



MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

ACAF Specification Committee Meeting

Wed. December 12th, 2024

10:00AM – 12:00PM Eastern

Virtual – Microsoft Teams

Committee Members in attendance:

- David Allain – ACAF
- Jonathan Andrade – Asphalt Group, Inc.
- Jeremy Black – V.A. Paving, Inc.
- Tim Carter – P&S Paving, Inc.
- Eron Chambers – Hubbard Construction
- Mickey Cox – Ajax Paving Industries
- Rick Fort – Preferred Materials, Inc.
- Chris Harris – Anderson Columbia
- Julio Leganoa – Halley Engineering Contractors, Inc.
- Steve McReynolds – Duval Asphalt Products, Inc.
- Joe Meier – Middlesex Corporation
- Clint Parrish – Weekley Asphalt Paving, Inc.
- Patrick Pienkos – Ranger Construction
- Bryan Turner – CWR Contracting, Inc.

❖ **Call to Order**

- Chair Carter calls the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

➤ **Acknowledgement of Anti-Trust Policy & Conflict of Interest Policy**

- Chair Carter recognizes ACAF's Anti-Trust Policy & Conflict of Interest Policy.

❖ **Overview of Committee Structure**

- David Allain provided an overview of the specifications committee, confirming that there are 16 members, each representing a producer board member. He highlighted a recent change in representation for the Asphalt Group, now represented by Jonathan Andrade. All members were acknowledged for their attendance. As new board members are appointed, they will have the authority to appoint committee members to represent their company.

- David outlined the committee's leadership structure, which includes a chair, vice-chair, and immediate-past chair, with a board liaison responsible for reporting activities to the board. The board liaison has been decided by the ACAF BOD to be the Technical Director at this time. He also explained that focused, and smaller, task groups can be formed at the discretion of the committee chair, approved by the ACAF BOD, to address specific industry issues. Task groups may be comprised of any association or non-association person with knowledge necessary to successfully represent the interest of the industry. Members of each task group will be approved by the Leadership Committee of the Specifications Committee.

❖ **Current Industry Challenges**

➤ **Discussion on Density Targets and Traffic Control Plans**

- Tim Carter expressed his view that the upper end of the density target range should be considered without penalties, particularly if higher densities like 94.5% are achieved. Steve McReynolds and Mickey Cox contributed to the discussion by questioning the current penalty thresholds and confirming that adjustments may have been made. The group agreed to verify the specifics of the density targets.

➤ **Discussion on RAP Binder Adjustment (RBA) Specification proposed by the FDOT**

- Mickey Cox asked about the RBA specification that was proposed and its potential complications, while David Allain explained that the committee's feedback influenced the decision of the FDOT to shelve and at a later date pilot the RAP adjustments instead of a full rollout. The group also considered the implications of changing air void targets and VMA levels on mix designs. The Committee agreed that this topic should be pushed to a Task Group if approved by the BOD.

➤ **Discussion on Independent Verification Sampling Procedures**

- Jeremy Black questioned the rationale behind the random assignment of pay test numbers to IAs. Jeremy noted that in District 5, IAs often claim randomness, but their sampling patterns suggest otherwise, as they frequently appear shortly after pay samples. Tim Carter added that the materials manual outlines specific procedures for obtaining samples, emphasizing the need for independence in the verification process. David Allain will work with the SMO to confirm their randomness and to eliminate any bias from the CEI firms when collecting IAs.

➤ **Discussion on District Response Time Issues**

- Rick Fort raised issues regarding the timeliness of reports in District 5, suggesting it is worse than in other districts. He emphasized the need for clearer specifications and conclusions. Participants agreed, with one noting that District 5 has significant problems, while District 2 tends to provide quicker feedback on issues to contractors.

➤ **Discussion on IV Sampling Procedures and Concerns**

- Tim Carter and Jeremy Black discussed the perceived randomness of IV split spot checks, with Jeremy questioning the integrity of the process. He noted that if individuals are aware of upcoming pay tests, it could lead to biased sampling. Steve McReynolds added that the timing of plant samples and random cores can create confusion in the sampling process.

