



## FHWA

# BRIDGE PRESERVATION EXPERT TASK GROUP

## Operating Guidelines

### **INTENT**

The FHWA provides a forum through the Bridge Preservation Expert Task Group (BPETG) whereby knowledgeable practitioners can provide timely input to and coordination among stakeholders in the bridge community on strategies, practices, research, deployment, and professional development needs pertaining to preservation in the overall management of the national inventory of publicly owned highway bridges.

### **MISSION**

The BPETG will advance and improve the state of the practice in the area of highway bridge preservation by working collaboratively with Federal, state and local agencies, professional societies (AASHTO, TRB, etc.), industry, and academic interests.

### **VISION**

Bridge preservation today...for a better transportation infrastructure tomorrow.

### **COMPOSITION**

The composition of the BPETG will include at a minimum, representatives from the following entities.

- Federal Highway Administration
- State Highway Agencies and State Highway Agency representatives of Bridge Preservation Regional Partnerships
- AASHTO Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures- such as T-9 and T-18 Technical Committees
- AASHTO Subcommittee on Maintenance- Bridge Technical Working Group
- AASHTO TSP2- Bridge Preservation Staff
- Transportation Research Board – Chairs of Standing Committees of AHD 37, AHD 30 and AHD 35
- Academia- University Researchers with expertise in Bridge Preservation
- Industry – Contractors, Suppliers, Consultants, Associations, etc.
- County/ local government (or LTAP)



## **MEETINGS**

It is anticipated that the BPETG will conduct one face to face meeting and three quarterly web meetings each year. Efforts will be made to coordinate the ETG's face to face meeting with one of the regional partnership's annual meeting. Monthly conference calls or webinars may be held as required during the year for the entire group or for subcommittees /task forces which may be organized. The FHWA will have the responsibility for determining meeting venues.

## **GOALS**

1. **Provide guidance on effective bridge preservation strategies** for increased service life of highway bridges to support the national economy and quality of life for users
2. **Promote bridge preservation as a component of asset and performance management** by demonstrating the need and benefits of adequate funding for preserving existing infrastructure
3. **Advise and assist in developing educational materials on bridge preservation** strategies, materials, technologies and specifications
4. **Foster a collaborative environment that encourages research and innovation** by identifying gaps and supporting an outcome-driven work plan that reflects a balanced and prioritized consideration of research, policy, program development, and deployment initiatives

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The BPETG is comprised of volunteers, and each participant will have an individual voice in all activities. It is expected that each member will act as a bridge preservation champion for their respective stakeholder affiliation, and as such disseminate information back to their group. Leadership for the BPETG will be provided by an FHWA member, with a co-chair position that will be filled by a state DOT member from AASHTO SCOBS or AASHTO SCOM appointed by FHWA, on a rotating 2-year term basis. The Co-Chairs will have the authority to organize subcommittees, task forces or work groups, assigning tasks as necessary to carry out the mission of the BPETG.

Members from academia and industry will be appointed for three year terms by the chair, with a possible reappointment.

## **COMMUNICATION MECHANISMS**

BPETG participants will be contacted and updated on meetings, activities, solicitations for agenda items by the leadership. Minutes will be recorded for each formal meeting and distributed to participants in draft form for their input and approval. The approved meeting minutes will be posted on appropriate public websites as determined by FHWA. Any participant concerns should be directed to the attention of the BPETG leadership.



## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

To better focus and streamline the workings of the BPETG, its participants, agree to abide by the following guiding principles:

1. Champion Highway Bridge Preservation
2. Actively participate
3. Be open to input and new ideas
4. Respect others and value differences of opinion
5. Promote good stewardship and sustainable use of public resources
6. Collaborate with related groups to avoid duplication of efforts or conflicts
7. View ETG as an idea and knowledge exchange forum rather than a platform for promoting products or services

Note: Through this forum, FHWA proposes to solicit input from individual participants but does not intend to establish or utilize the BPETG as an advisory group in the interest of obtaining advice and recommendations under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (“FACA”), 5 U.S.C. App. I. Decisions by the BPETG will not be binding on the FHWA.