

Trns•port™ USERS GROUP CONFERENCE

BUSINESS SESSION

A STATEMENT OF THE AASHTO Trns•port CONSULTANT ACTIVITIES

For the Period October 31, 1998 - October 8, 1999

Presented by Info Tech, Inc.

October 8, 1999

INTRODUCTION

Since the 1998 Trns•port Users Group Conference, significant developmental and implementation milestones have been achieved with the Trns•port System Product. The most significant milestones have been those dealing with ongoing progress and deliverables under the Trns•port Client/Server CES[®], PES[®], LAS[®], CAS[®], and BAMS/DSS[®] project. In addition, Info Tech successfully assumed responsibility for Trns•port SiteManager™.

This statement summarizes Info Tech's activities associated with AASHTO's Trns•port software from the time of the October 1998 Trns•port Users Group Conference in Portland, Maine to the present (October 1998 through October 1999). These activities fall into two major categories:

1. AASHTO Trns•port Maintenance, Support, and Enhancement (MSE) Contract Activities.
2. Other Trns•port Related Activities.

Major activities performed in each of these areas are discussed below.

AASHTO TRNS•PORT MSE CONTRACT ACTIVITIES

◆ MAINFRAME TRNS•PORT

1. *Completion of warranty period for Trns•port PES, LAS, and CAS Release 2.7a.* In October 1998, the PES, LAS, CAS 2.7a warranty period was completed for the minor enhancement items contained in that release. No warranty errors were reported; therefore, no warranty resolution release was delivered.
2. *Completion of warranty period for Trns•port BAMS/DSS Release 3.5d.* In December 1998, the BAMS/DSS Release 3.5d warranty period was completed for the enhancement items contained in that release. No warranty errors were reported; therefore, no warranty resolution release was delivered.
3. *Implementation of plans for Mainframe Trns•port.* Last year the Trns•port Task Force announced several decisions regarding mainframe versions of Trns•port. Enhancements are being made only to the client/server version of Trns•port; mainframe versions have been be stabilized and support is continuing. Info Tech now issues maintenance patches via Cloverleaf rather than full maintenance releases.

◆ GENERIC CLIENT/SERVER TRNS•PORT

Start of Work on 1999-2000 MSE Enhancement Items. In August 1999 work began on the enhancement items approved for the 1999-2000 MSE: PES/LAS to SiteManager Interface Rewrite, BAMS/DSS Data Maintenance Option 3, PES/LAS Detailed Cost Estimates, Entity Names with ID's Globally, Change Order Approval Groups/Rules, Estimate Approval Lists, Global Retainage Limitation Defaults, and Run Once Batch Job Types

◆ TRNS•PORT ESTIMATOR

1. *Delivery of Trns•port Estimator Release 1.7a.* In November 1998, the Estimator 1.7a release was shipped to all licensees. This release contains over a dozen enhancements providing enhanced estimation, data graphing, data management, and data analysis functionality.
2. *Delivery of Trns•port Estimator Release 1.8a.* In June 1999, the Estimator 1.8a release was shipped to all licensees. This release contains over ten enhancements providing enhanced import/export functionality and data graphing, management and analysis.

◆ TRNS•PORT EXPEDITE

1. ***Delivery of Trns•port Expedite Release 4.0a. Beta.*** In April 1999 the Expedite 4.0a Beta release was delivered to the Wyoming Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.
2. ***Delivery of Trns•port Expedite Release 4.0a.*** In July 1999 the Expedite 4.0a release was shipped to all licensees. This release contained the Windows Expedite enhancement item called for under the 1998-99 MSE.

◆ TRNS•PORT SITEMANAGER

1. ***Delivery of Trns•port SiteManager Release 1.2.*** In November 1998 MCI Systemhouse (MCIS) delivered the SiteManager 1.2 release to all licensees. The release resolved all open warranty items identified and agreed upon by the SiteManager TRT and MCIS, renamed reference code tables to be the same as those found in other Trns•port products, and delivered the Texas enhancements to the materials area.
2. ***Delivery of Trns•port SiteManager Release 2.0.*** In June 1999 the SiteManager 2.0 release was delivered to all licensees. This release upgraded the SiteManager application to a 32-bit architecture using PowerBuilder 6.0, provided several enhancements and addressed high priority maintenance items.
3. ***Completion of warranty period for Trns•port SiteManager Release 2.0.*** In September 1999, the Trns•port SiteManager Release 2.0 warranty period was completed for the enhancement items contained in that release.
4. ***Completion of Trns•port SiteManager Transition.*** Pursuant to direction by the Trns•port Task Force, Info Tech assumed responsibility for the maintenance, support, and enhancement of SiteManager effective July 1, 1999. To ensure the smoothest possible transition, Info Tech and MCIS agreed to merge the SiteManager Development Team into Info Tech's operations. Info Tech welcomed the team aboard in November 1998. In June 1999 Info Tech opened an office in Atlanta, from which the SiteManager team performs most of its work.
5. ***Attention to Trns•port SiteManager Release 2.0 Reported Errors.*** As more states move into production with SiteManager, the number of software errors reported has increased significantly. This is not too unusual for initial releases of a large complex application like SiteManager. To address this situation, Info Tech is working closely with the states and the Trns•port Task Force to prioritize our work activities to correct the problems and post updates to Cloverleaf containing fixes as soon as they are available. To improve communication with the users, our Cloverleaf Support Site is being upgraded to provide information in a more timely manner and with better search capabilities.

