Outlook

ZOOM

SEAUPG Business & Pre-planning – April 8, 2026
Zoom
Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting focused on planning the 2026 annual meeting in Oklahoma City and discussing potential topics for presentations. The group reviewed minutes from previous meetings and discussed hotel arrangements at the Sheraton, which was selected over the Omni due to cost and convenience. Key discussion topics included **potential presentations** on **balanced mix design** implementation**, advanced binder testing methods, and the transition from BBR to DSR testing for low-temperature performance.** The group **also considered including Capri updates** as a task group presentation and discussed including topics on perpetual pavements, construction technology, and workforce development. Several members, including **Louay, suggested AI and data analytics applications in asphalt materials and construction**. The conversation ended with plans to compile the discussed topics and potential speakers for the upcoming meeting in Auburn, where the final program would be developed.

Summary

Task Group Collaboration Planning Meeting
Gaylon discussed the benefits of using the Sheraton hotel for upcoming events due to its proximity to other hotels and restaurants. He then shifted the focus to task groups, highlighting recent trends and potential areas for collaboration, including handheld XRF testing for carbonite aggregates and changes in binder specifications. Gaylon suggested that the user-producer group could lead efforts on these topics to stay ahead of industry changes and ensure alignment across states**.** Alicia expressed willingness to initiate studies on the XRF testing topic, and Gaylon mentioned John's plans to address binder testing trends in his task group this fall.

Task Group and Testing Updates
The group discussed plans for upcoming meetings and task groups. They agreed to include task group updates in future meetings, potentially as a combined presentation rather than separate reports. Jason Wielinski suggested exploring a regional round robin study on advanced parameters and discussed the trend of states transitioning from Sable to paddle viscosity for emulsion testing. David mentioned that his organization is considering this transition but needs guidance on implementation. The group also considered reviving Capri updates as a task group, similar to the previous SUPERPAVE Center meetings.

Annual Meeting Planning Discussion
The group discussed including Capri in the annual meeting, with Andrew and others agreeing this would be beneficial for sharing research and potential recruiting opportunities. Jason suggested adding an update on available products, tools, and workshops through the AIEI program, which Gaylon noted could be a good topic for discussion. The team reviewed preliminary meeting topics from the previous year, including artificial intelligence, regional updates, preservation, sustainability, and balanced mixed design, with plans to refine these topics further.

Balanced Mixed Design Implementation Planning
The group discussed organizing a session on Balanced Mixed Design (BMD) implementation, with plans to include perspectives from both contractors and DOT representatives. They identified several states implementing BMD, including Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Alabama, with potential speakers from Virginia and

Alabama. The discussion also touched on concerns about over-emphasizing Ideal CT in BMD, with Andrew cautioning about investing too much in a technology that may not be optimal, and Gaylon mentioning a planned presentation addressing these concerns at the upcoming May meeting.

Asphalt Binder Presentation Planning
The group discussed potential topics for an upcoming presentation, focusing on advanced binder modification and the limitations of current testing methods like the ideal CT test. Louay highlighted the need for tests that are both effective and practical for field use, while Robert emphasized avoiding overly technical discussions that might lose the audience. The team agreed to include topics like BMD and the impact of asphalt binder chemical composition on mixture performance, with Gaylon noting the importance of balancing technical depth with audience accessibility in the final program.

DSR Testing Implementation Discussion
The group discussed using the DSR (Dynamic Shear Rheometer) for low-temperature testing instead of BBR (Bending Beam Rheometer), with Robert and Shawn confirming that Texas is implementing this approach using 8mm testing. Gaylon suggested reaching out to Tom Benner from Rutgers, who conducted work on intermediate temperature testing for Wisconsin, as a potential presenter for this topic. The discussion highlighted that while BBR testing can be challenging due to equipment variability and complex procedures, DSR testing offers more consistent results and requires fewer pieces of equipment.

Asphalt Testing Methods and Equipment
The group discussed various asphalt testing methods, with Samuel and Gaylon comparing different testing approaches including WRI methods and icicle tests. David presented the ABT (Asphalt Binder Tester), a new equipment developed by Raj Dongre that uses air and nitrogen to predict PG grades at 25°C, which has shown promising results in Oklahoma and is being used as a screening tool. The team also discussed potential topics for an upcoming meeting, including AI and data analytics for asphalt mix design and construction quality, with Louay suggesting this as a topic and Samuel mentioning Louisiana's new pilot specification that incorporates an AI tool developed by Dr. Mohammad to predict JC based on production parameters.

Asphalt Performance and Sustainability Discussion
The group discussed several potential topics for future meetings, focusing on performance and sustainability in asphalt materials. Louay proposed exploring low-carbon materials with a focus on performance first, while sustainability would be a secondary benefit. Gaylon and Louay agreed to address workforce development challenges, particularly regarding the loss of experienced professionals and the need to develop new champions in the field. The group also discussed topics related to construction, including friction, surface characteristics, safety benefits of asphalt pavements, and the use of intelligent compaction technology for real-time density monitoring.

Perpetual Pavement Session Planning
The group discussed organizing a session about perpetual pavements at an upcoming meeting in Auburn. Dale suggested having a panel discussion to review the performance and lessons learned from early perpetual pavement projects, while others proposed including lifecycle cost analysis and examining different categories of perpetual pavements by design. The team agreed to develop these ideas further over the next 30 days before the Auburn meeting, with Gaylon taking notes and Jill planning to share the discussion points with additional team members.

Auburn Meeting Planning Discussion
The team discussed plans for an upcoming meeting in Auburn, including gathering input from states that don't currently have representation. Gaylon suggested calling state representatives directly to gather their burning issues and potential presentation topics. **Jill announced that the next meeting will be held on Monday, May 11th at NCAT at 11:00 AM**-Details to follow.

Summary

Suggested topics discussed from Zoom Call April 8, 2026 for program agenda for the SEAUPG Annual Meeting to be held November 17-19, 2026 at the Sheraton Hotel in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Follow-up to our call will be in-person Monday, May 11th at NCAT prior to their Sponsor Meeting which begins Tuesday, May 12.

-Asphalt Institute Update-AIEI
-Regional Updates

-Task Group Updates
-Regional Round Robin study on advanced parameters
-The trend of states transitioning to paddle viscosity for emulsion testing

-Capri updates as a task group, similar to the previous SUPERPAVE Center meetings held prior to the annual meeting.

-BMD and the impact of asphalt binder chemical composition on mixture performance

-Asphalt Binder Testing Methods & Equipment
-AI and Analytics for Asphalt Mix Design & Construction Quality
-Balanced Mix Design Implementation in Southeast
-Asphalt Performance & Sustainability
-Workforce Development Challenges in the Materials Programs
-Intelligent Compaction Technology
-Perpetual Pavements: Lessons Learned

<u>From Louay Mohammad in the Chat:</u>

-Advanced Binder Modification: What Is Actually Improving Mixture Performance?

-Impact of Asphalt Binder Chemical Composition on high and intermediate temperatures performance of Asphalt Mixtures
-AI and Data Analytics for Asphalt Mix Design, Construction Quality, and Performance Prediction

-Low-Carbon *or* Alternative Asphalt Materials: Performance First, Sustainability Always

-Workforce, Expertise Loss, and Practical Knowledge Transfer in Asphalt Materials Programs

-Friction, Surface Characteristics, and Safety Benefits of Asphalt Pavements

-Smoothness, IRI, and Intelligent Construction for Asphalt Acceptance.