Welcome back to the AASHTOWare Pavement e-Newsletter!

We look forward to keeping you up to date on Pavement ME Design news, and we encourage you to send us suggestions for articles to be included in upcoming editions of the newsletter. We plan to publish a newsletter each quarter. Enjoy!

Version 2.5 of Pavement ME Design Released!

Version 2.5 of the Pavement ME Design software was released on July 5, 2018. As with previous software releases, v2.5 can be downloaded from the ME Design website. Please send any questions or issues related to downloading of the software to the ME Design website and/or contact the Help Desk Manager, Shobhit Mundra at http://me-design.com/MEDesign/Report.aspx, via email at pavementmedesign@ara.com, or phone 1-217-356-4500.

Three Webinars Planned to Introduce the 2018 Enhancements

Several new enhancements are available in version 2.5 release. The major enhancements include:

- **Recalibration of the Flexible and Semi-Rigid Pavements Transfer Functions.**
- **Capability to reset the Predicted Distress Values for Selected Preventive Maintenance Activities.**
- **Integration of the MEPDG Manual of Practice into the software.**
- **Customization of Reports.**
- **Availability of MERRA Climate Data.**
- **Input Levels 1, 2, and 3 for Indirect Tensile Strength.**
- **An enhanced comparator tool.**

**Task Force Members:**

- John Donahue, P.E., Missouri DOT, Chairperson
- Patrick Bierl, P.E., Ohio DOT
- Felix Doucet, Eng., Quebec MOT, TAC Liaison
- David Holmgren, P.E. Utah DOT
- Marta Juhasz, P.Eng., Alberta Transportation, Vice Chair
- Shane Marshall, P.E., Utah DOT, SCOA Liaison
- Clark Morrison, P.E., North Carolina DOT
- Robert Shugart, P.E., Alabama DOT
- Karen Strauss, P.E Oregon DOT
- Travis Tackett, Florida DOT, T&AA Liaison
- Tom Yu, P.E., FHWA Liaison
- Vicki Schofield, AASHTO Project Manager (202) 624-3640
The three webinars will be held in August to describe and explain each of the enhancements. An announcement for the three webinars was sent out to organizations with active licenses last month. The following lists the dates and topics for the three webinars:

- **Webinar #1; August 1.**
  1. Manual of Practice Integration into the Pavement ME software.
  2. Customization of output reports.
  3. Enhanced Comparator Tool.
  4. Use of MERRA climate data.
- **Webinar #2; August 14.**
  1. If needed, continuation to answer questions on use of the MERRA climate data.
  2. Preventive maintenance considerations.
  3. Temperature dependent indirect tensile strength.
- **Webinar #3; August 21.**
  1. Calibration coefficients of the transfer functions and prediction models. The final webinar will be focused solely on the recalibration of the flexible and semi-rigid pavements.

**Transliteration and Refactoring of ME Design Analysis Executables – Complete!**

The Pavement ME software source code has been transliterated to C#. This means no more FORTRAN code and no more C++ code in the Pavement ME software! This milestone is the first step for the creation of a Pavement ME Design software platform and paves the way for future improvements as the system is prepared for its transition to a web technology application. Members of the software team, in their new “Transliterator T-9000,” shirts that executed the transliteration work are shown in the picture.

*Team members include, (from left to right): Yanbin Zhang, Shobhit Mundra, Chad Becker, Saransh Bhardwaj, William Rummler, and Brendon Neunaber.*
Enhancements underway for FY 2019

Two major enhancements are underway for FY 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019). These two enhancements have been requested by many agencies for some time and are summarized below:

Top-Down Cracking:

NCHRP project 1-52 has been completed under the leadership of Dr. Robert L. Lytton, P.E. with the Texas Transportation Institute. Integration of the model into Pavement ME Design is now underway. The integration of the NCHRP 1-52 model into Pavement ME Design is expected to be completed and released in July 2019.

The Calibrator

Many agencies have requested more detailed support to assist in the local calibration of the Pavement ME prediction models and transfer functions. A tool called “The Calibrator” is underway and will be completed and released in July 2019. The purpose of this tool is to provide a semi-automated procedure for accomplishing the local calibration. More information will be provided in future newsletters on this topic.

New Technical Support Member of the ARA Help Desk

Mr. Shobhit Mundra is the new technical support contact for Pavement ME Design. Shobhit joins the team from Utah State University with a master’s degree in computer science. He has worked with the application development team for the past year fixing various issues and assisting with the enhancements and updates of the software. Shobhit is ready to take on this new role and looks forward to assisting the Pavement ME Design customers. His contact information is: 217-356-4500 and pavementmedesign@ara.com.

Thank You to the Beta Testers!

A special thanks to the individuals that participated in the beta testing of version 2.5. The agency personnel involved in the beta test process included: Affan Habib and Girum Merine (Virginia DOT), John Donahue and Andrew Bowman (Missouri DOT), Jay Goldbaum, Melody Perkins, and Laura Conroy (Colorado DOT), Julie Roby (Quebec Ministry of Transportation), Athanassios Papagiannakis (University of Texas at San Antonio), and Wouter Brink and Dinesh Ayyala (ARA).
**Future Software Needs and Enhancements**

As a friendly reminder, the Pavement ME Design Task Force is continually taking action to improve the software and welcomes suggestions from users. Suggestions are reviewed and prioritized at each Pavement ME Design Task Force meeting. Submit suggestions to [Vicki Schofield](mailto:v schofield@shaashto.org) or any Pavement ME Design Task Force member. Feature ideas may now also be submitted through the Pavement ME Design website at: [http://me-design.com/MEDesign/Report.aspx](http://me-design.com/MEDesign/Report.aspx).

**Discussion Forum**

Please note that a pavement engineering discussion forum is now available for access via [https://www.allanswered.com/community/s/pavement-engineering/](https://www.allanswered.com/community/s/pavement-engineering/). This forum is for civil engineers interested in pavement design and provides a global community discussion for pavement design.

The AASHTOWare Pavement ME Design Product Task Force (PMEDTF) provides broad oversight and direction for the support, maintenance and enhancement of the software. AASHTOWare tries maintain a balance of members from across the country to represent the diverse climate and soil conditions. For further information about the Pavement ME Design Product Task Force, please contact Vicki Schofield, Project Manager | [vschofield@shaashto.org](mailto:vschofield@shaashto.org) | 202.624.3640.