



December 18, 2006

Mr. J. Richard Capka
Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Dept. of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Room 4218
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. John Horsley
Executive Director
American Association of State Highway
and Transportation Officials
444 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 225
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Twenty-second letter report of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) Committee (“the Committee”)

Dear Mr. Capka and Mr. Horsley:

The Committee met on October 11-12 to review progress in the continuation of the LTPP studies. A roster indicating the members who attended this meeting is Attachment 1.

As you know, the LTPP studies initially were a part of the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP) and have been managed by the FHWA since 1992. Throughout its existence, SHRP was guided by a tripartite arrangement among the FHWA, AASHTO, and the National Research Council (NRC). By mutual agreement of the three parties, and through a contractual arrangement with the FHWA, the NRC continues to provide advice and assistance on the conduct of the LTPP studies through the work of its TRB LTPP Committee.

The meeting’s agenda consisted of briefings by the FHWA LTPP staff, LTPP contractors, and TRB staff, followed by questions and answers, and open discussion.

The meeting principally addressed the changes in the nature and structure of the TRB committees that have been advising the FHWA and AASHTO on the status of the the program’s ongoing activities, and the plans being developed by the FHWA for the continuation of certain high-priority activities in the post-2009 period.

At the conclusion of the open session, the Committee held a closed session to deliberate on its findings and formulate its consensus recommendations, which are presented here.

1. In light of LTPP’s reduced activities and reduced funding for TRB’s support of the program, we consider it appropriate to “downsize” the committee structure to a smaller roster of members and a smaller number of Expert Task Groups (ETGs). A roster of ten appointed members will still be able to handle the Committee’s workload and adequately provide the FHWA’s state and industry partners with access to information and a voice in setting the future course of the program. We concur with the plan to retain the ETG on LTPP Traffic Data

Collection and Analysis, and to replace the others with one new ETG that will address the technical issues that are addressed separately by those individual ETGs.

2. We commend the FHWA's efforts to date to develop a plan for continuation of those high-priority LTPP activities that will not be concluded by the expiration in 2009 of the current authorizing legislation. We recommend that the FHWA continue its development of this post-2009 plan and commit ourselves to review the completed plan carefully. We anticipate receiving the FHWA's final version of the post-2009 plan by March 30, 2007, and expect to discuss it in detail at our next meeting the following month.
3. Our review of the FHWA's post-2009 plan will be incorporated into a letter report that we will author identifying those critically needed follow-through activities that we believe should be undertaken in the post-2009 period to "fulfill the promise of better roads¹". Our report will also address technical issues to be identified by our ETGs as matters of concern as the pavement performance research activities of LTPP transition from the LTPP program to the post-2009 environment.

I want to thank the FHWA's LTPP Team, headed by Aramis López, for a highly productive meeting.

Sincerely,



Victor M. Mendez
Chairman
TRB LTPP Committee

Attachment:

1. Roster of Committee members indicating attendance at the meeting of October 11-12, 2006.

¹ *Fulfilling the Promise of Better Roads*, A Report of the TRB Long-Term Pavement Performance Committee, Transportation Research Board Miscellaneous Report, ISBN 0-309-07247-6, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 2001.



Attachment 1

TRB LONG-TERM PAVEMENT PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Member Roster²

Michael E. Ayers
Director of Pavement Technology Services
American Concrete Pavement Association

DON H. FREEMAN
State Highway Engineer
South Carolina Department of Transportation

RALPH HAAS
Norman W. McLeod Engineering Professor
University of Waterloo

Henry G. R. Kerali
Senior Highway Engineer
The World Bank

VICTOR M. MENDEZ
Director
Arizona Department of Transportation

CARL L. MONISMITH
Robert Horonjeff Professor of Civil
Engineering
University of California, Berkeley

David E. Newcomb
Vice-President, Research and Technology
National Asphalt Pavement Association

ROBERT L. SACK
Deputy Chief Engineer
New York State Department of Transportation

Ted M. Scott
Executive Director of Government Relations
Roadway Express Inc.

WILLIAM H. TEMPLE
Chief Engineer, Office of Highways
Louisiana Department of Transportation and
Development

ROBERT WALTERS
Chief Engineer
Arkansas Highway and Transportation
Department

GARY C. WHITED
Deputy Administrator
Wisconsin Department of Transportation

James McFarland Yowell
State Highway Engineer (Retired)
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

² Attendees of the meeting of October 11-12, 2006 are indicated in **BOLD CAPITAL LETTERS**