

TRNS•PORT User Group
Data Processing Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
October 5, 1999, Meeting Minutes

The Data Processing Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of the TRNS•PORT User Group, met on Tuesday Afternoon October 5, 1999, in Atlanta, Georgia. The following (12) members were present:

Andy Crenshaw, AL (Coordinator)	Jerry Beasley, OK
Tom Brewer, KS (Asst. Coordinator)	Eric Erskine, ME
Bill Gordon, MN	Ron Hyatt, KY
Mark Janicek, WY	Kevin Martin, IA
Jennifer McAllister, OH	John Mascarenas, CO
Nasser Pourfarzaneh, FL	John Sakakeeny, NC

Three new members were added to the TAG:

- Jodie Simon – Michigan DOT
- Cindy Watson – Oregon DOT
- Ron Belli – New York State DOT

In addition to the above listed people, four (4) Info Tech employees and ten (10) guests were present.

Kevin Martin of Iowa was elected as the new Assistant TAG coordinator.

There was a brief mention of the TUG website, and listserv. Eric Erskine from Maine and the TRNS•PORT Task Force, shared that the TUG listserv consisted of 99 Users. These 99 users break down to 71 Users from the TRNS•PORT states with 17 of those 71 being the actual User Rep, and 28 Info Tech Employees. Jennifer McAllister from Ohio was recognized for her duties as webmaster.

The TAG formed a mission statement. This mission statement is:

The mission of the Data Processing TAG is to advise the TRNS*PORT User Group, on technical issues related to the enhancement and development of the TRNS*PORT suite of software, from a Information Technology perspective.

The TAG also formed Short and Long term goals. The short-term goals are to provide recommendations on Ballot items, and to support development of an Intranet/Internet component for TRNS•PORT. The long-term goals are to provide strategic guidance to the TUG on the future direction of the TRNS*PORT software from an Information Technology perspective and to ensure that TRNS*PORT suite of software remains on the leading edge of technology.

The Coordinator called for a discussion of Ballot Items from the floor. There was no response.

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A discussion on Innovative Contracting was held as a prelude to the session on Thursday. During this discussion, there was one state's issue. Minnesota needed a negative cost for an item. Their work around was to use a negative quantity. The group also determined that (1) TRNS•PORT does not directly address most innovative contracting issues. (2) As a matter of opinion, most work-arounds are problems waiting to happen. (Something that will work in one module will give another module fits.) and (3) Whenever a workaround is considered, look at its effect on all modules that you license, as well as other systems that may be in the flow of data.

A discussion on the various state's Experience with TRNS•PORT Client/Server. Some of the items discussed were the size and number of servers, when to or not to "reboot", and the number of clients, and level of placement within a State DOT.

The main item of discussion in the other items of business was in regard to Release 5.0 of TRNS•PORT. The staggered release schedule was one of the main topics. The main issue was whether to implement some of Release 5 or wait for all of the modules to be released before migrating to Release 5.0. The general consensus was to wait for the release of all modules because of the interface of data between the modules. Also, a discussion ensued on whether to implement CAS 5.0 if a State is considering Site Manager.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.