

Texas State Transportation Innovation Council (TxSTIC)

10th Meeting

August 12, 2020- 1:15 pm – 3:30 pm CST

Meeting Notes:

- Expect EDC-6 roll out of new initiatives in September with carryover from EDC-5 and possibly EDC-4. There will likely be no more than 10 new innovations.
- EDC Fall summits will be virtual this year and are tentatively planned for November/December.
- FHWA Center for Accelerating Innovation (CAI) is working to update facts sheets, videos, etc. to be updated and released in September with EDC- 6 announcement.
<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/>
- The RTI problem statement call is out for FY22, due September 4. The Problem Statement form can be located at <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/forms-publications/forms/research.html>.
- Submissions will be vetted by Functional Area Committees. Oct. 19-Strategy and Innovation, Oct. 29-Planning and Environmental, Nov. 2 Structures and Hydraulics, Nov. 3, Safety and Operations, Nov. 4 Construction Maintenance and Materials. Planning to tentatively schedule Research Oversight Committee meetings, Dec. 1-9. Email Chris.glancey@txdot.gov for more information.
- Overview of Texas SPR Research Program. TXDOT Research Activities Website, https://library.ctr.utexas.edu/Presto/home/home.aspx?ssid=RTI_branded. TxDOT Research Manual (revised Feb. 2018), <http://onlinemanuals.txdot.gov/txdotmanuals/rtt/index.htm>. University Handbook published by TxDOT Research & Technology Implementation Division (most recently updated in March 2019), <http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/rti/university-handbook.pdf>
- TxSTIC is the winner of AASHTO/FHWA STIC Excellence award (2018) for efforts to implement Every Day Counts (EDC) innovations, managed by TxDOT Research & Technology Implementation (RTI) Division via the Local Technical Assistance Program (TxLTAP). Website created by TxLTAP for accomplishments, meeting agendas, future EDC workshops and events and funding opportunities at <http://txltap.org/>.
- Access TxDOT Research on-line; watch videos of research best practices in action on TxDOT's [YouTube channel](#); follow TxDOT research updates on [Twitter](#); and read more about TxDOT research [newsletters and annual reports](#).
- CTR EDC-6 Weather-Responsive Management Strategies. In the Spring there will be a workshop either virtually or in-person in Abeline (if permitted).
- Slope Repair and Maintenance Management System, 2019 AASHTO High Value Research "Sweet Sixteen" Award, research project overview. This project was a poster presentation at TRB.
- Leveraging Data Visualization Applications presentation. Applications used, esri and tableau. Developed an interactive mapping viewer (iMap) interactive crash dashboard, data presentations for public meetings, story maps, crowdsourced applications, and more.
- Infrastructure and Maintenance Hot Topic: Development of Concrete Median Barrier for Flood-Prone Areas research project overview. Two-year project complete; report currently being finalized. Project objective was to develop a median barrier for implementation in flood-prone

areas. Hydraulic testing was completed for model barriers. Conducted crash tests. Results are ready for implementation.

Q&A Highlights:

- Q: Has FHWA done any planning or informed speculation of the long term impact of teleworking?
 - A: There could be a potential shortage from the Texas Highway Trust Fund. Impact could be seen as early as next spring.
- Q: Is the Open call for problem statements open to public sector proposers or can universities or others submit ideas?
 - A: Anyone can submit an idea. If you can find someone in TxDOT who is willing to be a champion or supportive of the idea, that would be even better.
- Q: Is the funding for research something that is done by formula among the states or do states have a role in setting how much funding they devote to research activities; if so, how does Texas compare to other peer DOTs? We're the second largest SPR, Sub Part B program in the country and that money is allocated, proportioned by formula.

Q&A from Chat:

- Q-Eduardo Calvo: Question for Kevin Pete: Is it too late to volunteer for the FACs?
 - A-No, contact Shelley Pridgen
- Q-Thomas Bamonte: @kevyn Could you post link to Research Digests.
 - A-Kevyn Barnes-Sanchez: The direct link is <https://library.ctr.utexas.edu/Presto/home/home.aspx?ssid=digest>. Research Digests are also posted online at the library, if you would like to review the most recent issues.
- Q-Darran Anderson: Can Kirk talk a little about how FHWA presented EDC research at our last fall's short course and continue to make those available through our LTAP program?
 - A-As part of the Short Course last year in October we sponsored an Innovation Summit and had about 8 to 10 innovations that were highlighted and showcased at the summit. We're planning to do another virtual Short Course in October as well as more virtual events, trainings, webinars, and fact sheets. We'll keep you updated with information as things progress.
- Q-Kevin Pete: Are any of the Counties, Cities doing similar research or having similar issues?
 - A-Joanne Steele: 5-6996-01 Winter Weather Operations in Wichita Falls with UT Arlington, Mohsen Shahandashti.
 - A-Kevyn Barnes-Sanchez: <https://library.ctr.utexas.edu/Presto/project=5-6996-01>.
 - A-Darran Anderson: I think that our IT Division is looking at making that snowplow location data available from ARC GIS to DriveTexas.org in the future. I don't know the timeline.
 - A-Jianming Ma: The connected vehicle pooled fund study (CV PFS) has completed a research project on CV-based road weather condition application. More details can be found at http://www.cts.virginia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/90-CVPFS_DSRC_RdWx_Documents_v1.pdf.
 - A-Joanne Steele: Darran is correct. They are tracking the Wichita Falls project to see if there is any overlap or additional information they can get from our project.

- Q-Jianming Ma: Which design was preferred in terms of both mitigating the flooding issue and preserving safety?

Other Chat Excerpts:

- Chris Glancy: The 5-9054-01, Streamflow project will continue within a new project kicking off 9/1/20, 0-7095, Streamflow II. The new project will expand the gauge network within various watersheds vs. Roadway.
- Darran Anderson: Great presentations by all. It shows that these projects are bringing better and safer capabilities to our system, and available to others, not just TxDOT. I encourage all to continue reaching out to our RTI division and collaborating to gather the info you need to apply these to your locales.