



Scott R. Mason
Executive Director

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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August 01, 2022

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
And the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to MOP 1102 (L), authorize the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department's, Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program, to allow Sandra Houghton, Wildlife Biologist, to travel over 300 miles one way in a state vehicle to Atlantic City, New Jersey to attend the 2022 Northeastern Transportation and Wildlife Conference from September 17 to September 21, 2022 effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval. 65% Federal Funds 35% Other Funds (Nongame).

EXPLANATION

New Hampshire Fish and Game is requesting permission for Sandra Houghton, Wildlife Biologist with the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program, to travel to Atlantic City, New Jersey via state vehicle to attend the 2022 Northeastern Transportation and Wildlife Conference. Ms. Houghton coordinates the NH Wildlife & Transportation Group and serves on the Staying Connected Initiative steering committee. This conference includes a number of important discussions on transportation initiatives, management actions, modelling and planning. Sandra is facilitating a number of priority connectivity initiatives in NH that will be informed by the conference.

We are requesting that Sandra Houghton be allowed to drive a state vehicle, instead of flying, 405 miles each way. The total cost for flying would be \$2,111.56 versus \$1,724.71 for driving, resulting in a savings of \$386.85. Please see attached Form A-24, cost comparison spreadsheet, and conference agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Scott R. Mason.

Scott R. Mason
Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Kathy Ann LaBonte.

Kathy Ann LaBonte
Business Division

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR OUT-OF-STATE TRAVELDate: 7/27/2022**TO THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR & COUNCIL:**

The Department of Fish and Game requests permission
for 1 employees or their designees to travel to Atlantic City, New Jersey
for 5 days of out-of-state travel status from September 17, 2022 to September 21, 2022.

Conference/Workshop/Seminar Title2022 Northeastern Transportation and Wildlife Conference**Purpose of Travel**

The Fish and Game Department (F&G) requests a waiver from MOP Section 1102 (L), which requires travel outside a 300 mile radius by tourist class air passage and authorization for Sandra Houghton, Wildlife Biologist, to travel via car from F&G Headquarters in Concord, NH to Atlantic City, NJ in the amount of \$ 1,724.71 (including staff hour time). Sandra Houghton coordinates the NH Wildlife Transportation Group and serves on the Staying Connected Initiative steering committee. This conference includes a number of important discussions on transportation initiatives, management actions, modelling and planning. Sandra is facilitating a number of priority connectivity initiatives in NH that will be informed by the conference. Sandra is proposing to drive to save on travel costs and allow flexibility should attendance change to virtual. See attached travel cost comparison between air travel and driving.

Attendees and their Titles1. Sandra Houghton, Biologist II, Nongame**Fiscal Information - Summary**

<u>Obit</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>		<u>Amount</u>
0710	Common Carriers	\$	Appropriation of Out-of-State Travel	\$ 10,000
0711	Per Diem in Lieu	\$	Amount Expended to date	\$ 0
0712	Meals	\$ 126.50	Available Balance	\$ 10,000
0713	Hotel	\$ 440.00	Amount requested this authorization	\$ 1,193.50
0714	Mileage	\$	Estimated Balance Available	\$ 8,806.50
0715	Operation State Car	\$		
0717	Miscellaneous	\$ 192	Appropriation Code	020 - 07500 - 2125 - 080
0719	Registration Fees	\$ 435.00	Source of Funds	Federal/Nongame
		\$ 1,193.50		T-9-T-3P5

Authorized Signature



Scott R. Mason, Executive Director

Date

8/3/22

Cost Comparison Between Driving to Atlantic City, New Jersey vs Air Travel

Travel to the 2022 Northeastern Transportation and Wildlife Conference (NETWC) at the Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey

