

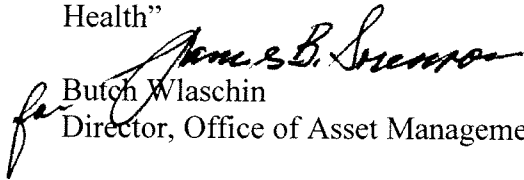


U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Presentation of "A
Quick Check of Your Highway Network
Health"

Date: APR 10 2009

From: *for*  James B. Swenson
Butch Wlaschin
Director, Office of Asset Management

In Reply Refer To:
HIAM-20

To: Directors of Field Services
Federal Lands Highway Division Engineers
Director of Technical Services
Division Administrators

We are facing a daunting challenge to determine the best ways to maintain and preserve the highway investments to date. With numerous issues placing more demands on transportation department resources, it is ever more critical to have a focus on asset management principles and the use of this enhanced business decision process in your State's decisionmaking process. Balancing the available funds to meet the States network needs is a challenge we must all work towards.

The Office of Asset Management is dedicated to providing the division offices with expertise and examples to assist you and you're State in managing their highway assets. Over the past several years we have offered technical support, case studies and various tools to assist the States and divisions with this task. One area of applied asset management is the States use of effective pavement preservation treatments to extend the service life of reasonably sound pavements. We consider Transportation System Preservation (TSP) a cornerstone for a sound Asset Management approach. TSP focuses on "Keeping good roads in good condition" instead of deferring maintenance until a more expensive rehabilitation or reconstruction is required. Managing pavement assets is a critical consideration for any state or local agency. Unfortunately, we have found many agencies focus on historical funding distribution or on addressing their "worst roads first." During the past three years we have visited many of the State DOT's and our division offices.

During these field evaluations it became evident we needed a mechanism to demonstrate the benefit of re-evaluating how we manage our highway network and what can be done to better protect our highway pavement investments. We developed a short, 8-page brochure to explain the concept of Remaining Service Life and to demonstrate the effectiveness of applying Asset Management principles to State funding decisions. The brochure, "A Quick Check of Your Highway Network Health" was published by FHWA Office of Asset Management and the National Center for Pavement Preservation in 2007 and has been widely distributed and used in the pavement preservation evaluations conducted to date. State response and acceptance of this tool has been very positive.

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For your continued use, we have developed a PowerPoint to support this brochure. This is a very simple exercise that will help an agency determine if their pavement network condition is getting better or worse based on the projects that are currently programmed for any given year. We have found that the minimal data and network information is readily available in DOT and local agencies. The data used and the results calculated are presented in a way that is easily understood by everyone. This PowerPoint and notes will readily assist you or your staff in discussing the merits of pavement preservation with highway administrators and managers. We recommend that this exercise be considered for key decisionmakers in the central office and the districts. States may want to similarly use this tool to demonstrate funding needs to the public and elected officials. The same concept can be applied to other highway assets such as bridges, roadway safety and signing assets and the like.

A copy of this memorandum, the PowerPoint file and an Excel worksheet are being transmitted along with two copies of the pamphlet, "A Quick Check on Your Highway Network Health" and worksheet in the official mail. Additional copies are available at your request.

We encourage each of you to share this with your State and local counterparts and work with them to maintain and preserve their pavement assets. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Gregory or Chris Newman. If your State wishes additional technical support in this area, they can also request similar support from the AASHTO TSP-2 Program at 517-432-8220 or by visiting www.tsp2.org.

Attachments