



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

May 3, 2011

In Reply Refer To:
HRDI-30

Mr. William H. Temple
Chairman
Transportation Research Board
Long-Term Pavement Performance Committee
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Temple: *Bill*

Thank you for the January 20 letter report of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) Committee's findings and recommendations from your November 15-16, 2010, meeting.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your leadership as Committee Chair and the Committee's feedback. We remain committed to meet regularly and to seek your comments and suggestions as we consider the recommendations provided in your letter report. This exchange of ideas is an important part of the success and longevity of the LTPP program.

We understand the Committee's concern with the potential gap that could be created if access to the LTPP data through *DataPave Online* is no longer available. This Web site is a key part of the plan to disseminate the program's data and products online. The FHWA will continue to maintain the *DataPave Online* as we continue developing the next generation of the LTPP Web Portal. We commit to solve this issue before the existing contract expires so that access to this valuable service for our stakeholders and customers is uninterrupted.

The LTPP stakeholder involvement is a cornerstone of the program. As a matter of fact, we experienced that targeting communication to different audiences was a key component of FHWA's Every Day Counts Initiative. Therefore, we will reach out to a diverse audience as we develop the LTPP information material.

Thank you for the endorsement and suggestions about the Webinars and LTPP Data Analysis Forum sponsored by the LTPP Committee. These are important, and I am pleased to learn of the successful exchange of LTPP information. I also appreciate the Committee's endorsement and assistance regarding the Information Management System (IMS) Strategic Plan 2015.



The FHWA understands the Committee's concern with the proposed schedule to implement the new IMS system for data entry and processing portal. Since this is a software conversion and not the development of a totally new set of code and user interfaces, the LTPP Team is comfortable with the current "go-live" date of August 2011. We have contingency plans should unexpected delays occur. The new system will go through extensive "stress-testing" to ensure it will meet user needs before it is activated. If the system is not ready in August, we will use the contingency plan until we thoroughly evaluate the system and it is fully operational. This contingency plan will ensure uninterrupted data entry and processing in the LTPP IMS. We will report on the status of the implementation of the new system at future Committee meetings.

We appreciate the Committee's desire to continue the LTPP database and organizational prominence. The use of the LTPP data, both within FHWA and by others, is a critical point to establish that long-term commitment. We are delighted to learn from TRB that more than 50 reports or presentations used LTPP data at the 2011 Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting. The FHWA actions to make the data even more accessible will help ensure a strong future program. Finally, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2012 budget request and multiyear reauthorization for Research and Technology (R&T), together with our emerging Infrastructure R&T Strategic Plan, will allow for a continued LTPP legacy. As we move forward, we will keep in mind the Committee's recommendation regarding the National Pavement Performance Database.

Again, I thank you and the members of your Committee for your continued support and dedication to the LTPP program. Should you have any questions regarding this response and/or LTPP, please feel free to contact Mr. Michael Trentacoste at (202) 493-3999, or Mr. Aramis López at (202) 493-3145.

Sincerely,



Victor M. Mendez
Administrator

cc: Mr. John Horsley