

Western Alliance for Quality Transportation Construction 2011 Strategic Plan



The Western Alliance for Quality Transportation Construction (WAQTC) is a voluntary organization, whose membership recognizes the advantages of a unified effort leading to significant accomplishments.

The WAQTC is focused in three main areas:

1. Standardization of test methods (WAQTC, AASHTO, ASTM)
2. Accreditation of sampler / testers through the Transportation Technician Qualification Program (TTQP)
3. Working together on national programs of interest including research, training, and technology deployment

MISSION STATEMENT:

Provide leadership in the pursuit of continuously improving quality in transportation construction

GOALS

To accomplish this mission, the WAQTC has established the following goals:

- **Promote an atmosphere of trust, cooperation, and communication among government agencies and the private sector**
- **Respond in a unified and consistent manner to identified quality improvement needs and new technologies that impact the products we provide**
- **Provide a forum to promote uniform test standards**
- **Provide highly skilled, knowledgeable materials sampling and testing technicians**
- **Provide reciprocity for qualified testing technicians among accredited Agencies**

Strategic Plan

PLAN:

To achieve the goals, the WAQTC has established this strategic plan to guide our efforts and prioritize the expenditure of funding in the coming years. The Executive Committee, as defined in the WAQTC By-Laws, will oversee the execution of this plan through its Qualification Advisory Committee (QAC). The Executive Committee will review and update this plan annually and prioritize work for the coming year.

Promote an atmosphere of trust, cooperation, and communication among government agencies and the private sector

On-going Activities:

- **Update and maintain the WAQTC website**

Short term Goals

- **Develop Semi-Annual Newsletter**

A newsletter will be developed and posted on the WAQTC website and eventually sent to qualification holders and others associated with the WAQTC electronically. The newsletter may be provided to other selected officials to market the organization to non-member agencies. Newsletters will include WAQTC and AASHTO news and updates.

Long term Goals

- **Development of Presentation Materials**
Presentations on WAQTC: the benefits of membership, technology transfer opportunities, activity reports, training modules, etc.

Respond in a unified and consistent manner to identified quality improvement needs and new technologies that impact the products we provide

On-going Activities:

- **Seek input through newsletter on better ways to provide quality improvements and technologies.**
- **Evaluate training materials every 5-years for content**
Part of the ongoing QAC effort.

Short term Goals

- **Update and maintain Training Materials in the latest MS Office product**

Provide a forum to promote uniform test standards

On-going Activities:

- **Identify proposed modifications or new AASHTO test methods through the QAC. The Executive Committee will assign a champion for each proposed new or modified procedure and track progress of WAQTC proposed changes at AASHTO. Status of procedures will be posted on WAQTC website.**

The WAQTC has become a powerful influence with the AASHTO SOM and the benefits/costs of this effort and the working committee (QAC) are included in the on-going efforts.

Long term Goals

- **Develop WAQTC equipment calibration standards**

Provide highly skilled, knowledgeable materials sampling and testing technicians

On-going Activities:

- **QAC Sub-Committee to Review Exam Question Selection**
The QAC will develop objectives for the written exam and assign a subcommittee to review question selection.
- **Develop a 4th Qualification Exam for each materials discipline**
The training materials for 2011 included a 4th exam for each of the qualification modules; this exam is currently being vetted by the member states.
- **Modify Alaska CAgT PowerPoint and Implement for WAQTC**
The training materials for 2011 included a new Aggregate Module PowerPoint training presentation based on Alaska CAgT, this presentation is currently being evaluated.

Short term Goals

- **Evaluate and modify other Alaska training modules for incorporation into WAQTC**
New PowerPoint training presentations based on Alaska training modules to be developed incorporating feedback from the pilot Aggregate presentation.
- **Discontinue the Oral Performance Exams - Incorporate Objectives into Written Exam**
There are currently four Oral Performance exams being used related to sampling. Use of these performance exams will be discontinued when the written exam incorporates the objectives of the oral performance exams.
- **Develop 3-5 New Questions per Year, per Module**
The QAC will develop new questions for each module each year in an effort to keep written exams fresh and current.
- **Explore Moving to Open Book Exam**
The QAC will establish objectives for the written exam and make a proposal to the Executive Committee on the value of developing Open-Book written exams. Proposal will include selection of a psychometrician to work with WAQTC for creating and evaluating the exams.
- **Re-Development of Existing WAQTC Instructional Materials**
Re-design / redevelop the existing WAQTC instructional and testing materials.

Long term Goals

- **Develop Asphalt Volumetric Module**
A new Asphalt Volumetric Module based on the current Asphalt module and materials used by member states that have independent qualifications for Asphalt Volumetric evaluations.
- **Develop Training for Exam Proctors and Develop Trainer Qualification Requirements**
To standardize the qualification process throughout the member states Exam Proctors will have training on exam oversight and Trainer's will have specific requirements.
- **Develop Electronic Question Database - Randomly Generate Questions**
Develop enough exam questions that a database can create a randomly generated 'unique' exam for each participant.

- **Develop SOP for Humphrey's Curve**

Develop a Specified Method of Testing based on the use of AKDOT & PF ATM 212, ITD T 74, WSDOT TM 606, and/or WFLHD HUMPHRYS CURVES to submit to AASHTO.

Provide reciprocity for Qualified testing technicians among accredited Agencies

Short term Goals

- **Reciprocity Audits of Member State**

Develop a manual and program for auditing the WAQTC member organizations to ensure qualification criteria are being adhered to within the program.

Long term Goals

- **Increase reciprocity to states outside of membership**

2011 Planned Work

The following work was prioritized by the Executive Committee for 2011:

1. Continue work on on-going activities
2. Develop a semi-annual newsletter
3. Evaluate moving to an open book written exam
4. Evaluate existing training materials for needed improvements / updates
5. Evaluate and modify other Alaska training modules for incorporation into WAQTC.
6. Remove oral Performance exam questions and incorporate into the written exam.
7. Develop Asphalt Volumetrics module.
8. Develop training for proctors and trainer qualification requirements.
9. Develop SOP for Washington T 606: Humphrey's Curve