

# PMPC Executive Committee/Asphalt Task Group Meeting Minutes

**Date: February 18, 2021**

**Time: 8:30 am-10:00am**

**Location: Webex Meeting**

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Facilitator: Tom Pyle

Attendees: Tom Pyle, Raymond Tritt, Brandon Milar, Allen King, Dennis McElroy, Ken Solak, Tim Greutert, Kevin Keady, Pat Imhoff, Charley Rea, Doug Mason, Phil Reader, Jeremy Peterson-Self, Kelly Lorah, Scott Dmytrow, Chu Wei

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## 1. Introductions/Review Agenda

- I. Roll Call/Check-in
- II. Tom welcomed the group to the quarterly EC+ATG meeting. Tom is acting as State Pavement engineer for a short time until a permanent actor is in place.
- III. Tom did introductions for those new to the group and introduced new industry members Dennis and Scott who were added to the ATG, representing the Recycling and Stabilizing Association of California (RSA) and the Western Regional Association for Pavement Preservation (WRAPP).

## 2. Action Items from 11/19/2020 EC meeting:

- I. ATG to review and prioritize STG's bin lists for all STGs under them. (ATG) **Completed**
- II. EC needs to have more discussion on the pilot project process to support TG's in getting more pilot projects from districts. (EC) **ongoing in multiple directions**
  - a. **Update: Ray Hopkins is delivering a construction presentation to PDAC, encouraging districts to take on pilot projects to help with sustainability items for the Department.**
  - b. **Sergio was pursuing direction in Maintenance to carve out some money from the HM1 program to help fund pilot test sections in district projects.**

## Action Items from 08/20/2020 EC meeting:

- I. Follow up with PP STG on the Vialit test to see if they will remove or suggest replacement test method. (Pat I) **Completed**
  - c. **Update: Jeremy said changes to Section 37 were sent to the ATG, the link to the Vialit test was removed from the specifications and an email address was provided for the Vialit test. Currently, Steve Lee and Lisa Watkins have access to the email account.**

## 3. Introductory Urgent Issues (All):

- I. 1-Hopper Specification change
  - a. Industry from the HMA and Pavement Preservation side are unanimously against a 1-hopper specification. Feel they need a two-hopper system to properly dole out the ratios for CRM and high natural rubber.
  - b. Tom: We have discussed it on our end, if industry can find any email or guidance document on what and why the decision was made, it would help Caltrans.
  - c. Brandon: The change was done in 2011-2012, implementation was 2013. It had to do with some failures of RAC projects and it was recommended to move to a 2-hopper operation for forensics.
  - d. Phil: There is no way to test a preblended bag for the content of natural rubber versus CRM in it. There is no test available and the materials look very similar when blended.
  - e. **Action Item: Phil to contact Jack van Kirk to see what records he might have on the decision to move from a 1-hopper to 2-hopper operation.**
  - f. Tim: With the high natural rubber, should Caltrans be testing more for this since Industry say it is very important to have in the binder? Do we need to do the chemical testing to verify?
  - g. **Action Item: Phil and Scott to check with Rubber Suppliers to see if they are doing the testing of high natural rubber in their supply chains.**
  - h. Industry is saying you can't test a blended bag containing CRM (75%) and high natural rubber (25%) to be able to say with any certainty, what is the percentage of high natural rubber present is in the bag.