September 17, 2022 - September 21, 2022

Expense	Driving (From Concord, NH - ~405 miles) Start travel on September 17, 2022 End travel on September 21, 2022		Air Travel Start travel on September 17, 2022 travel on September 21, 2022 End	
Staff Time (1)	13 hrs driving round trip (6h30' one-way) @ \$33.17/hr	\$431.21	18 hrs travel to and from airport and flight/airport time round trip (9 hours one-way) @ \$33.17/hr	\$597.06
State Vehicle (2)		\$200.00		\$0.00
Tolls (3)		\$60.00		\$0.00
Parking (4)		\$32.00		\$56.00
Flight (5)		\$0.00		\$387.00
Taxi (6)		\$0.00		\$70.00
Hotel (7)	4 nights	\$440.00	4 nights	\$440.00
Meals (8)		\$126.50		\$126.50
Registration (9)		\$435.00		\$435.00
TOTAL COST		\$1,724.71		\$2,111.56

(1) For Air Travel time estimate = Includes arriving at airport 1.5 hrs before flight, flying time, and driving to/from airport from meeting location.

(2) \$200 if the cost of fuel is \$5.00 per gallon; would be \$180 if gas price at \$4.50. Based on vehicle getting 20 miles per gallon.

(3) Tolls approximately \$30 one-way

(4) Hotel parking at \$8/day for 4 days; Airport parking estimated at \$14/day for 4 days based on current rates.

(5) Flight cost estimated from Kayak as of the date of request at \$387 round trip.

(6) Estimated taxi fare from airport is \$35 (one way)

(7) Hotel costs are \$96/night without taxes; \$110/night with taxes and fees.

(8) Meals = Day 1(travel) Lunch+Dinner *0.75= \$30.75; Day 2 (field training; lunch provided)= Breakfast + Dinner=\$39; Day 3 (conference; all meals provided); Day 4 (conference; breakfast and lunch provided) Dinner=\$26; Last day (conference and travel; breakfast provided) Lunch/Dinner *0.75= \$30.75. Some meals are included with the cost of the registration. Per GSA the per diem rates for Atlantic City NJ are: Breakfast \$13; Lunch \$15; Dinner \$26.

(9) Registration is a set cost of \$385 plus \$50 for the pre-conference training field trip

2022 Northeast Transportation and Wildlife Conference

Event Schedule

Sun, Sep 18, 2022

9:30 AM

Registration

9:30 AM - 6:00 PM, Sep 18

10:00 AM

Pre-Conference Field Trips

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Sep 18

Field Trip

Substitutions

● West Pine Plains Natural Area Hike

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Sep 18

● NAACC Field Training for Assessment of Road-Stream Crossings for use by Terrestrial Wildlife

10:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Sep 18

● Bats to Village

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Sep 18

6:00 PM

Welcome Reception

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM, Sep 18

Field Trip

Mon, Sep 19, 2022

8:00 AM

Registration & Exhibitors Open

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Sep 19

Breakfast

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM, Sep 19

Field Trip

9:00 AM

Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Roll Call

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM, Sep 19

General Session

9:45 AM

Break with Sponsors

9:45 AM - 10:00 AM, Sep 19

Field Trip

10:00 AM

Wildlife Crossing Funding Opportunities in the New Infrastructure Law and Beyond

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Sep 19

General Session

Authors: Renee Callahan, ARC Solutions, Gretchen Fowler, NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife

This session will focus on wildlife crossing funding opportunities included within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58 (IIJA). Enacted last November, Section 11123 of the IIJA creates a Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program that – for the first time ever – dedicates \$250 million in federal funding over 5 years for projects to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs) while improving habitat connectivity. Eligible applicants include Federal land managers, State highway agencies (including metropolitan planning organizations), Tribes, local governments as well as special purpose districts and regional, public transportation and port authorities. In addition to the new pilot, the panel will also share information on new, expanded, and existing eligibility for wildlife infrastructure and other mitigation countermeasures under a variety of programs, including the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects (NMFRA); Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program; Bridge Investment Program; National Culvert Removal, Replacement, & Restoration Grant Program; Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds; National Significant Federal Lands & Tribal Projects; Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainability & Equity Grants; Surface Transportation Block Grant Program; Transportation Alternatives; Highway Safety Improvement Program; and Federal Lands Access Program; as well as potential opportunities to improve aquatic connectivity while enhancing infrastructure resiliency under the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program (PROTECT). Invited and confirmed panelists include representatives from the Federal Highway Administration, Maine Department of Transportation, New Jersey Fish & Wildlife, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Vermont Fish & Wildlife, and Vermont Agency of Transportation will help answer your most pressing questions about these new, expanded, and existing funding opportunities for wildlife infrastructure. Case studies will be presented on implementation of some of the opportunities and we will discuss such topics as how to develop competitive applications, how to leverage partners, and how to stay up-to-date on the funding opportunities.

