Winter Maintenance Policy Coordinating Committee

Program guidance is provided by a representative steering committee called the Winter Maintenance Policy Coordinating Committee (WMPCC). The voting members of the WMPCC are comprised of representatives from each AASHTO Region, a liaison from AASHTO's Committee on Transportation System Operations, liaisons from the American Association of Public Works, National Association of County Engineers, and representatives from the Transportation Research Board Winter Maintenance and Surface Transportation Weather Committees. The Federal Highway Administration liaison is an ex officio member of the committee.

Committee Highlights

The SICOP Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the AASHTO Committee on Maintenance (SICOPs parent Committee) in Charlotte, NC.

Technical Service Program Triennial Review 2015-2017

Every three years each of AASHTOs Technical Service Programs undergo a program review by their parent AASHTO committee. SICOP presented their program highlights for the years 2015-2017 and proposed activities for 2018-2020 to the Maintenance Committee during their annual meeting in July 2018. A formal ballot was issued to the committees voting membership which resulted in approval to continue the program for the next three year period.

Research

One of the services SICOP provides to member states is the ability to perform quick research activities to locate resources or do rapid surveys. In 2018 SICOP collected information on the implementation of corrosion mitigation strategies, the use of shared facilities, and contracting for maintenance.

SICOP enjoys an excellent relationship with Clear Roads and Aurora. This cooperation serves as a resource and provides an avenue for promoting their activities and research.

In 2018 NCHRP launched project 06-18; AASHTO Guide for Snow and Ice Control. SICOP is represented on the project panel and will bring an excellent perspective to the project as it

Communications

One of the principal missions of SICOP is to promote winter maintenance best practices and assist in technology transfer. SICOP uses a variety of methods to reach out to member states and the winter maintenance community. The SICOPs website sicop.transportation.org is constantly being refreshed with new material to serve as a resource for winter maintenance professionals.

The SICOP podcast, SICOP Talks Winter Ops is an excellent place to hear from leaders in the winter maintenance community about their experiences and expertise. Eleven episodes were produced in 2018 and were played 1,050 times across the globe. SICOP Talks Winter Ops can be found at iTunes (Apple Podcasts), GooglePlay, Spotify, and Stitcher and at SICOPTalksWinterOps.com.

SICOP also utilizes social media to highlight winter maintenance in the news and announce events. You can find aashtoSICOP on Facebook and Instagram.

More traditional forms of communication are also employed through the Snow and Ice List Serve and targeted emails. To get included on the SICOP distribution list contact SICOP Coordinator Rick Nelson at RNelson@aashto.org.

Road Weather Management

SICOP has been collaborating with the Committee on Transportation System Operation Community of Practice on Road Weather Management to identify activities to insure a robust all-weather transportation system management and operation. In addition, we are involved in FHWA's EDC5: Weather Responsive Management Strategies.

National Winter Maintenance Strategic Plan

SICOP began working on the 7 strategic issues of the 2018-2020 plan. Episodes of the SICOP Talks Winter Ops podcast were produced on route optimization and the use of liquids, collaboration with APWA to promote the use of liquids, and presentations in moderate weather zones of the country are examples of early actions completed in 2018,
Program Highlights

- SICOP was well represented on the NCHRP Panel for Project 14-34: Guide for Performance Measures in Snow and Ice Control Operations. This project was completed in 2018 and should be released in 2019.
- SICOP made a presentation on Winter Maintenance Long Term Planning at the Arkansas Transportation Research Conference.
- SICOP was well represented and participated in the FHWA Road Weather Management Stakeholder meeting in Louisville, KY.
- Planning for the National Winter Maintenance Peer Exchange, co-sponsored by SICOP, Aurora, and Clear Roads began with a proposal to collaborate with the winter committees of TRB and their quadrennial Winter Maintenance and Surface Transportation Weather conference. This combined event is being planned for 2020.
- Because the winter maintenance community is so large with many different organizations, in 2018 SICOP created a roster of winter maintenance organizations that was peer reviewed and posted to the SICOP website.
- A paper and presentation was prepared for the PIARC Winter Road Congress titled “National Academy of Science Report on Integrating Social and Behavioral Sciences Within the Weather Enterprise - Implications for Winter Service.
- SICOP collaborated with the leadership of the Standing International Road Weather Commission (SIRWEC) to populate and promote the proceedings of their 2018 conference among the US road weather community. Those proceedings can be found at: SIRWEC.org
- SICOP helps support AASHTOs Committee on Maintenance, our parent committee, through collaboration with the Maintenance Operations TWG and administrative support for the production of their newsletter, the Maintenance Manager.

Training

Many years ago SICOP created a Computer Based Training Program to deliver on demand RWIS/Anti-icing training to winter maintenance personnel in their work environment. Over the years these initial training modules have been modified and enhanced by including additional relevant training topics and to keep pace with changing technology. In 2018 SICOP collaborated with AASHTOs Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TC3) to create a category of training called “SICOP Winter Operations” where those training modules now reside and are available free of cost for anyone to take. When future winter operations training materials become available from any source they can be offered through this platform.

The following link will take you to the TC3 Winter Operations training modules:

store.transportation.org/Trainings?/C_WO

WMPC MEMBERS

SICOP Chairman Steven Lund, P.E., MN DOT, Region 3
Caleb Dobbins, P.E., NH DOT, Region 1
Heath Patterson, P.E., MS DOT, Region 2
Kyle Lester, CO DOT, Region 4
Greg Parker, P.E., NACE Liaison
Matthew Morreim, P.E., APWA Liaison
Steven Cook, P.E., MI DOT, TSO Liaison
Kathy Ahlenius, P.G., WY DOT - TRB Surface Transportation Weather
Tina Greenfield, IA DOT - TRB Winter Maintenance
Paul Pisano, FHWA Liaison
Rick Nelson, P.E., F.ASCE,