MEETING SUMMARY

Sustainable Public Rights-of-Way Subcommittee
Wednesday, February 5, 2025
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Virtual Microsoft Teams

Dial in by phone.
+1 903-508-4574,51888272# United States, Tyler
Find a local number.
Phone conference ID: 518 882 72#

Chair: N/A

1. **Welcome and Introductions.**

Participants introduced themselves in the chat.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. **The Smart Surfaces Peer Learning Network.** This resource supports a rapidly growing community of urban infrastructure practitioners interested in adopting Smart Surfaces. Smart Surfaces Coalition (SSC)

Jacob Miller, representing the Smart Surfaces Coalition (SSC), shared insights from their research involving over 40 international partners. Their goal is to create cooler, healthier, and more resilient urban spaces using cost-effective strategies.

SSC focuses on integrating smart surfaces to manage urban heat and stormwater while improving air and water quality, public health, and overall sustainability. Key strategies include:

• Reflective surfaces
• Green surfaces
• Porous and permeable materials
• Solar energy integration

The coalition aims to make these strategies standard practice in urban design rather than isolated projects.

An integrated design approach was used to incorporate stormwater management features that also function as traffic-calming measures. These designs offer a $10 return for every $1 spent and follow a "dig-once" philosophy to maximize efficiency. Solar reflective paint coatings were also showcased.

- Boston has implemented a green infrastructure (GRIN) streets policy requiring curb extensions for stormwater management, with efforts to expand it citywide.
- Tucson has successfully used traffic-calming circles and roundabouts for stormwater and heat management.
- Alternative materials like permeable blocks provide high stormwater infiltration rates, extended lifespan, and ease of replacement, while also mitigating urban heat island effects.
- Reflective road markings and painted lanes enhance visibility and reduce heat absorption.

SSC is currently collaborating with the City of Dallas and other partners, promoting data-driven policymaking. Research efforts focus on:

- Cost-benefit analysis of smart surface strategies
- Meteorological modeling to assess temperature reduction benefits (3-6°F peak summer temperature reduction)
- Funding accessibility for cities and towns, including assistance with grant applications
- Policy tracking across the U.S. to identify best practices

SSC has supported various cities in adopting smart surface policies:

- Baltimore, MD: Legislation introduced to accelerate smart surface adoption.
- Charlotte, NC: Sustainable facilities policy requiring smart surfaces in city buildings.
- Dallas, TX: A $1.25 billion bond mandate ensuring climate resilience strategies in all funded projects.

SSC also offers research and analysis support through various web-based tools:

- Decision Support Tool: Uses geospatial analysis for smart surface implementation.
- Benefit-Cost Analysis Tool: Region-specific calculations on financial and environmental impacts.
- Policy Tracker: A searchable database of smart surface policies across the U.S.
- Water Quality & Drainage: Iona Isachsen (SSC), managing the Cool Roadways Project, confirmed that reflective coatings have undergone independent testing and do not impact water quality.
- Air Pollution & Microplastics: Some smart surface materials can mitigate air pollution and decompose microplastics from automobile traffic.

Data and accuracy concerns were raised by Taner Ozdil (UTA) about the scientific rigor of health-related data in the tools. Jacob SSC is developing a methodology document with validated sources, including research from Harvard on heat-health connections.

A Peer Learning Network will launch a cohort call this month—more details are available via the QR code on the presentation slide.

3. **Celebrating Leadership in Development Excellence (CLIDE) Awards.** Applications open February 3 – February 28, 2025.

Kate Zielke (NCTCOG) discussed the categories for CLIDE awards, with applications due by February 28. Taner inquired about categorization for certain projects, and Kate recommended reviewing the website or submitting under multiple categories. She also offered to connect him with the appropriate contact for further clarification.

4. **Chapter: Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development.** NCTCOG displays several examples of cost-effective and resilient approaches to stormwater management that are Guidebook suggestions.

Carl Singleton (NCTCOG) presented research on Green Infrastructure (GI) and Low-Impact Development (LID) and sought feedback on their implementation. He emphasized that these strategies are not one-size-fits-all and asked if their benefits align with community needs. Taner highlighted the importance of considering the climate and biodiversity impacts of GI and LID strategies.

5. **Chapter: ROW Planning, Administration, and Policy.** NCTCOG Guidebook suggestions; examples of Joint Trenching, Engineered, Sealed, As-builts, Signal Light Timing, Multimodal Networks, and Development of Crash Modification Factors for Uncontrolled Pedestrian Crossings.

    Carl Singleton introduced various resources, including:

    - AASHTO specifications for joint trenching
    - Policies ensuring accessibility of as-built plans
    - Signal light timing guidelines
    - Multi-modal network planning
    - Crash modification analysis
    - Urban tree and utility pole recommendations
    - Bike and urban bikeway design guides
    - AI-based decision-support tool for Complete Streets

    Glenn Barker (City of Corinth) asked about pedestrian street lighting standards, light pollution ratios, and the spacing of streetlights. Staff will search for relevant guidelines. Glenn also noted that the AI tool link in the presentation was broken. The team will provide a corrected link.

6. **Chapter: Complete Streets.** NCTCOG describes a design process that balances landscaping benefits with the necessity of roadside safety.

    Carl Singleton provided examples in slide presentations.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

7. **Public Works Program Updates.**

The next meeting of the Public Works Council (PWC) will take place February 20 in person.
A hybrid *integrated* Stormwater Management (iSWM) Workshop takes place March 3.
The next iSWM Subcommittee Next Meeting will take place in April.

8. **Roundtable Discussion.**

   No roundtable discussion was suggested by the committee.

9. **Schedule for the Next SPROW Meeting**. The next Subcommittee meeting is the week of May 5, 2025. However, this meeting may be postponed to give NCTCOG time to review and expand upon references previously presented to the SPROW subcommittee.

10. **Adjournment**.

   Carl Singleton thanked everyone for attending.

   If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Carl Singleton by phone at (817) 458-4768, or by email at Csingleton@nctcog.org.

Attendance

Sue Alvarez	NCTCOG
Wayne Anderson	
Glenn Barker	City of Corinth
Jon Beckham	City of Lewisville
Erin Blackman	NCTCOG
Debbie Branch	
Kaitlin Hunter	NCTCOG
Iona Isachsen	SSC
Megan Jay	
Jose Lopez Feliciano	City of Dallas
Jacob Miller	SSC
Stephen Moore	Denton County
Taner Ozdil	UTA
K. Qadri	City of Dallas
Carl Singleton	NCTCOG
Teanna Thompson	City of Fort Worth
Bill Updike	SSC
Kate Zielke	NCTCOG