Speakers



Gretchen Fowler
GIS Specialist/Biologist
NJ Fish & Wildlife



Renee Callahan
ARC Solutions

12:00 PM

Lunch, Awards, and Keynote

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM, Sep 19

General Session

Keynote Speaker: Margaret O'Connor



Margaret O'Connor operates at the intersection of business and nature. She is the President of the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) and author of the book "Strategic Corporate Conservation Planning" which advances the idea that business value can be realized from conservation action. She works with multinational corporations to develop integrated strategies and implement conservation projects that meet business needs and, in so doing, enhance ecosystems, connect communities, and engage employees. She helps companies integrate conservation objectives into their sustainability efforts and drives long-term engagement through WHC's signature Conservation Certification recognition, which serves to define the standard for corporate conservation world-wide.

She has consulted with Fortune 500 companies like General Motors, Exxon, Chevron, BASF, and others to develop strategies and frameworks to integrate biodiversity in business. These strategies have been deployed across over 1,000 conservation programs in 28 countries and have connected simple and complex acts of conservation to larger corporate goals.

Margaret is a compelling writer and speaker on the need to act for nature. She uses her platform and audience to promote private sector engagement in conservation action to restore ecosystems, recover species, connect people, and make a positive difference to people and planet. Prior to her work with WHC, she led the Connecticut Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey and prior to that, led fundraising efforts for the New Jersey Nature and Primal Preservation Alliance.

1:30 PM

Communication / Outreach Strategies and Techniques

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, Sep 19

Program Fee:

Subsessions

- **Getting the Word Out on Habitat Fragmentation: Let Salamanders Do the Talking**
1:30 PM - 1:50 PM, Sep 19
- **Transportation and Ecology: Reflections, Perspectives, and Strategies (over 3 Decades in the Making)**
1:50 PM - 2:10 PM, Sep 19
- **TRAX - Re-developing a road-kill reporting app to improve the user experience and quality of data collected: Steve Bega, Animex International Inc.**
2:10 PM - 2:30 PM, Sep 19
- **South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA), Roadway Environmental Advancement Initiative (READI)**
2:30 PM - 2:50 PM, Sep 19
- **Closing and Remaining Questions**
2:50 PM - 3:00 PM, Sep 19

Creative Solutions to Conflicting Priorities

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, Sep 19

Program Fee:

Subsessions

- **Bats in Bridges: Survey Results and Considerations from New Jersey**
1:30 PM - 1:50 PM, Sep 19
- **Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission Scudder Falls Bridge Replacement Project: Implementing Wildlife Management Strategies Prior to and During Construction for a Multi-Jurisdictional Project**
1:50 PM - 2:10 PM, Sep 19
- **Monitoring Endangered Shortnose Sturgeon in the Merrimack River: Using New Technology to Address Old In-Water Work Windows**
2:10 PM - 2:30 PM, Sep 19
- **What has New Jersey learned in almost a decade of wildlife passage regulation implementation?**
2:30 PM - 2:50 PM, Sep 19
- **Closing and Remaining Questions**
2:50 PM - 3:00 PM, Sep 19

Massachusetts Rivers and Roads Training Program: Interagency Partnership for Resilient Infrastructure and River Protection

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, Sep 19

Program Fee:

Authors: Roy Schiff, SLR Consulting; Jessica Louison, SLR Consulting; Tim Decker, MA Department of Transportation Highway Division; David Paulson, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

