

EVALUATION FORM (Summary)

2013 National Winter Maintenance Peer Exchange

Vancouver, Washington

September 10-11, 2013

Before you depart from this Peer Exchange, please take a moment to complete this form. Doing so will allow us to make future Peer Exchanges more productive and meaningful.

Circle the number that most accurately describes your experiences:

	Poor		Average		Excellent	
1. Able to actively participate in discussions and have my research needs considered	1	2	3 (6)	4 (18)	5 (20)	4.3 Ave.
2. Overall session quality (organization, speaker or panel quality, etc.)	1	2(2)	3(2)	4(19)	5(21)	4.3 Ave.
3. Relevance and value of content to you and your work	1	2	3(3)	4(22)	5(19)	4.4 Ave.
4. Your assessment of progress made on the progress of research needs identified in previous Peer Exchanges	1	2	3(9)	4(28)	5(6)	3.9 Ave.
5. Conference registration and logistics (easy travel and lodging arrangements, etc)	1	2	3(5)	4(13)	5(26)	4.5 Ave.
6. Conference staff (considerate, helpful, etc)	1	2	3(3)	4(13)	5(26)	4.5 Ave.
7. Meeting facilities, food, etc	1(1)	2(6)	3(13)	4(18)	5(5)	3.5 Ave.
8. I would like to attend a future Peer Exchange	___42___ Yes ___ ___ No ___1___ Maybe					
9. Did you have adequate time with your peers to discuss winter issues?	___42___ Yes ___2___ No					
10. Should time with vendors be	_7_ Increased _0_ Decreased _36_ Same					
11. What sources do you use for learning about research on winter maintenance topics?	___26_ Magazines ___27_ Your agency news/publications ___22_ TRB News ___27_ AASHTO News ___21_ Snow and Ice List Serve ___14_ Aurora E-News ___28_ Clear Roads e-newsletter					
12. Do you subscribe to the Snow and Ice List Serve?	_25_ Yes 19 (7 will join) ___ No.					
13. If you checked "No" in question 12, why haven't you joined?	_2_ Information not helpful ___14_ Don't know how to join the list-serve ___4_ Adds too many e-mails to my box					

14. Would you like to receive a notice (usually a link to the report) as Aurora, Clear Roads and TRB complete their winter research? 39 Yes 3 No
15. Would you like to participate in a survey on the usefulness of the completed research in question 14 above? 33 Yes 6 No
16. What topics would you like to see addressed at a future Peer Exchange? 1. A discussion of what helpful things (INNOVATIONS) are being implemented over-seas that we are not doing here in the USA (but should be doing) 2. Transitioning research into operations. 3. Easy access to Abstracts and Executive Summaries. Best practices in procurement and specifications. Remote power Experience of new sensors. This ties into the best practice concept in 17. I was glad to learn of the development of software that would allow different ground speed control units to universally communicate. There is no reason for Dickey-John, Force America, Munice and others to provide info and data in a universal manner. Plus they need to eliminate charging for access to data obtained by the controller. RWIS sensor density. Continue to work toward knowledge database and ways to get info distributed. How states handle emergency response to storms when Governor's office gets involved and directs response counter to established guidelines. What are states doing about ground water and well contamination from standard salting operations. Initiating new innovations with no funding available. Controlling flow of information during winter events to prevent information overload for managers (may complicate decision making process) Increase amount of time discussing research opportunities. Increase "Formalized" discussion/interaction. Networking at breakfast and breaks is great but the breakout format is excellent for peer exchange. Messaging winter maintenance realities to Legislature/Governor/traveling public/local officials. Traction enhancement standards/chains/snowtire laws Personnel Management/Training for snow and ice personnel/Pros and cons of contracting trucks. I think they do a good job on staying current and being up on topics accordingly if there is a need. Don't know yet. Best Practices session was great and should be done again. Recognized that we are ahead of some and can learn from others. Impact of the MAP21 resolutions

Really enjoyed the states sharing best practice.

Education of the public regarding economic and environmental impacts from various levels of service.

Best practices relating to how to best track salt usage at the stock pile. How much salt goes out for each event.

Continue how to deliver info and implement change up and down the organization (DOTs, etc)

I would like to see more breakout discussion. Everyone is working on the same problem.

Best practices for maintaining snow and ice equipment. Post event or season cleaning-chemical/salt residue removal or neutralization, etc. Minimize the corrosive effects on our equipment to increase longevity and reduce cost of repairs and /or replacement.

New equipment technology/uniformity in LOS

Contract maintenance—contracts management of contracts, performance measurements for pay.

Should winter maintenance contractors be invited to attend not as a contractor but as a practitioner?

Best practices for how routes are segmented for MDSS so that recommendations, forecast, route traversal and route cycles can be most efficient and accurate.

Vendors need to be a part of all sessions.