- i. **Action Item: ATG to work out how best to resolve the issue of the 1-hopper versus 2-hopper system.**
- II. 2-Year Job Mix Formula (JMF)
  - a. Phil: The JMF decision document is done. Industry would like to see it submitted as RSS in next submittal for specification changes.
  - b. Tim: Has the EC seen the decision document?
    - i. No, the decision document was being finalized late on Wednesday night and didn't think the EC would have enough time to review a proposal and decide on it the next morning.
    - ii. The decision document being sent around was also addressed to the ATG from the STG chairs and was not asking the EC for approval but for the ATG to accept their recommendations. Will share with EC when I receive final copy and request.
- 4. ATG Work Products
  - I. RAP Up to 40% in HMA:
    - a. Still having trouble finding pilot projects for specification evaluation. Milestone extension has been approved and milestone dates have been updated.
  - III. Evaluate the New HMA Pavement Smoothness Specification Work:
    - a. Group had a little bump in the road with collecting data beforehand, but we are now getting smoothness construction data back on projects.
    - b. We are getting a lot of calls on areas of localized roughness (ALR) with a single lift overlay. We have modifying the specification and Construction Policy Bulletin (CPD) to address the leave out areas due to ALRs. Moving forward with CPD on the issue, should be out in a month or so.
    - c. Tim: Have the group looked at the appropriateness of the pay factors used for the smoothness specification?
      - i. Allen: The working group is taking a look at the numbers, consulting with FHWA on how to best analyze the data and numbers to come up with a methodology for analysis.
  - IV. Recycled Asphalt Shingles (RAS) up to 3%:
    - a. We are still struggling to find districts willing to take on a pilot project test section within their projects. D3 is developing a project utilizing RAS currently.
    - b. Working group just sent a time extension request to the ATG for approval.
    - c. Tim: This is an important sustainability effort using RAS, wonder why districts hesitating to use?
  - V. Section 37 Update:
    - a) Final draft of the revised specification was sent to the stakeholders for their review and to industry.
    - b) Tim: Do we know who the group of stakeholders are?
      - i. Usually for Asphalt, it is FHWA, Office Construction Contract Standards, Pavement Program, HQ Construction to review specs for concurrence.
  - VI. Combine CIR FA & CIR EA now called PDR:
    - a) Impasse was resolved. Specification is complete.
    - b) Work product will be moved to the completed/closed projects.
  - VII. Post Plant Gradation
    - a) Working group has developed a nSSP which was sent out for final circulation review.
    - b) Milestone 3 should be completed in the next week or two and working group will move on to the other milestone tasks. Schedule on track.
  - VIII. RAP in RHMA:
    - a. Group is having trouble getting RHMA-G mixes with RAP, working group needs suppliers.
    - b. Brandon: Winter season right now so RHMA production is shut down due to temperatures.
    - c. **Action Item: Allen to send mix information to Brandon and Charley on what Asphalt STG is looking for in RHMA-G with RAP mixes.**
  - IX. Review Closed/Tracking List
    - a. No issues discussed.
- 5. Review of Bin Lists (Jeremy):
  - I. Asphalt STG bin list:
    - a. The new updated bin list was presented to the EC with 5 items on it, two of which having short scoping documents being developed.
    - b. Tim: I would like to hear more on the intelligent compaction item and why it is on the list?

- c. Phil: We had 3 rounds of pilot projects in the Rock Products Group. When the PMPC was formed, the intelligent compaction committee was dropped. We want to complete the task started.
  - d. Tim: We want the specifications and the tools we add to the list to bring some value to the pavement. All we are saying is did intelligent compaction add value to the pavement.
- II. Recycling STG Bin List:
- a. STG working on scoping document for first item on list, Write nSSPs and pilot CCPR on Caltrans projects and is being sent out for review. They dropped the pilot in scoping document.
  - b. Dennis: Industry is struggling with Caltrans' personnel resources to address bin list items; we need more Caltrans bodies to address the workload.
  - c. Tim: Why no pilot projects on the CCPR?
    - i. We don't want to jam up the process with trying to find a pilot project candidate like we have had with RAP and RAS work products. We develop the nSSP and then work to find a district to utilize the specification on a pilot project, then start a scoping document for evaluation of pilot.
  - d. **Action Item: Recycling group to add pilot projects for CCPR as a separate item on their bin list and prioritize.**
- III. Pavement Preservation STG Bin List:
- a. Working group is focusing on section 37 update .
  - b. Bin list represents the current tasks we would like to address.
6. Pilot Project Process Update:
- I. This was covered previously in the Action Items review.
  - II. Ray Hopkins is delivering a construction presentation to PDAC, encouraging districts to take on pilot projects to help with sustainability items for the Department.
  - III. Sergio was pursuing direction in Maintenance to carve out some money from the HM1 program to help fund pilot test sections in district projects.
7. Open Discussion (All):
- I. Tim expressed his gratitude with the ATG with keeping work products moving forward with the revolving door of Caltrans personnel at all levels of the PMPC.
8. Action Items
- I. Phil to contact Jack van Kirk to see what records he might have on the decision to move from a 1-hopper to 2-hopper operation. (Phil R)
  - II. Phil and Scott to check with Rubber Suppliers to see if they are doing the testing of high natural rubber in their supply chains. (Phil R and Scott D.)
  - III. ATG to work out how best to resolve the issue of the 1-hopper versus 2-hopper system. (ATG)
  - IV. Allen to send mix information to Brandon and Charley on what Asphalt STG is looking for in RHMA-G with RAP mixes. (Allen K/Kee F)
  - V. Recycling group to add pilot projects for CCPR as a separate item on their bin list and prioritize. (RSTG)