

State DOT: Wisconsin

State Report Questions on MEPDG Implementation

1. Summarize your state's status as far as MEPDG implementation

WisDOT has been gradually working at preparation toward MEPDG implementation for several years. Our expert in this area is Laura Fenley (Phone 608-246-5455 or e-mail laura.fenley@dot.wi.gov), who served first on the Darwin task force in its early days, and has since chaired the FHWA lead states group on MEPDG implementation.

WisDOT decided to wait until the final version of the AASHTOware was released so we would not have to train our designers on the research version of the software, then retrain them when the final product was released. Now that that milestone has recently been passed with the release of the DARWin ME software, we are now awaiting the results from our second MEPDG implementation research study for local calibration (see below). Thus, we have not quite yet pulled the trigger on full implementation.

2. What efforts have been made toward local calibration?

We had a first generation implementation project conducted by ARA that started in 2006, and was based upon review of data from LTPP pavement sections only. Following the report from that study, Laura ran parallel MEPDG designs and traditional designs on numerous projects to evaluate the results. The PCC pavement results were fairly good, but there were significant problems with the HMA projects.

WisDOT then initiated a second MEPDG implementation project based on review of a much wider dataset of statewide projects to generate a more robust set of local calibrations. The results of that study are what we are still awaiting now.

In addition, materials characterization research projects have been conducted or are still in progress in the areas of foundation materials, HMA pavements and PCC Pavements. Completion of a very comprehensive study of PCC materials characteristics with local materials is due to be completed in early 2012.

3. What additional information/support would assist your state with implementation?

When we are ready to pull the trigger on implementation, we plan to take advantage of the offer by FHWA to provide instructors for a training workshop to teach our designers how to use the MEPDG software. We will probably use that as a train-the-trainer opportunity to train a few experts in each Region office, then that group can pass on that knowledge to a broader pool of designers at later dates.