

Strategic Plan for the AASHTO Committee on Construction

As approved by the Strategic Management Committee, September 22, 2018

Goal 1: Improve the timely delivery of projects to meet specific on-time and on-budget goals

The traveling public expects wise use of funding for transportation. AASHTO COC will promote the use of alternative contracting methods and technology to improve schedule and cost performance on transportation projects. To improve quality, the COC will promote standardization of materials and details.

1.1 Foster alternative contracting methods

Implementation Actions:

- Share innovative contracting methods and best practice during meetings
- Support national groups such as the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) in improving nationwide use of innovative contracting methods.
- Support research involving innovative contracting

1.2 Support accelerated construction initiatives with construction expertise.

Implementation Actions:

- Coordinate with Bridges and Structures Committee

1.3 Promote consistency and standardization of materials and design details locally and regionally.

Implementation Actions:

- Publish Construction Guide Specifications
- Coordinate with other AASHTO Committees to ensure consistency in specifications

1.4 Promote the use of technology that will allow transparency of our work for our customers.

Implementation Actions:

- Continue to support the use of technology in construction management by sharing best practices and emerging technologies at meetings
- Explore methods to better share construction status with contractors and the public, and strive for consistency among states
- Continue to leverage the use of technology and tools, such as e-construction

1.5 Develop and promote performance metrics, while enhancing the relationship between the owner and industry.

Implementation Actions:

- Share best practices related to performance measurement
- Promote the use of performance metrics among member agencies

Goal 2: Enhance the state of practice of the transportation construction industry.

Sharing best practices amongst member agencies. Maintain a web-based clearinghouse of current and relevant information. Leverage tools such as e-construction to improve the state of the practice and effective use of personnel.

2.1 Promote and support the regional and national peer exchanges.

Implementation Actions:

- Support FHWA in the use of peer exchanges
- Encourage state-funded peer exchanges
- Foster states' discussion topics at national meetings and on teleconferences.

2.2 Develop and promote the use of performance-based or innovative/alternative contracting specifications.

Implementation Actions:

- Update guidance documents and improve understanding of performance-based specifications
- Share and disseminate performance-based specifications

2.3 Promote best practices for sustainable construction and environmental stewardship.

Implementation Actions:

- Seek out environmental stewardship opportunities and share best practices among member agencies
- Outreach to resource agencies and contractors to improve controls
- Bring national experts to the construction annual meeting

2.4 Develop, promote, and implement research in new technologies.

Implementation Actions:

- Support Research technical subcommittee
- Develop research problem statements

2.5 Develop a platform to prepare the workforce of tomorrow.

Implementation Actions:

- Continue to promote and develop training platforms such as TC3
- Support retention and recruitment of new workforce; improve work environment and conditions
- Develop e-learning tools to support complete, clear, and concise contract documents
- Continue to support research and sharing of ideas

Goal 3: Improve the quality of the contract documents and the completed transportation asset.

The foundation of projects lies in detailed contracts. The scope and criteria are captured to ensure the final asset meets requirements for quality, cost, and long life.

3.1 Develop tools for reviewers that focus on bid-ability and constructability of contract documents.

Implementation Actions:

- Share best practice amongst member agencies.

3.2 Promote collaborative design and plan development.

Implementation Actions:

- Support earlier feedback from the field
- Encourage member agencies to use best practices in providing feedback to the project design team regarding lessons learned (e.g., change orders, claims, and changes in quantities)

3.3 Learn from the expertise in industry which factors influence quality and share this knowledge.

Implementation Actions:

- Encourage contractor involvement in determining methods to improve quality in construction through better specifications
- Collaborate with Industry associations locally and nationally when developing the Construction Guide Specifications

Goal 4: Improve the safety of the work zone for the travelling public and the workforce.

The COC will encourage the use of technology, best practices and specification to work safely and require contractors to provide safety for their workers and the public.

4.1 Identify and share improvements to work zone safety practices.

Implementation Actions:

- Leverage advancements in technology to improve safety for the workforce and public
- Share Best Practices concerning specifications and guidance that improve safety

4.2 Promote training and awareness of safety hazards and risks in construction.

Implementation Actions:

- Encourage the use of training from TC3, agencies and other organizations to educate workers on hazards and proper behavior in work zones
- Share best practices among agencies on training development and practices

4.3 Promote the adoption and implementation of work zone mobility concepts during the design phase.

Implementation Actions:

- Encourage member agencies to have construction personnel involved in developing Transportation Management Plans
- Leverage technology to help balance mobility and safety in work zones

Goal 5: Foster collaboration within AASHTO, with trade organizations and academia.

Promote attendance and participation of academia with the construction committee in national forums such as the construction annual meeting. Continue to enhance the relationship between the owner and industry; practice and advocate for partnerships and collaborations.

5.1 Promote implementation of the committee’s strategic goals through active participation of the technical subcommittees.

Implementation Actions:

- Each technical subcommittee will meet annually, and teleconference regularly throughout the year to discuss goals and develop work plan items relating to the committee’s strategic goals

5.2 Coordinate and collaborate with other AASHTO committees in the development of guidance, specifications, and procedures.

Implementation Actions:

- Continue as the champion for construction management standards, policies, procedures and best practices.

5.3 Engage other AASHTO committees in the development and use of new technologies that result in efficiencies.

Implementation Actions:

- Continue to develop standards with the Committee on Design on engineering standards for 3D engineered models
- Work with the Committee on Maintenance and Committee on Materials and Pavements to update pavement preservation standards based on new technologies

5.4 Increase coordination with and provide feedback to and from all stakeholders.

Implementation Actions:

- Promote the joint annual meeting concept with other committees and groups within AASHTO
- Continue to invite contractor trade groups and other organizations to the annual meeting

5.5 Support and promote attendance at training, workshops, and seminars.

Implementation Actions:

- Disseminate information on national webinars, conferences and workshops to members