➤ **National Initiatives Updates**

- David Allain provided a brief overview of EPD's and their use nationally. The ACAF BOD will be finalizing their position as an industry in a few weeks at the 2024 Florida Asphalt Expo.
- David Allain provided the committee with an update on the BOD, and ultimately the asphalt industry of Florida's position on Balanced Mix Design. There is no interest to pursue BMD in Florida at this time, which corresponds with the FDOT's current position.
- David Allain updated the committee on performance testing as it relates to BMD tests. The Univ. of Florida just completed a benchmarking study of 30 mixtures within Florida using rutting and cracking tests. When the research report is finalized by the FDOT and updated to their research portal, David will share it with the committee. No new specifications will come from this research.

➤ **FDOT Updates and Specification Changes**

- David Allain provided the committee with an update on FDOT Specifications that are either in the works or are a proposal to develop a specification to solve a specific issue the FDOT has seen.
 - A specification change is in the works to change the 1 foot from lane edge for coring locations to 2 feet from lane edge. The Specifications Committee agreed this would be a good move.
 - A specification change might be proposed to adopt a 30-day limit on Delineation scopes submissions by the contractor. This will match the EAR submission limit already in place. The Specifications Committee did not have any concerns over this potential specification change.
 - A specification change might be proposed to require the first load of FC-5 to be run through the shuttle buggy and paver to warm up the equipment before starting at a cold joint. The Specifications Committee has concerns with this over logistics and would like to investigate a solution that would resolve the FDOT's concerns in another manner.

❖ **Review of FDOT Partnership and Collaboration**

- David Allain provided the Specifications Committee with an outlook on how the Committee will present their findings and industry recommendations to the FDOT. Our committee is focused on industry-wide problems and solutions and will be represented by the Technical Director and Leadership Committee at minimum to represent the industry's positions.

- David Allain addressed the previously mentioned Benchmarking of Florida mixtures with various rutting and cracking performance tests. He also discussed the possibility of a Task Group being formed to focus on developing research requests to the FDOT in the future.

❖ **Nomination and Appointment of the Leadership Committee**

- At this point in the meeting, nominations for chair and vice-chair were received and voted upon by the present committee members.
 - **Chair**
 - Chair Harris nominated Steve McReynolds to be elected as Chair of the Specifications Committee. This nomination was seconded by Rick Fort. No other nominations were received for this position. The committee unanimously approved the appointment of Steve to Chair.
 - **Vice-Chair**
 - Tim Carter nominated Patrick Pienkos to be elected as Vice-Chair of the Specifications Committee. This nomination was seconded by Steve McReynolds. No other nominations were received for this position. The committee unanimously approved the appointment of Patrick to Vice-Chair.

❖ **Task Force/Working Groups Formation**

- The committee opened the floor for task group proposal ideas.
 - Steve McReynolds shared that he would like to form a group to study the asphalt content credit and RBA specification that the FDOT has worked on and shelved in the past.
 - David Allain shares an idea for a task group to review the mix design verification process at the SMO.
 - Steve McReynolds asks the committee to revisit the local asphalt specification that ACAF originally was building with the assistance of the LAP 330 specification. A task group may need to be formed to get this project completed.

❖ **Schedule of Next Meeting**

- Chair McReynolds tentatively scheduled the next three meetings for the committee as whole.
 - April, August, and December meetings. David Allain will coordinate with Steve to select specific dates and locations if they are not held virtually.

❖ **Meeting Adjourned at 11:40pm**

Action Items

- David will follow up with Jeremy on the IA sampling practices in D5.
- Rick asked David to review the temporary traffic control plan changes to the end of shift time. David will follow up with Rick and the committee when he receives word from the FDOT on this proposition.
- Tim asks David to poll the SMO on reasoning for the initial mix design verification changes. How can the industry help is the question to be answered.
- David will confirm the task group ideas and descriptions with the Leadership Committee and send any of these task group formation requests to the Board of Directors for approval, after which the task groups will be filled with individuals keep to that groups success for the industry.