Western Alliance for Quality Transportation Construction

2014 Strategic Plan

The Western Alliance for Quality Transportation Construction (WAQTC) is a voluntary organization, whose membership recognizes the advantages of a unified effort leading to significant accomplishments.

The WAQTC is focused in three main areas:

1. Standardization of test methods (WAQTC, AASHTO, ASTM)

2. Accreditation of sampler / testers through the Transportation Technician Qualification Program (TTQP)

3. Working together on national programs of interest including research, training, and technology deployment

MISSION STATEMENT:

Provide leadership in the pursuit of continuously improving quality in transportation construction

GOALS

To accomplish this mission, the WAQTC has established the following goals:

- **Promote an atmosphere of trust, cooperation, and communication among government agencies and the private sector**

- **Respond in a unified and consistent manner to identified quality improvement needs and new technologies that impact the products we provide**

- **Provide a forum to promote uniform test standards**

- **Provide highly skilled, knowledgeable materials sampling and testing technicians**

- **Provide reciprocity for qualified testing technicians among accredited Agencies**

PLAN:

To achieve the goals, the WAQTC has established this strategic plan to guide our efforts and prioritize the expenditure of funding in the coming years. The Executive Committee (EC), as defined in the WAQTC By-Laws, will oversee the execution of this plan through its Qualification Advisory Committee (QAC). The EC will review and update this plan annually and prioritize work for the coming year.

Promote an atmosphere of trust, cooperation, and communication among government agencies and the private sector

On-going Activities:

- **Update and maintain the WAQTC website**

Short term Goals

- **Develop Marketing Brochure**
  A marketing brochure will be developed and posted on the WAQTC website. The brochure will be provided to other selected officials to market the organization to non-member agencies.

Long term Goals

- **Development of Presentation Materials**
  Presentations on WAQTC: the benefits of membership, technology transfer opportunities, activity reports, training modules, etc.

Respond in a unified and consistent manner to identified quality improvement needs and new technologies that impact the products we provide

On-going Activities:

- **Evaluate training materials every 5-years for content**

  Part of the ongoing QAC effort.

Provide a forum to promote uniform test standards

On-going Activities:

- **Identify proposed modifications or new AASHTO test methods through the QAC.**
  The Executive Committee will assign a champion for each proposed new or modified procedure and track progress of WAQTC proposed changes at AASHTO. Status of procedures will be posted on WAQTC website.
  The WAQTC has become a powerful influence with the AASHTO SOM and the benefits/costs of this effort and the working committee (QAC) are included in the on-going efforts.

Long term Goals

- **Develop WAQTC equipment calibration standards**

- **Develop an Field Operating Procedure (FOP) library**
  Standardized FOPs for agencies to use will create consistency in test methods. Agencies will not need to repeat the effort and expense of developing FOPs or state test methods.

Provide highly skilled, knowledgeable materials sampling and testing technicians

On-going Activities:

- **QAC Sub-Committee to Review Exam Question Selection**
  The QAC will develop objectives for the written exam and assign a subcommittee to review question selection.

- **Develop an Exam question 'pool' for each materials discipline**

- **Develop 3-5 New Questions per Year, per Module**
  The QAC will develop new questions for each module each year in an effort to keep written exams fresh and current.

- **Maintain existing WAQTC Instructional Materials**
  Keep Instructional Materials updated to current references and formatting.

Short term Goals

- **Identify exam proctor and trainer qualification requirements**

- **Develop a work plan for training of exam proctors**

Long term Goals

- **Develop Training for Exam Proctors and Develop Trainer Qualification Requirements**
  To standardize the qualification process throughout the member states Exam Proctors will have training on exam oversight and Trainer's will have specific requirements.

- **Develop Electronic Question Database – Randomly Generate Questions**
  Develop enough exam questions that a database can create a randomly generated 'unique' exam for each participant.

Provide reciprocity for Qualified testing technicians among accredited Agencies

Short term Goals

- **Develop a work plan for Reciprocity Audits of Member Agencies**

- **Develop Roles and Responsibilities guide for QAC and EC members**
  Develop a section for the operations manual establishing roles and responsibilities for members of the QAC and EC, including expectations for appointed members and describing the purpose of the primary meetings. This section will provide background, guidance, and definitions of roles and responsibilities of committee member's.

Long term Goals

- **Reciprocity Audits of Member States**
  Develop a manual and program for auditing the WAQTC member organizations to ensure qualification criteria are being adhered to within the program.

- **Increase reciprocity to states outside of membership**

- **Operations Manual for WAQTC**

2014 Planned Work

The following work was prioritized by the Executive Committee for 2013:

1. Continue work on 'on-going' activities
2. Develop a marketing brochure
3. Evaluate existing training materials for needed improvements / updates
4. Develop Roles and Responsibilities guide for QAC and EC members
5. Identify exam proctor and trainer qualification requirements
6. Develop a work plan for training of exam proctors
7. Develop a work plan for Reciprocity Audits of Member Agencies

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Appendix: 2013 Completed Items

- Develop Work Plan for FOP Library

AASHTO revisions:

- T 84 – Revised to reduce conflicts / redundancies.

- T 85 – Revised to include a 're-soak' when material is dried past SSD. Revised to reduce conflicts / redundancies.

- T 119 – Revised to match other fresh concrete testing methods: 'rod … so that the strokes penetrate approximately 25 mm [1 in.] into the underlying layer.'

- T 152 – Contributed to revision of Section 8.

- T 231 – Contributed to revision in 6.2.1.

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Appendix: 2012 Completed Items

Training Materials Goals:

- PowerPoint Presentations used in technician training were revised with new pictures, video, and templates.

- Asphalt 2 module developed adding an FOP for AAASHTO T 312 Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Specimens by Means of the Superpave Gyratory Compactor and WAQTC TM 13 Volumetric Properties of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA).

Re-Development of Existing WAQTC Instructional Materials

- Re-design / redevelop the existing WAQTC instructional and testing materials.

AASHTO revisions:

- T 166 – incorporated G_{mb}

- T 209 – incorporated G_{mm}

- T 275 – incorporated G_{mb}

- T 308 – editorial correction

- T 312 – Revised to more adequately include plant-produced mix.

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Appendix: 2011 Completed Items

Training Materials Goals:

- Updated Training Materials in the latest MS Office product

- 'Fourth exam' reviewed and questions incorporated into existing exams and exam 'pool' for future use.

- New Aggregate PowerPoint developed and in use.

- Oral Performance exams reviewed and determined to have merit. Exception being the exam for the FOP for AASHTO T 40 which was discontinued.

- Researched the value of open-book exams and determined that the program is better suited to closed book exams.

- Discontinued Instructor's Manual and incorporated the training information into the PowerPoint notes.