WAQTC
2026
Strategic Plan

Western Alliance for Quality Transportation Construction

2026 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. Certification 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 identify 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 opportunities for qualified testing technicians among Accredited Contributing Members.**

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 Board, as defined in the WAQTC By-Laws, will oversee the execution of this plan through its Qualification Advisory Committee (QAC). The Board 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

- **Development of Presentation Materials**

  Presentations on WAQTC: the benefits of membership, technology transfer opportunities, activity reports, training modules, etc.

- **Continue revisions to the WAQTC Website**

  Revise website content to target the qualified technicians' needs first.

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 yearly for content**

  Part of the ongoing QAC effort.

- **Member Agency teleconferences to share developments in training and certification platforms.**

Short term Goal

- **Develop online training and identify means to make available as a field reference.**
- **Format training materials to be ADA accessible following the Accessibility Workplan**

Provide a forum to promote uniform test standards.

On-going Activities

- **Identify proposed modifications or new AASHTO test methods through the QAC.**

  The Executive Board will assign a champion for each proposed new or modified procedure. The champion will track progress of WAQTC proposed changes through the AASHTO process.

  The WAQTC has become a powerful influence with the AASHTO Committee on Materials and Pavements (COMP) and the benefits/costs of this effort and the working committee (QAC) are included in the on-going efforts.

- **Maintain a Field Operating Procedure (FOP) library**

  Standardized FOPs for agencies to use creates consistency in test methods. Member agencies do not need to repeat the effort and expense of developing FOPs or state test methods.

Long term Goals

- **Evaluate the need for WAQTC training on equipment calibration, standardization, and checks process.**

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 discipline.**
- **Develop 3-5 New Questions per year, per Module**

  The QAC will develop new questions for each module each year to keep written exams fresh and current.

- **Maintain existing WAQTC Instructional Materials**

  Keep instructional materials updated to current references and formatting.

Long term Goals

- **Develop Electronic Question Database – Randomly Select Questions**

  Develop enough exam questions so that a database can create a randomly selected unique exam representing the identified aspects in order of the practice or test method for each participant.

- **Evaluate feasibility and ramifications of allowing the use of the training materials and qualification process by other entities.**

Provide reciprocity for certified testing technicians among Accredited Contributing Members.

On-going activities

- **Reciprocity Audits of Member States**

  Audit the WAQTC member organizations every three years to ensure qualification criteria are being adhered to within the program.

- **Operations Manual for WAQTC Member Agencies**

Long term Goals

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

Short term Goals

- **Communicate with non-member agencies on the benefits of membership.**

  Attend regional and national construction related meetings. Staff a presentation booth/table to communicate with non-member agencies on the benefits of membership.

2026 Planned Work

Priorities of the Executive Board:

- Continue work on 'on-going' activities.
- Evaluate existing training materials for needed improvements / updates.
- Member teleconferences to share developments in training and certification platforms.
- Develop online training and videos.
- Format training materials to be ADA accessible following the Accessibility Workplan.

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Appendix: 2025 Completed Items

- **Evaluated membership funding needs**
  Determined the optimum annual member contribution could be dropped by 17 percent.
- **Developed a module for sampling**

  The QAC determined the FOPs to incorporate into a Sampling and Reduction module to address sampling and reduction of aggregate and asphalt. The Sampling and Reduction module was incorporated into the TTQP program in Jan. 2026.

- **Developed a workplan to address training materials for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility.**

  The QAC identified the steps of the accessibility workplan, redesigning the training materials to allow for ADA accessibility. The Student FOP's new design does not include table formatting and the outdated method of inserting pictures and captions.

AASHTO revisions:

- **T 99, Moisture-Density Relations of Soils Using a 2.5-kg (5.5-lb) Rammer and a 305-mm (12-in.) Drop –** The QAC worked with AASHTO re:source to clarify the oven and thermometer in the apparatus section and its impact on the procedure.
- **T 180, Moisture-Density Relations of Soils Using a 4.54-kg (10-lb) Rammer and a 457-mm (18-in.) Drop –** The QAC worked with AASHTO re:source to clarify the oven and thermometer in the apparatus section and its impact on the procedure.
- **T 255, Total Evaporable Moisture Content for Aggregates** – The QAC worked with AASHTO re:source to clarify the oven in the apparatus section and its impact on the procedure. The revisions apply the same requirements to the ventilated oven as the 'other sources of heat' and define the set temperature range in the procedure.
- **T 331, G_{mb} Using Automatic Vacuum Sealing Method –**The conversion temperature allowance for Fahrenheit has been changed to ± 2°F to match many of the asphalt mixture test methods.
- **T 134, Moisture–Density Relations of Soil–Cement Mixture –** The QAC worked with AASHTO re:source to clarify the oven and thermometer in the apparatus section and its impact on the procedure.

