



**Compass Advisory Team Meeting
October 16, 2008, Wisconsin Rapids
Meeting Notes**

Participants: Adam Boardman, Gary Brunner, Scott Bush, Dennis Newton, Mike Ostrenga, Doug Passineau and Jim Wendels.

Team Members Absent: John Corbin, Bob Hanifl, Todd Hogan, Ed Kazik, John Kinar, Ken Pesch, Tom Walther, Mark Woltmann and Jack Yates

Other Attendees: Jerry Boettcher, Eau Claire County

1. May 15, 2008 Draft Meeting Notes

The notes were accepted as written.

2. Advisory Team Membership Issues

There were several membership changes and issues discussed, including:

- Gary Brunner, WisDOT Operations Manager in the Northwest Region, has replaced Brett Wallace on the team.
- Tom Walther, the Eau Claire County Highway Commissioner, recently retired.
- Doug Passineau was recently promoted from Wood County Patrol Superintendent to Highway Commissioner. Doug will continue to serve on the Advisory Team as one of the two commissioner representatives.
- The other County Highway Commissioner seat will be vacant with the impending retirement of Ken Pesch from Washington County. Scott will contact the Wisconsin County Highway Association (WCHA) and ask for an appointment to fill the vacant commissioner seat.
- Ed Kazik, Brown County Patrol Superintendent, is joining the team to fill Doug's Patrol Superintendent seat.

3. Price Tags Project

The draft report identifies the costs to reduce maintenance backlogs to varying levels of service. The information will be used to help develop budget issue papers and the biennial budget submittal for maintenance. Scott provided an overview of the draft report and asked for comments on the report in the next two

weeks. He also discussed the inventory estimates that were prepared for some features based on the observation frequencies collected during past Compass field reviews. Mike noted that the improvement program helps to reduce maintenance backlogs and he specifically mentioned rutting as a prime example. Gary cautioned that some people might come to the conclusion that money is being wasted based on poor condition levels for some features.

4. 2008 Training Program

Scott provided an overview of the training program for this year, including:

- **Raters** – Thirteen people attended the two-day introductory course (12 attended the course in 2007) and approximately 100 people attended one of the five one-day refresher courses held around the state.
- **Evaluations** – Many positive comments were made at training, especially people who appreciated the progress on the Price Tags information.
- **Program Status** – A summary of current program activities was discussed. The summary was also provided to Compass raters at the summer training sessions.
- **Rating Sheet** – Check boxes have been added to the form so raters can identify if a deficient drainage feature requires cleaning or repair. Check boxes were also added to the Protective Barriers section so raters can identify the type of deficient protective barrier. The information will help to develop more accurate Price Tag estimates.
- **Database** – A recommendation has been made to phase out the laptop versions of the Compass database next year and migrate all users to the LAN database. The change will be more efficient, eliminating the need for raters to provide the laptop file to the region IT person, who then had to forward the file to Tim Nachreiner, who then uploaded the information into the LAN database. Having only one database option will be more efficient when database fixes are necessary – the centralization will streamline database maintenance activities. Only three of 72 counties used the laptop database version last year, so impacts will be minimal statewide.
- **Debrief** – The training team will meet in December to discuss potential changes to the Compass program and training curriculum. The information will be discussed at the next Compass Advisory Team meeting.

5. Pavement Data – Pavement Maintenance Management System (PMMS) and “Historical” Compass Data

At the April meeting there was discussion about the benefits of utilizing the PMMS data to express pavement conditions and eliminating how the program has historically illustrated pavement conditions. There was a request at the last meeting for Scott to provide more detail on the PMMS data. A handout was discussed that identifies the PMMS pavement distresses and compares PMMS distresses with the past Compass approach. Screen shots from PMMS were also discussed, illustrating the deficiency thresholds for each condition category along with the unit prices for each maintenance fix. The PMMS system is

currently being upgraded to recognize the reorganization of WisDOT from eight districts to five regions. The new system should be available in the spring of next year. Starting with the 2008 Compass Annual Report, pavement conditions will be based solely on PMMS data.

6. Pavement Marking Retro-Reflectivity Pilot

Scott discussed the pilot summary and will keep the team updated on the progress and findings.

7. 2009 Maintenance Targets

The memo and targets for the next maintenance season were discussed. The targets are provided to the regions each Fall to help structure the work plans and Routine Maintenance Agreements with counties. Scott also forwarded the targets information to the Compass raters, to illustrate how the department uses the data that they collect each year. The 2009 targets are basically a continuation of past priorities assuming base level funding.

8. Quality Assurance Process

Last year there were several changes to the Quality Assurance (QA) process, including:

- Increasing the statewide sample size from 30 to 60 segments;
- Instituting a QA structure so that two counties are reviewed per year in each region (creating a county sample size of 6 segments); and
- Starting to share the county QA results with the individual rating teams that were reviewed.

The schedule for the 2008 Quality Assurance (QA) process was also discussed. Scott noted that the QA raters are the same as the previous year and he thanked them for their continuing assistance.

9. Recent Outreach Efforts

There have been several Compass outreach efforts recently, including:

- Scott and Tom Walther/Eau Claire County Highway Commissioner provided a presentation on asset management at the 2008 WCHA summer conference. Scott presented information on Compass and Tom provided an overview of their Compass-like assessment process for their county trunk highways. The Eau Claire County system is in its fifth year of existence. Both presentations were distributed to the team.
- Scott also provided a half-day session on Compass to the WisDOT region Roadway Maintenance Engineers. The session included a general summary of the program, the relationship to the annual summer maintenance targets and an overview of the draft Price Tags report.
- Scott recently attended a national Maintenance Quality Assurance (MQA) peer exchange and workshop on data inventory practices. He provided a presentation on performance measures for winter operations. Compass

has a good national reputation and stacks up well with other MQA programs around the nation.

10. Other Compass Items

Next year Scott will begin to analyze WisDOT electrical assets and how to bring them into the Compass program. He is also investigating ways to improve the Compass sampling approach and statistical confidence levels.

Jim mentioned that drop-off is becoming more of a problem on paved-to-paved shoulders (i.e. concrete traveled way to asphalt shoulder). Compass doesn't currently measure this feature - the program only measures the drop-off/buildup on paved-to-unpaved shoulders (i.e. concrete or asphalt traveled way to gravel shoulder). He recommended adding this feature to the Compass field inspection process. Scott said that Lance Burger, the Roadway Maintenance Engineer in the Superior office, recently made the same recommendation.

11. Set 2009 Meeting Schedule

The team agreed to hold future meetings in Wisconsin Rapids on the third Thursday of May and December. The 2009 schedule includes meetings on May 21, 2009 and December 17, 2009. Scott will email the schedule to the team.

12. Adjourn