



Wisconsin Highway Research Program Responses to FFY16 RFP Questions

General questions regarding the WHRP request for proposal (RFP) process:

1. On the summary page there is a reference to the “administrative officer.” Is that typically the person in charge of contracts for our agency? **Yes, the administrative officer is the contact person who will handle any administrative items with the proposal, including the contract if the proposal is selected for funding.**
2. What is the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) looking for with regards to the indirect cost rate? **The indirect cost rate will vary for each entity. If an entity has had an indirect cost rate approved by the WisDOT Audit Section, the entity may not propose a rate greater than what has been approved. If your proposal is awarded funding, the WisDOT Contracts Specialist will work with the administrative officer to finalize the budget included with the contract.**

Regarding the WHRP RFP, “Regressing Air Voids for Balanced Mix Design Study”:

1. In Section I (Background and Problem Statement) it states the following, "...This desire to increase the amount of asphalt binder is due to some performance and durability concerns related to low asphalt binder content . . ." Could we please receive more information regarding the origin for this concern? In other words, have there been any cases, in the state of Wisconsin, where the asphalt content was connected to poor durability and/or cracking resistance? **The department has encountered numerous projects where performance was not as expected. The distresses include cracking, raveling, increased moisture susceptibility, etc. which are results of low asphalt binder content.**
2. Section III, Task 2 (Work Plan Development) indicates that plant-produced mix samples will be used in the experimental plan. However, given that the goal of the study is to assess the impact of increasing the asphalt content of mixes by regressing the air voids during mix design, doesn't it make more sense to sample the raw materials used in the mix designs? **Yes, raw materials should be collected to truly and accurately assess changes to percent asphalt content at the mix design stage. Mention of such steps may be used as selection criteria to distinguish between proposals.**
3. Under Section III, Task 2 (Work Plan Development) there is a bullet point that states, "Collect plant-produced materials to include in performance testing." What was the intention for including this bullet point? Should we avoid proposing laboratory produced mixtures to complete the necessary testing? **There may be a benefit to producing lab mixtures. This could be considered in the work plan along with plant produced mix.**
4. Under Section IV (Required Testing), will equivalent technician certifications from other state highway agencies be permitted? **Yes.**



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5. Under Section V (WisDOT/TOC Contribution), who is expected to sample the materials mixes/materials for the project: the research team, WisDOT personnel, or HMA contractors?
The typical procedure in Wisconsin is for sampling to be conducted by a contractor at their facility/plant and witnessed by the WisDOT/research team.

6. I understand that one of the objectives of the study is to evaluate the effects of the regressing air void method on in-service performance properties. Can you please provide further clarification on this? Are you thinking of coring from the pavement section to then be tested in laboratory, or in-place density measurements? In the latter case, would WisDOT share the data collected as the routine QA/QC with the project research team? **We would expect coring to be part of the study. Any data collected will be shared with the researcher.**

7. The RFP appears to ask for a large number of Plant Produced Laboratory Compacted (PMLC) specimens, to be tested for volumetric and performance properties. These mixes will be sampled from contractors in collaboration with WisDOT. The mixes for this project and the contractors supplying them will be selected by WisDOT. Can you please confirm if this is a correct reading of the RFP? **Yes, the typical procedure in Wisconsin is for sampling to be conducted by a contractor at their facility/plant and witnessed by the WisDOT/research team. WisDOT will be selecting the specific mixes (and the project/contractor using the given mix) to meet the needs of the work plan.**