The Massachusetts Rivers & Roads Training Program was initiated by MassDOT and its partners in 2015 to advance an understanding of fluvial geomorphology across the transportation sector, to create a more resilient transportation network, and protect rivers. Through classroom and field training, attendees have learned about river shape and processes, and resilient infrastructure design. Trainee courses illustrate how to reduce future damage through innovative assessment and design practices where river-road conflicts exist. Over 300 trainees have attended the courses including MassDOT designers, construction engineers, hydrologic engineers, and environmental personnel; municipal public works, planning, and conservation staff; consulting engineers, scientists, and planners; environmental agency staff, and members of non-governmental organizations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person training has been postponed; however, MassDOT has developed an online video mini-series to continue delivering training content. This workshop will provide an overview of the Rivers & Roads Training Program and show the first training videos of a proposed series that is under development. A training field guide is also under development to aid in common measurements, such as bank full channel width and stage of channel evolution.

Speaker



David Paulson
Senior Endangered Species Review Biologist
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

3:00 PM

Break with Sponsors

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM, Sep 19

Program Fee:

3:30 PM

Vegetation

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM, Sep 19

Program Fee:

5 Subsessions

- South Jersey Transportation Authority, Grassland Conservation and Management Area Relocation
○ 3:50 PM - 4:50 PM, Sep 19
- Paths for Pollinators: New Conservation Efforts for Bumble Bees on Rights-of-Way
○ 3:50 PM - 4:10 PM, Sep 19
- Protecting Pollinators and Planting Riparian Buffers at Vtrans
○ 4:10 PM - 4:30 PM, Sep 19
- Invasive Species Impacts on Transportation Infrastructure
○ 4:30 PM - 4:50 PM, Sep 19
- Closing and Remaining Questions
○ 4:50 PM - 5:00 PM, Sep 19

Mitigation

○ 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM, Sep 19

Panel Discussion

5 Subsessions

- Turtle Nesting Habitat Mitigation for a Bridge Replacement over the Schuylkill River in Pennsylvania
○ 3:30 PM - 3:50 PM, Sep 19
- Assessing Highway Impacts on Wildlife Distributions, Behaviors, Gene Flow, and Mortality
○ 3:50 PM - 4:10 PM, Sep 19
- How Do Roadkill Hotspots and Coldspots Align on Two Parallel Highways in Southern Québec?
○ 4:10 PM - 4:30 PM, Sep 19
- Effectiveness monitoring of mitigation measures for mammals and reptiles in the Boreal Forest, Ontario, Canada
○ 4:30 PM - 4:50 PM, Sep 19
- Closing and Remaining Questions
○ 4:50 PM - 5:00 PM, Sep 19

Standardizing Wildlife-Vehicle Conflict Data Across Boundaries Using ROADs (Roadkill Observation and Data System)

○ 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM, Sep 19

Panel Discussion

Authors: Elizabeth Fairbank, Center for Large Landscape Conservation; Matthew Bell, Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University; Vincent Ziola, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Chris Slesar, Vermont Transportation Department

There is currently no standardized roadkill data collection across the U.S., making it difficult to quantify wildlife-vehicle conflict and prioritize countermeasures. In order to address this issue on federal public lands, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Park Service (NPS) partnered with the Western Transportation Institute (WTI) to develop a standardized tool that could be used across federal public lands. Through a series of workshops, the standardized data fields were selected, and the tool was built using ESRI's Survey123 smartphone application, which includes a GPS location and which automatically uploads the data into both a map and spreadsheet. Now, through a partnership with the Center for Large Landscape Conservation, this tool named ROADs (Roadkill Observation and Data System) has been made available to states, tribes, and NGOs to provide standardized, spatially accurate data on roadkill and wildlife-vehicle interactions across jurisdictions. The Vermont Transportation Department has adopted the ROADs tool for use across their state, and USFWS, NPS, and WTI are in the final phase of their project to roll out the tool across Department of Interior managed lands this year. Meanwhile ROADs is being used by other user groups to collect data for projects across the U.S., including by citizen scientists. This panel will provide information on the development and implementation of ROADs from the federal, state, university, and NGO perspectives, and provide conference participants with the information they need to take advantage of this tool for their work.