Snow plow design/aerodynamics—get vendors together—Let's tell them what we want.

Who should do the research? Should we retain some of the national labs to help us? Ie, Sandia, Arnold Air Tech Lab, Livermore, MIT?

AVL/GPS state of practice

Winter Operations performance measures/processes

Reports on selected Clear Roads and Aurora research

Grant writing

-
17. Comments: (include items such as what didn't get covered; what did you find most helpful; can we improve our methods of identifying research needs and technology transfer, should this input be on a continuing basis like reporting in Aurora or Clear Roads e-news or using the List-Serve?, etc.) __The facilities were dated and meeting rooms were hot the 2nd day. The bridge field trip was great. I would like to see research ideas fleshed out and sent out to maintenance folks nationwide to vote on similar to how SCOR or AASHTO considers research ideas. Not sure if that happens. This was a fabulous meeting; very informative; the agenda/subject matter covered was very relevant to the WX Maintenance Community

I thought the best practices presentations from the states were great. The Clear Roads newsletter and constant interaction of the group e-mail is excellent. I find the List-serve also helpful.

Best practices presentations were awesome. Great mix of states covering operations, tools and road weather. Need to keep this up with emphasis on advances since last peer exchange. Excellent break-out sessions. Better process this go around with a good time period for discussion in refining the research needs.

This was one of the best meetings. It has been an honor to participate!! I hope to stay involved.

I would suggest the "Winter Peer Exchange" website serve as a location to obtain info about the upcoming conference. I visited the site several times to obtain info on the meeting and nothing available. A tentative schedule, agenda, location and etc along with an updated final version should be available. Even if the website could not be used, an e-mail to all attendees could have been sent 1-2 days prior to the conference dates providing updated info.

Best management presentations were very informative. Got several take away to look at implementation.

Meeting room too crowded and columns obstructed view of presentation screen. Room air conditioning didn't work.

Excellent opportunity to network with colleagues.

I think the best practices discussions are always helpful in generating ideas for me to take back to my organization.

Have one joint agenda and be clear about which groups, what people needed to attend which meeting ie Board members, Chairman, Vendors, etc.

Good meeting—appreciated that it was a low budget meeting with a good use of our time during the day.

Spend more time identifying what consortiums need to do between Peer Exchange meetings: Example Improve CBT accessibility on websites.

I thought this was a good conference and I am glad to have been able to participate. Good.

Some of the new technology is very helpful to see the new stuff being used the DOTs. Breakfast could be improved with pancakes, waffles and bacon

Identifying research needs should be an ongoing process with a central "Clearing House" location identified (perhaps the S&I List Serve or Knowledge Base website). Perhaps reviewing 2 years worth of these ongoing suggestions could be a starting point for the Peer Exchange Research and Tech transfer to be voted on.

Doing a good job however we used to rotate groups some. If you have only one person attending it is difficult to get into the different sessions. Understand it is a budget issue, but having two members would be helpful

As a state agency it might be helpful to budget out of state travel for state personnel if we knew earlier how many participants would be sponsored.

Coffee was not in conference room, not enough snacks, lunch seats, air conditioning not working second day of conference.

Would be nice if there were more vendors, similar to the old snow fighters conference.

Multiple vendors with a wide variety of winter products new and improved products.

I did like the vendor presentations. I understand we had some time restraints, but having them be able to spend maybe 5 minute slide show.

Great meeting overall.

Best practices and lessons learned were very informative

The most effective, well-organized Peer Exchange to date (I've attended all of them) Nice job, well done.

We covered some topics multiple times. This caused me to feel we were wasting time. I would have rather received a book of two-page documents on each project and brief discussion of each.

The Peer Exchange is a large group. It is difficult to get around to everybody I would like to network with. It would be nice to have more time built in during the day because people scatter at the end of the day.

Everything was great overall.

Reports from states on their practice

It might have been good to have a bit more time in breakout sessions.

I thought the networking was the best part with vendors and agency representatives. I enjoyed the state presentations that I got to see. I would have like to see presentations from APWA and PNS.

Continuous basis—people put in ideas—Colleen and Chris draft one paragraph problem statement and publish it on a “proposed research problem statement website”

Do a summary of “applied research”—who has used an idea from research—brief statement—“it worked!!” “Failure in Wasatch Mtns”, etc

The “Best Practices” reports were very well received. We need to repeat that and perhaps expand it to a full day. The consortia reports on past and present research seemed rushed and hard to follow. Suggest picking a few prominent research projects and providing a more in-depth analysis, to include: date of original problem statement, date of award, progress to date and implementation of results or recommendations, if any. The next Peer Exchange would be a good time to discuss the state of AVL/GPS

implementation nationwide.

If you would complete the following, it would make it easier for us to follow up with you in answering questions or suggestions.

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____