for the PPTG.**

The Education sub-group developed a template for training of the MTAG. The education group has also established a timeline for completing all the training modules for subgroups. Shakir will forward the timetable and the template to subgroups asking various subgroups to develop the training materials. The Center developed a web-based training survey and submitted it to the education group for approval. It will be useful to identify other training needs for the PPTG. **Action-education group should be represented in the planning of future conferences.**

The 2007 California Pavement Preservation Conference in Union City is scheduled for April 11-12, 2007. It is noted not all treatments are covered in the conference, but those not covered can or will be exhibiting at the conference.

The PPTG co-chairs (industry, Caltrans, local agencies) were all part of the planning process. Action required- communicate the process within the PPTG better.

The recycling sub-group was recognized for doing a good job. It is an advisor and advocator for its use of in pavement preservation. FHWA considers that surface recycling (3 inches or less) as pavement preservation strategy and should be included in the strategy selection process. **Action- Don Matthews will provide information on estimated lives and costs to Gary Hicks for inclusion into the master table.**

The strategy selection group continues to update the lives and costs for all treatments. They need to include a climate factor into the matrix and initiate the cost analysis. Jack suggested that each co-chair be copied on this information as well. Action- Gary Hicks to distribute the materials to all industry co-chairs

Chip seal sub-group has developed NSSPs and placed some test sections. The first test sections were placed in D11 with AR. Other test sections are planned this summer in D11 using the wet process and polymer modified binders. The work will be done without advertising and the Center will assist in documenting the efforts.

The thin overlay sub-group has also been active with a number of efforts including the development of NSSP's, warm mixes and aggregate size issues. They also act as a liaison to the ACTG.

The crack sealing group is involved with developing new specifications base on climate. They will also submit comments to the MTAG on this item.

The slurry/micro group has done work on micros, but not on slurries. They feel there is no further need to change the specs, but there is a need to develop construction guides. They have provided comments on the MTAG.

The fog/rejuvenator seal sub-group has been very active in developing NSSPs and a work plan for a field study. Shakir indicated we are a national leader in this area. The fog seal spec is an SSP while the rejuvenator seal spec is a NSSP.

The binder sub-group has been active with the PG grading system and has done a good job.

The interlayer group has identified the types of interlayers available and plans to develop guides for their use. They are developing materials for the new version of the MTAG.

The local agency group needs to grow more. Shakir indicated he needs everyone's help to grow this group.

Some of the inactive groups include patching, warrantees, and pavement management. Shakir indicated he has appointed some new leadership to get these sub-groups started again. Jack indicated that the biggest problem with warrantees is not the spec, but with project selection. Jack and Jim Cotey will initiate activities with the warrantee sub-group.

Shakir reviewed the number of NSSPs developed to date and indicated they would be placed on the Centers website. **Action- Center to put NSSPs (just the titles) on the website.**

Recognition has been absent in the PPTG. We need to recognize the efforts of volunteers at the 2007 Pavement Preservation Conference in Union City. Scott suggested a plaque or a certificate. Hans indicated that getting an NSSP implemented is reward enough. **Action-the PPTG needs to look into a proper reward for people making outstanding contributions.**

Suggested areas of improvement in the operation of the PPTG include the following;

- Subgroups need some direction from Caltrans including timelines
- Need more frequent meetings to improve communication problems? The PPTG is accomplishing a lot, but nobody knows it.
- PPTG needs to discuss issues before they become problems
- Develop periodic updates on PPTG accomplishments and share it with the groups

The Center is to support Caltrans and the PPTG in their efforts. The Center should include write-ups of the PPTG activities in their future newsletters.

3. Summary

The PPTG was created by Caltrans and industry. It has been productive. We need to work together to solve any problems and to improve the communication process.

The PPTG has made a number of accomplishments. We need to communicate these better to our customers. Everyone is doing a good job, but we need some additional direction from the Chairs on direction and timelines to ensure that the PPTG continues to be successful.

4. Summary of Action Items

- The innovation process needs to be finalized and redistributed.
- The exact role of the Center will play still needs to be clarified.

- Communication process within the PPTG needs to be clarified and documented.
- Revisit the communication process within Caltrans and make needed changes.
- Develop a marketing plan for the PPTG.
- Education group should be represented in the planning of future conferences.
- Don Matthews will provide information on estimated lives and costs to Gary Hicks for inclusion into the master table.
- The Center is to put NSSPs (just the titles) on the website.
- The PPTG needs to look into a proper reward for people making outstanding contributions.

Meeting adjourned around 1 pm