7 Speakers



Elizabeth Fairbank
Road Ecologist
The Center for Large Landscape Conservation



Matthew Bell



Vincent Ziola
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Chris Slesar
Vermont Agency of Transportation

6:00 PM

Board Buses for Conference Dinner

○ 6:00 PM - 6:15 PM, Sep 19

Panel Discussion

6:30 PM

Conference Dinner

○ 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, Sep 19

Panel Discussion

Tue, Sep 20, 2022

7:00 AM

Registration & Exhibitors Open

○ 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Sep 20

Breakfast

○ 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM, Sep 20

Panel Discussion

8:30 AM

Partnerships

○ 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM, Sep 20

Panel Discussion

4 Subsessions

- **Communication Strategies for Behavior Change: Combining Relationships with Good Data:** Roger Stephenson, Stephenson Strategic
 8:30 AM - 9:50 AM, Sep 20
- **Merging Lanes: Incorporating natural resource priorities into transportation planning:** David Paulson, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
 9:50 AM - 11:10 AM, Sep 20
- **Working in the Intersection: Collaboration between US Fish and Wildlife Service and Transportation Agencies to Improve Aquatic Connectivity:** Cathy Borek, USFWS
 9:10 AM - 11:30 AM, Sep 20
- **NJ Fish and Wildlife: Incorporating Habitat Connectivity into Public Land Management:** Melissa Woerner, NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife
 9:30 AM - 11:50 AM, Sep 20
- **Closing and Remaining Questions**
 9:50 AM - 10:00 AM, Sep 20

Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction / Safety

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM, Sep 20

Panel Topic

4 Subsessions

- **Identifying Locations and Designs for Wildlife Crossings for Reintroduced Elk in Southwest Virginia:** Bridget Donaldson, Virginia Department of Transportation
 8:30 AM - 9:50 AM, Sep 20
- **Early Results Examining Effectiveness of Two Styles of Road Mortality Mitigation Fencing: Best Practices for Reducing Diamondback Terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) Mortality on Coastal Roadways:** Brian Williamson, The Wetlands Institute
 8:50 AM - 10:10 AM, Sep 20
- **Predictive Models of Potential High-Turtle Presence Zones along Roads and their Application to all Roads in Québec:** Jochen Jaeger, Concordia University, Montreal
 9:10 AM - 10:30 AM, Sep 20
- **Amphibian Road Crossing Hotspot Modeling:** Jed Merrow, McFarland Johnson
 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM, Sep 20
- **Closing and Remaining Questions**
 9:50 AM - 10:00 AM, Sep 20

The North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC): Resources for Assessing and Addressing the Barrier Effects of Road-Stream Crossings

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM, Sep 20

Panel Discussion

Authors: Scott Jackson, University of Massachusetts Amherst

The North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) is a network of individuals from universities, conservation organizations, environmental businesses, and local, state and federal natural resource and transportation agencies focused on improving aquatic connectivity across a thirteen-state region, from Maine to Virginia. The NAACC has developed common protocols for assessing road-stream crossings (culverts and bridges) and a regional database that allows for storage, scoring and retrieval of field data. The Panel is organized in three parts. The first part will be an introduction and overview of the NAACC presented by NAACC project leader, Scott Jackson. In the second part, representatives from a number of states involved in the NAACC, including ME, NY, PA, VA, MA, and NJ, will provide short presentations detailing which assessments are being implemented and how data from crossing assessments are being used to restore aquatic and/or terrestrial connectivity in their states. The third portion of the program will focus on how NAACC data are scored and identify opportunities to improve the NAACC approach for scoring crossing passability, including changes that might be made to specific scoring algorithms. This panel will allow people engaged in road-stream crossing assessments to learn from each other, inform recommendations about how the NAACC can be used to assess and address the barrier effects of roads and highways, and facilitate discussion that will allow NAACC contributions to improve the NAACC database and its utility for restoring landscape-scale connectivity.