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Appendix: 2024 Completed Items

- **Updated the WAQTC website.**
  Migrated the current website to WordPress, a web content management system which allows self-editing and extends functionality. The new website has a modernized look and feel, and is mobile and tablet friendly.
- **Secure electronic file sharing**

  Developed means to electronically share WAQTC Training Materials and other files among member agency representatives using UDOT's secure Google Drive.

AASHTO revisions:

- **T 11, Materials Finer Than 75-µm (No. 200) Sieve in Mineral Aggregates by Washing –** Added T 255 reference and 'dry it to constant mass according to T 255 at a temperature of 110 ± 5°C (230 ± 9°F)' to Section 8.1.
- **T 27, Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates –** Added T 255 reference and 'dry it to constant mass according to T 255 at a temperature of 110 ± 5°C (230 ± 9°F)' to Section 8.1.
- **T 30; Mechanical Analysis of Extracted Aggregate –** Added drying the sample to constant mass according to T 255. Removed redundant wetting agent addition. 'Active voice' revisions.
- **T 121, Density (Unit Weight), Yield, and Air Content (Gravimetric) of Concrete –** 'Active voice' revisions and broke the paragraphs into steps. Added dampening the measure and removing any standing water. Added determine mass of measure and instruction on determining the net mass of concrete.
- **T 166, Bulk Specific Gravity (G_{mb}) of Compacted Asphalt Mixtures Using Saturated Surface-Dry Specimens –** Added T 329 reference in Method C direction to dry according to T 329. Added apparatus section in Method C.
- **T 329, Moisture Content of Asphalt Mixtures by Oven Method –** Editorial revision 'Active voice' revisions and broke the paragraphs into steps.

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Appendix: 2023 Completed Items

- **Welcomed Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to WAQTC**
- **Implemented virtual third party written examinations.**

  WSDOT piloted a program to deliver written examinations at testing centers through a third party.

AASHTO revisions:

- **R 47, Reducing Samples of Asphalt Mixtures to Testing Size –** Rewrote multiple sections to use 'active voice.' Changed 'Quartering by Apex' to 'Sectoring' for clarity. Added 'The final test sample consists of two diagonally opposite quarters,' to quartering.
- **R 76, Reducing Samples of Aggregate to Testing Size –** Introduced the 'Sectoring' method and new graphics.
- **T 30; Mechanical Analysis of Extracted Aggregate –** Revised section A2.2 to match Table A1.1.
- **T 112, Clay Lumps and Friable Particles –** Corrected formatting and entries in Tables 1, 2, and 3.
- **T 355, In-place Density of Asphalt Mixtures by Nuclear Methods –** Changed the term 'prove' to source rod' throughout for consistency and to reflect the term used by the manufacturer(s).

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Appendix: 2022 Completed Items

- **Conducted Reciprocity Audit of Member Agencies**

AASHTO revisions:

- **T 88, Particle Size Analysis of Soils –** Added isopropyl alcohol and instructions on its use to disperse foam that could obstruct the readings.
- **T 176, Plastic Fines in Graded Aggregates and Soils by Use of the Sand Equivalent Test –** Removed confusing statement concerning initial sample size and increased the reduced portion to ensure sufficient material to perform the three iterations of the test.
- **T 209, Theoretical Maximum Specific Gravity (G_{mm}) and Density of Asphalt Mixtures –** Removed the requirement to dry the sample to constant mass, added the option to short term age plant produced material, revise the residual pressure to 15 ± 1 min. to reduce variability, cleaned up the Annex on equipment standardization and checks.
- **T 310, In-Place Density and Moisture Content of Soil and Soil-Aggregate by Nuclear Methods (Shallow Depth) –** Rewrote multiple sections to use 'active voice.' Standardized the use of 'source rod' throughout.
- **T 355, In-place Density of Asphalt Mixtures by Nuclear Methods –** Rewrote multiple sections to use 'active voice.' Standardized the use of 'source rod' throughout.