

SICOP & Equipment Management

Technical Service Programs

Joint Conference Call Meeting

April 30th, 2010

The Snow & Ice Cooperative Technical Service Program (SICOP) and Equipment Management Technical Service Program (EMTSP) members held a joint conference call to commence discussions on how the two groups could begin working together on national issues affecting both groups.

Erle Potter and Bill Hoffman began the meeting with their expectations of the call:

Bill Hoffman SICOP

- We need help from the EMTSP in several areas. Pressing issues are on-board open architecture and plug-and-play formats provided by truck manufacturers and snow & ice device vendors. The lack of this technology is hindering many states from easily implementing and successfully installing a lot of newer AVL, MDSS and weather sensing equipment. The ability to get real-time, on-the-road weather, video and road conditions back to Traffic Operations Centers and into a 511 systems is needed for winter mobility and operations. Also, automatically data downloads of plow activity, application amounts, and road conditions into a DOT Maintenance Management System directly from the vehicle will save hundreds of man-hours and help agencies make better “real-time” operational decisions.
- Mobile data collection and the ease of implementing a working system to collect road weather information from several vehicle types is the top priority of several lead state DOTs. An example of this is the FHWA IntelliDrive / Clarus Initiative.

<http://www.intellidriveusa.org>

<http://www.clarusinitiative.org>

- Winter Maintenance Vehicle Safety issues with respect to the public’s ability to see maintenance equipment during heavy storms is still an issue. Lighting packages, reflectivity and conspicuity trends, etc. Also, the need to improve the equipment operators’ ability to see the road during white-out and heavy snow storms is a national priority. Alaska DOT’s Smart Plow with “heads-up” display, use of GPS and AVL to keep plows on the road are lead state examples.

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/iways/proj-smartsnowplow.shtml>

- Clear Roads, a national pooled fund group, which focuses on equipment and winter maintenance have completed several research projects and have several more underway.
<http://www.clearroads.org>
- The Tow Plow has been accepted as an official AASHTO Technology Implementation Group (TIG) project, so the need for our two TSPs to discuss the implementation and use of the Tow Plow and feeding the AASHTO Equipment and Snow & Ice perspectives to the TIG will be important.
http://www.transportation1.org/tig_solicitation/uploads/2010%20AASHTO%20TIG%20Nomination%20-%20MoDOT.doc
- Lee Smithson of AASHTO, has coordinated the last two National Winter Maintenance Peer Exchanges in 2007 & 2009. 33 snow belt states attended each exchange and several Winter Maintenance Equipment research areas were identified as needs by the states attending. These research needs areas have been assigned to various Winter Maintenance Groups, i.e., Clear Roads, Aurora, PNS, SICOP, and a lot of work has been done. There is still work to be done, however, there are areas that can be investigated through a joint effort between our two TSPs.
<http://www.westerntransportationinstitute.org/professionaldevelopment/peer-exchange>

AASHTO SCOM Meeting In Savannah

We felt the first major step in working together will be to focus on educating each other on our current needs. Through a joint meeting in Savannah, we plan on identifying overlap areas, current practices, future needs and develop joint projects to address the existing gaps. This two-hour joint meeting is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, July 13th using one hour of the Safety and Reliability TWG breakout session time and one hour of the Equipment Management TWG breakout session time .

Assistance, collaboration & Monitoring

SICOP's first major need is to try and understand all of the current equipment standards and codes so we can better communicate with the road weather on-vehicle vendors so the trucks and devices have a better chance communicating properly. This info will also gives us a better understanding of new technologies or directions we can go in with regards road weather management.

Next Meeting:

[Joint TSP Conference Call: Friday, June 4th, 2 PM \(ET\)](#)

Attendees

Erle Potter – AASHTO SCOM Equipment TWG Chair / EMTSP Oversight Panel Chairman

Steve Varnedoe – EMTSP Administrator (NCPD)

Patte Hahn – EMTSP Coordinator (NCPD)

Ron Pruitt – Alabama DOT / Vice Chair - AASHTO SCOM Equipment TWG / EMTSP Oversight Panel Member

Tim Cunningham - Kansas DOT / EMTSP Oversight Panel Member

Bill Hoffman – AASHTO SCOM – Chair ~ Safety & Reliability TWG/SICOP Member

Lee Smithson – SICOP & AASHTO Safety & Reliability TWG Coordinator

Steve Lund – Minnesota DOT / Vice Chair - AASHTO SCOM Safety & Reliability TWG/SICOP Member

Jim Smith - Pennsylvania DOT / EMTSP Oversight Panel Member

Dick Baron – Connecticut DOT / EMTSP Oversight Panel Member

Dennis Halachoff – Arizona DOT / EMTSP Oversight Panel Member