

M-TRAC ANNUAL MEETING
ST. LOUIS HILTON DOWNTOWN
AUGUST 17 -18, 2010
MEETING MINUTES

The Multi-Regional Training and Certification group held their annual meeting at the Hilton Downtown in St. Louis, Missouri on August 17th and 18th. The M-TRAC group would like to thank Will Stalcup, Jeff Huffman and Janis Gieck of the Missouri DOT for their work in preparing and hosting an excellent meeting. All presentations and documents from the meeting are attached with the minutes.

Will Stalcup opened the meeting with a welcome to the group, after which, the group introduced themselves. There were individuals, that couldn't physically attend the meeting, join the group via web conference. There was a bit of a struggle with Adobe's LMS, but for those that couldn't see the presentations, they were able to listen via teleconference.

The first presentation was on the Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council and was presented by Will Stalcup. Will brought the group up to date on the TCCC activities. The group was charged with adding courses to the National Transportation Training Registry, providing feedback on courses in need of development, and soliciting funds from their state to contribute to the TCCC pooled fund. The new website for the TCCC is <https://fhwaapps.fhwa.dot.gov/tccc/>.

Kevin Monaghan gave a presentation on the TCCC/NHI Web-based training effort. Brian Kleinfelt, who works with Kevin on this effort, contributed to the presentation. It was exciting to learn about all the courses the TCCC/NHI effort has available at no charge. Since the beginning of this effort over 18,000 people have taken these courses. This enforced the need for states to continue to contribute to the TCCC pooled fund effort so they can continue to receive this excellent training free. These courses are also made available to states to deliver through the state's learning management systems. Kevin and Brian also commented on the plan to pilot some of the courses on mobile devices. They will need to identify good candidates for this type of training delivery.

The next discussion was on funding the Technical Training and Certification programs. Fortunately this appears to be an area that is surviving the budget woes that many state DOT's have been stricken with. Many states appear to be working with colleges, universities, or industry to deliver their programs. Industry has to pay to attend the classes and/or for certification and DOT's pay through their budgets or staff actions for their employees to attend. Section 5204(e) of SAFETEA-LU provided for the use of several kinds of Federal-aid funds to support training. Unfortunately, with funds so short, this money has to be used for other DOT costs, since the money that states receive is grouped together and the money to support training is not an additional funding.

Ahmed Farouki presented on the National Institute for Certification Engineering Technologies (NICET). NICET is converting its exam process to include pencil based, computer based, and internet based. Ahmed discussed the work they are undertaking on their exams. They have

concluded that writing good questions is a huge task. NICET has put development of their simulation project on hold until technology develops further. They currently have approximately \$200,000 invested in this project.

John Nehasil with the American Concrete Institute presented next on their program. They have almost completed a multi-day training geared to prepare individuals to sit for the ACI Associate Concrete Transportation Construction Inspector. ACI now has seminars available at no charge on Self Consolidating Concrete, Cementitious Materials, Chemical Admixtures, and a one day seminar on Inspector Training, with a ½ day add-on available to address the inspection of bridge decks. By January, 2011 they will have a program available on Adhesive Concrete Anchors. This is the ACI/CRSI Adhesive Anchor Installer Certification Program and there will be 20 locations conducting exam sessions by the end of 2011.

Jeff Huffman gave a presentation on the use of the Zebra printer for printing certification cards. Several states have purchased these printers since Ray Spellman introduced them to the group a few years ago. Requests had been received from states, not currently using the Zebra, for a demonstration on how they work.

State presentations on Tuesday included Missouri, Kansas, New Mexico, Wisconsin, and the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, South Dakota. These presentations are attached to the minutes.

Many discussions were held throughout the day on recertification, decertification, various types of development software, etc. There was way too much information to include in the minutes.

Many of the attendees attended the Cardinals/Brewers baseball game on Tuesday night. Thanks go to Will for excellent seats and a good time. The Cardinals lost 3 – 2, which gave Ray and Wayne, our two Brewers fans, bragging rights.

The meeting started Wednesday with the group listing some areas they would like to cover in the later group discussion.

Kevin Monaghan gave a presentation on the National Highway Institute, including the new NHI website, <http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/Home.aspx>. Kevin discussed the three delivery methods that NHI uses including instructor led, web based, and web conferencing. He then covered the new NHI website. The site now has a single entry login rather than the old cumbersome two entry login. Time to complete enrollments went from 240 seconds to 40 seconds. Work on the site style and navigation redesign project is currently underway. NHI currently offers a free monthly web conferencing series, Real Solutions Seminar. NHI is now working on Regional Trainings, State Partnership Trainings, and new NHI Facility Trainings.

