



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

Office of the Administrator

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

October 12, 2010

In Reply Refer To:
HRDI-13

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

Dear Mr. Temple:

Thank you for the June 21 letter report of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) Committee's findings and recommendations from your May 6-7 meeting.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your leadership as Committee Chair and the Committee's feedback. We are committed to meet regularly to seek your comments and suggestions and carefully consider the recommendations, provided in your letter report. This candid and forthright exchange of ideas has been instrumental to the success and longevity of the LTPP program.

We are pleased with the overall increase in quantity and quality of traffic data received from our partner States and through the Traffic Pooled Fund Study. The Expert Task Group (ETG) on LTPP Traffic Data Collection and Analysis has suggested that traffic data elements be tagged to indicate to users the quality of the data elements. After consulting with the LTPP Traffic ETG, we have identified several strategies to address this need including adding an explanation of data quality to the LTPP Traffic Users Guide and incorporating a table for identifying locations with that quality in the LTPP Traffic Analysis Software database that is part of the Standard Data Release.

Security of the LTPP Database is a key priority for FHWA; we understand and concur with the Committee's position that it is essential to provide for both the physical security of the Information Management System (IMS) and accessibility of the data. We are pleased to inform you that we are now working with our existing database support contractor to provide LTPP Database Internet connectivity through a secure Web portal. We are also working toward a longer-term solution that will provide a Web-based platform for the IMS within our internal IT system.



The LTPP program remains a critical component of our FHWA infrastructure research and technology program. In providing our input to the Administration's reauthorization proposal, we are pursuing funding consistent with the Committee's recommendations.


Based on the Committee's comments, which advocate for a more proactive outreach to the Association of American State Highway and Transportation Officials Committees and Subcommittees and to the States' contacts, we are evaluating the current outreach program and exploring ways to improve. We look forward to working with the Committee in identifying methods and messages for these important stakeholders.

The LTPP State Coordinators are another critical aspect of stakeholder involvement on the LTPP program. In fact, because the State Coordinators have been so essential to the success of LTPP, we are planning to establish a similar State Coordinators group for the Long-Term Bridge Performance Program. Historically, the State Coordinators' meeting at the TRB Annual Meeting has served the program well. Over the last 6 months, we have been discussing the Committee's comment regarding the decline in attendance of the State Coordinators at this outreach event and measures we might take to invigorate attendance. I plan to personally provide the opening remarks at the LTPP State Coordinators meeting on January 23, 2011.

In addition, we are in the process of piloting a State Coordinators' "Webinar" to inform and keep the State Coordinators informed and engaged in LTPP activities. Our first regional Webinar is scheduled for this fall.

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