17 Speaker



Scott Jackson
 Extension Professor
 University of Massachusetts Amherst

10:00 AM

Break with Sponsors

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM, Sep 20

Special Event

10:30 AM

Field Tour Review, Lunch Pick up, and Bus Loading

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Sep 20

General Topic

11:00 AM

Field Tours

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Sep 20

Field Topic

5 Subsessions

- **Cape May Peninsula - Trip 1**
 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Sep 20
- **Cape May Peninsula - Trip 2**
 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Sep 20
- **Central NJ Road Mitigation (on and off road)**
 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Sep 20
- **Atlantic City Expressway**
 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Sep 20
- **Edwin B. Forsythe / Cedar Bonnet Island**
 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Sep 20

Wed, Sep 21, 2022

7:00 AM

Registration & Exhibits Open

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Sep 21

7:30 AM

Breakfast

7:30 AM - 9:30 AM, Sep 21

Special Event

8:30 AM

Lightning Talks

8:30 AM - 10:15 AM, Sep 21

Lightning Talks

Submissions

- Introductions and Session Review
8:30 AM - 8:40 AM, Sep 21
- CHANJ Road Segment Reports; Brian Zarate, NJ Fish & Wildlife
8:40 AM - 8:50 AM, Sep 21
- Ensuring Habitat Connectivity for Future Climate Changes - Hop Brook Crossing, Belchertown, Massachusetts; Lara Sup, Foss & O'Neill
8:50 AM - 9:00 AM, Sep 21
- MaineDOT's First Herptile Crossing; Richard Bostwick, Maine Department of Transportation
9:00 AM - 9:10 AM, Sep 21
- Q&A
9:10 AM - 9:20 AM, Sep 21
- Monitoring of Wildlife and Hydrology Before Ecologically Sensitive Ecosystems and Culverts Are Built into a Salt Marsh Road-Raising in New York City; Neha Savant, NYC Parks
9:20 AM - 9:40 AM, Sep 21
- Partnering for the Commonwealth: A Massachusetts Update; David Paulson, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
9:40 AM - 9:50 AM, Sep 21
- Final Q&A and Wrap up
9:50 AM - 10:15 AM, Sep 21

Habitat Connectivity Planning at Different Scales (Regional to Local)

8:30 AM - 10:15 AM, Sep 21

Lightning Talks

Submissions

- Using CHANJ Tools to Inform Connectivity Work and Track Progress in New Jersey; Gretchen Fowles, NJ Fish & Wildlife
8:30 AM - 8:50 AM, Sep 21
- Evaluating Genetic Connectivity of New Jersey's Terrestrial Mammals Across the State; Gretchen Fowles, NJ Fish & Wildlife
8:50 AM - 9:10 AM, Sep 21
- Habitat Suitability and Landscape Connectivity for an Expanding Population of Bobcats; Ariana Cerreta, University of Delaware, currently University of Idaho
9:10 AM - 9:30 AM, Sep 21
- Wildlife Connectivity Impact Assessment, Mitigation Planning, and Stakeholder Facilitation: Insights and Lessons Learned from California High Speed Rail; Rebecca Sloan, ICF
9:30 AM - 9:50 AM, Sep 21
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park in Woodstown, NJ Project
9:50 AM - 10:10 AM, Sep 21
- Closing and Remaining Questions
10:10 AM - 10:15 AM, Sep 21

10:00 AM

Break with Sponsors

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM, Sep 21

Lightning Talks

Lightning Talks

10:30 AM

Lightning Talks

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Sep 21

Lightning Talks

Submissions

- Introductions and Session Review
10:30 AM - 10:40 AM, Sep 21
- Waterloo Road Amphibian Tunnel Project: An "Almost There" TAP Case Study From New Jersey; MacKenzie Hall, NJ Fish & Wildlife
10:40 AM - 10:50 AM, Sep 21
- Partnership and Collaboration Successes - Transportation & Wildlife in NJ; Daniel Moscovici, Stockton University
10:50 AM - 11:00 AM, Sep 21
- Terrapins & Tires: A Deadly Mix; Ben Wurst, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ
11:00 AM - 11:10 AM, Sep 21
- Q&A
11:10 AM - 11:30 AM, Sep 21
- Aquatic Connectivity Through Climate-Ready Infrastructure; Isabelle Silinette, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program, Hudson River Foundation
11:30 AM - 11:40 AM, Sep 21
- Use of Motion Activated Cameras to Evaluate the Efficacy of Terrestrial Wildlife Crossing Structures Beneath Roadways; Elizabeth Muller, Davey Resource Group, Inc.
11:40 AM - 11:50 AM, Sep 21

