

TPF-5(178) Implementation of the Asphalt Mixture Performance Tester (AMPT) for Superpave Validation

Report for Quarter Ending March 31, 2010

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Summary of Progress

- ✓ The FHWA solicited proposals from AMPT manufacturers' for the procurement of at least nine and up to twenty AMPT test systems. Proposals were due on March 16, 2010. The FHWA Office of Pavement Technology is working with FHWA's Office of Acquisition Management to finalize offers to procure AMPT equipment for pooled fund participants. The first round of equipment purchases will include the purchase of up to nine AMPTs that will be delivered to pooled fund participants that have transferred at least \$70,000.
- ✓ John Bukowski provided an update on the status of the pooled fund study at the Committee for Asphalt Research & Technology (CART) meeting at the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) Annual Meeting in January 2010.
- ✓ FHWA, twenty-one states, and the Ministry of Transportation in Ontario, Canada have committed over \$2 million to participate in this study. *The study is on-going and participants are welcome to join at any time.*
- ✓ Three partner States (FL, UT, and VA) are not purchasing the equipment as part of this study since they already own one or more AMPTs. However, they are contributing a reduced amount (\$30,000) to the study to benefit from the National Training Course and participate in experimental studies.
- ✓ One state, CT, has committed an additional \$75,000 to the study in order to purchase two AMPTs.
- ✓ FHWA, AL, CO, CT, FL, GA, IL, KS, ME, MD, NH, NY, Ontario MOT, OR, PA, UT, VA, WI and WY have already transferred a portion or all of their funds. The study currently has authorized \$1,227,620.
- ✓ Applied Research Associates, Inc (ARA) is partnering with Advanced Asphalt Technologies (AAT) and the National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT) to develop and deliver the AMPT National Training Course.
- ✓ Continuum Fatigue Damage hardware and software is available as an option on the AMPT equipment. It was decided not to pursue this option for the AMPT pooled fund purchase at this time due to the fact that it is still very early in the research stage.

Planned Activities

Next Quarter (April through July 2010):

- Study partners should continue to transfer their 2010 funding commitments to the lead agency, FHWA.
- The AMPT National Training Course Pilot is scheduled for May 26-27, 2010 at NCAT in Auburn, AL. Attendees include FHWA's Technical Evaluation Panel, ARA and sub-contractors, and other invited guests.
- The final deliverables for the AMPT National Training Course are due on July 19, 2010.
- Equipment is expected to begin being delivered to pooled fund participants as early as summer 2010.

Future Activities:

- The AMPT National Training Course will be offered in fall 2010.
- AMPT equipment will continue to be delivered to study participants in fall 2010 through 2011.

Problems Encountered

The original solicitation for the AMPT pooled fund equipment purchase was released on January 22, 2010 and proposals were due on February 23, 2010. No offers were received by February 23, 2010. The due date for offers was extended until March 16, 2010. This caused a very short timeline to prepare for the pilot; however FHWA decided to proceed with the AMPT National Training Course pilot on May 26-27, 2010.