The group had discussed at the 2009 meeting the benefits of sharing their exams to expand their question pool. Missouri, Iowa, and New Mexico, had their exams available. Other states were sending their exams to Chris to be distributed to the group. Each state will take precautions that the exams are secured. Writing good exam questions is a task that is very time consuming and difficult, so hopefully the exchange will provide some assistance.

Brian Legan gave a presentation on non-radioactive technology to measure moisture/density. They are currently testing using the Trans Tech gauge. This gauge doesn't measure moisture at the present time, only density. It has advantages because it is non-radioactive and very lightweight. There will be comparisons conducted using the Trans Tech and the radioactive gauges. John Hinrichsen told the group that Iowa had done some comparison testing using the non-radioactive and the radioactive gauges. He said the comparisons weren't very close with the testing Iowa had performed. Brian put together the costs instructing/certifying individuals to use the radioactive gauges over the past five years and it was over a million dollars.

David Mott shared a Training Endorsement that North Dakota is developing to be sent to their offices to determine if a training is necessary or not. A copy of this form is included in the presentation.

States/universities making presentations on Wednesday included Iowa, University of Arkansas, and Texas.

A general discussion was held to discuss topics of interest to the group. These included cheating on exams, AASHTO copyright issues, math requirements, etc. It was of interest to the group that Missouri had to change the name used for recertifications to renewals.

The group discussed the M-TRAC logo. This was developed several years ago and has become outdated and hard to make copies, since no one knows where the original is. The group agreed to have a graphic artist look at the logo and submit some ideas for updating. The group agreed that the information that is currently on the logo should remain.

The M-TRAC instruction materials should be looked at again for updates to the test procedures. Chris will make a list of all the test procedures and send it out to the group and ask for volunteers to review any test method and comment.

The group plans to meet in Kansas City next year with Kansas as the hosts. Because of conflicts in August it was suggested we look at late July for the meeting. Chris will ask the group and see what the consensus is.

Thanks to all attending both in person and via web conference. Again thank you to Missouri DOT for being our hosts. It is both exciting and exhausting to share so many ideas!



Annual M-TRAC Technical Trainers Workshop

August 17 – 18, 2010

The 2010 M-TRAC meeting will be held at the Hilton St. Louis Downtown in St. Louis, Missouri. The meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 17, and conclude at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18. Following is the agenda:

Tuesday, August 17, 2010

7:30 am	–	8:00 am	Arrival and Registration (<i>continental breakfast provided</i>)
8:00 am	–	8:30 am	Welcome & Participant Introductions
8:30 am	–	8:45 am	Update on Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TCCC)
8:45 am	–	9:30 am	TCCC/NHI Web-based Training Update
9:30 am	–	10:00 am	Funding the Technical Training and Certification Programs – Is your state surviving?
10:00am	–	10:15 am	Break
10:15 am	–	11:00 am	NICET/ ACI
11:00 am	–	12:00 am	State Presentations and Discussion
12:00 am	–	1:00 pm	Lunch (<i>provided</i>)
1:00 pm	–	1:30 pm	Competency Based Training
1:30 pm	–	2:00 pm	State Presentations
2:00 pm	–	3:00 pm	State Presentations and Discussion
3:00 pm	–	3:15 pm	Break
3:15 pm	–	3:30 pm	Printer Presentation
3:30 pm	–	4:30 pm	State Presentations and Discussion

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

8:00 am	–	8:15 am	Welcome and Review Day 2 Schedule List State Problems and Issues for Discussion
8:15 am	–	8:45am	Using NHI's New Website
8:45 am	–	9:15 am	Exam Exchange/Testing Issues
9:15 am	–	9:45 am	State Presentations
9:45 am	–	10:00 am	Break
10:00 am	–	10:30 am	Non-radioactive technology to measure moisture/density
10:30 am	–	11:30 am	State Presentations
11:30 am	–	12:30 pm	Lunch (<i>provided</i>)
12:30 pm	–	1:30 pm	State Presentations
1:30 pm	–	3:30 pm	State Problems and Issues – Open Discussion
3:30 pm	–	4:00 pm	Workshop Wrap-Up Location for FHWA M-TRAC Workshop 2011

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ATTENDEES

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