Emerging Best Practices to Reduce Road Mortality and Increase Habitat Connectivity across Roadways for Turtles in the Northeastern US

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Sep 21

Lightning Talks

Authors: Tom Langen, Clarkson University

Roadkill and connectivity. Roadkill caused by roads and road traffic can result in serious population declines of turtles. Agencies concerned with turtle conservation and the environmental management of roads are grappling with how to most effectively avoid or mitigate the negative effects of roads and road traffic on them. The Northeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies has supported through a USFWS Regional Conservation Needs Grant the project "Road Mortality Hotspot Identification, Targeted Road Mitigation Assessment, & Best Management Practices." This project included tasks:

- Develop a standardized approach to identifying and documenting road mortality hotspots of turtles.
- Create a database of regional roadway mitigation projects for turtles to facilitate best future design practices.
- Identify Best Practices for common mitigation measures.
- Develop standardized protocols for pre- and post-mitigation implementation monitoring.
- Conduct a meta-analysis of the effectiveness of these mitigation actions.

In the workshop, the presenters will review and synthesize the outcomes and products of this project. The workshop will provide a venue for state wildlife agency personnel directly involved in this project and any interested NETWC attendees to discuss and comment on the outcomes and outputs of the project, answer questions, exchange information, and provide recommendations that can be incorporated in the final versions.

Speaker



Tom Langen
Professor, Dept. of Biology
Clarkson University

Staying connected in the northeast and mid-Atlantic: capacity-building, peer exchange, and regional coordination; Mikael Cejlin, The Nature Conservancy
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Sep 21

Panel Overview

Authors: Mikael Cejlin, The Nature Conservancy; Chris Shear, Vermont Agency of Transportation; David Paulson, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife; Stephanie Delano, New York State Department of Transportation

The Staying Connected Initiative (SCI) is a public-private partnership led by the Nature Conservancy with nearly 70 agency, non-profit, and academic partners working towards effective landscape-scale connectivity conservation in the Northern Appalachians. We propose to provide needed support and coordination for existing conservation efforts across the northeast and mid-Atlantic region by facilitating regional peer learning and exchange, and by exporting the successful SCI model to the Kittatinny/Highlands corridor linking North and Central Appalachia. SCI can provide vital assistance integrating transportation and habitat protection strategies, and mapping priority places for a multi-state connectivity and climate-resilient conservation plan that leverages co-benefits. Recent federal legislation and historic funding for climate resilience and biodiversity conservation in the US and Canada present unprecedented opportunities to manifest this vision for achieving continental connectivity. However, limited capacity is an ongoing obstacle for state transportation and fish and wildlife departments, especially now with growing workloads associated with new and increased federal funding. We propose a panel that will include the following:

- "Habitats and Highways," training presentation (originated in Vermont) for all interested Fish and Wildlife and Transportation Agencies (requested by at least 6 states) to deepen education and interagency coordination around connectivity and transportation mitigation, and to facilitate exchange among agencies to support sustained engagement.

- A presentation on how agencies are rising to meet the challenge of implementing connectivity enhancement/conservation amidst competing demands and increased workloads.

- A presentation exploring opportunities to leverage the resources, partner network, and experience of SCI in order to build agency capacity, streamline project implementation, and enhance regional and continental connectivity.

Speakers



Mikael Cejlin
Coordinator, Staying Connected Initiative
The Nature Conservancy



Chris Shear
Vermont Agency of Transportation



David Paulson
Senior Endangered Species Review Biologist
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife



Stephanie Delano
New York State Department of Transportation

11:50 AM

Wrap up and Q&A
@ 11:50 AM - 12:00 PM, Sep 21

12:00 PM

Closing General Session & Working Lunch
@ 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, Sep 21

General Session