◆ CUSTOMER SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

We are experiencing significant growth in Customer Support activity due to the addition of SiteManager to Info Tech's responsibilities and to the increasing pace of Trns•port implementation activity among licensees. Info Tech has integrated the SiteManager Incident Reports with the Trns•port Maintenance Reports for a coordinated approach to maintaining and enhancing all components of the Trns•port product set. All confirmed TMRs/IRs are posted on Cloverleaf, and we are reviewing our policies to improve the timeliness of postings. Our Customer Support staff has increased from six last year to nine now. The number of SiteManager specialists in Customer Support has increased from three last year to four now.

◆ YEAR 2000 READINESS

1. ***Trns•port Year 2000 Testing by the Michigan Department of Transportation.*** At its January 1999 meeting the Trns•port Task Force approved releasing Trns•port source code to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for Year 2000 testing, which included a scan of the source code and the application of approximately 200 test cases. The only items MDOT noted involved the sort order for the Item List and the Materials List based on the Spec Year field. These items are not compliance errors by MDOT standards, and were reported for informational purposes only. Because the Spec Year field is a text field, we encourage users to treat its meaning as "Spec Book ID" rather than as a year. The field is sorting correctly as text, and there is no plan to address this sort order issue.
2. ***Year 2000 Issues Reported by the Maryland and Michigan Department of Transportation.*** Initially, MDOT identified issues in CASINIT. Early in June 1999 the Maryland Department of Transportation notified us of the results of its Year 2000 testing on Trns•port. That testing identified five issues in the CAS module that were related to the issues reported by MDOT. Info Tech determined that these issues stemmed from errors in the database and the Process Status List, and posted a product update on its Cloverleaf web site on June 25, 1999 correcting these errors. All above reported issues are now resolved.
3. ***Additional Year 2000 Issues Reported by the Maryland Department of Transportation.*** In late July 1999 Maryland reported additional Year 2000 issues. During August we analyzed these issues and determined that although the Trns•port code is fully Year 2000 compliant, the version of PowerBuilder on which it is based contains Year 2000 errors. We determined that by upgrading the Trns•port code to be based upon PowerBuilder v5.0.04, which does not contain the Year 2000 errors, we could resolve the issues reported by Maryland. We are preparing a Trns•port product update for issuance on November 1, 1999, which will accomplish this upgrade and resolve the reported issues.

4. ***Year 2000 Precautions Regarding Customized Templates.*** Info Tech has determined that Trns•port's Report Template Facility (RTF) and the standard templates it contains are Year 2000 compliant. We are completing a review of customized templates designed by Info Tech for Trns•port licensees and have so far found all the reviewed templates to be Year 2000 compliant. We have been reminded that Trns•port licensees may have prepared customized report templates through Trns•port's Report Template Facility (RTF), and we recommend that Trns•port licensees examine these customized templates for Year 2000 compliance.
5. ***Year 2000 Upgrades for Third Party Software.*** We recommend that Trns•port licensees actively monitor 3rd party software for their requirements for Y2K compliance and apply appropriate patches throughout the year to remain compliant. Examples of such vendors are IBM, Microsoft, Oracle, etc. States currently running the client/server version 4.1b of PES/LAS/CAS and 3.5d of BAMS/DSS need to apply the Trns•port Y2K patch scheduled for November 1st. Along with this patch, we recommend that states apply the latest third party vendor updates addressing Y2K issues. These include bringing the supporting Trns•port platforms to the following minimum levels: Windows NT Service pack 5, Oracle v7.3.4, SQL*Net v2.3.4, PowerBuilder v5.0.04, OS/2 service pack 040 for Warp 3 and OS/2 service pack 10 for Warp 4.

◆ ON-SITE SERVICES

Continuation of activities under the On-Site Services offering. In the year since the last Trns•port User Group Conference, Info Tech has made approximately 86 trips to 9 states and New Brunswick, and completed approximately 123 Service Units to facilitate the implementation of the PES, LAS, CAS, BAMS/DSS, SiteManager™, Expedite, and Estimator modules. Service Unit activity has increased by more than 16% compared to last year as measured by the number of completed units per 12-month period.

◆ EVALUATION LICENSE SUPPORT SERVICES

Evaluation License Support Activities. Since October 1998, we have completed approximately 14.5 Evaluation Site License Support units for Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Carolina, Texas and Vermont, with approximately 8.5 more unit scheduled for completion by the end of the 1999-00 contract period.

◆ CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

1. Participation in the Trns•port User Group Conferences held in October 1998 and October 1999.
2. Participation in the Transportation Estimators Association Workshops held in October 1998 and October 1999.

3. Participation in two National AASHTO Meetings: the first was held in November 1998 in Boston, and the second was held in October 1999 in Tulsa.
4. Participation in AASHTO Trns•port Task Force Activities, including preparation for and attendance at five Task Force meetings held in December 1998 and January, April, June, and September 1999.
5. Participation in the AASHTO Materials Subcommittee Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island in August 1999.
6. Participation in HEEP Activities, including attendance at four HEEP meetings held from May 1999 to September 1999.
7. Participation in the AASHTO Information Subcommittee Meeting at Mystic, Connecticut during June 1999.
8. Participation in the AASHTO Construction Subcommittee Meeting in New Orleans during August 1999.

◆ ADMINISTRATION AND MARKETING

1. **Administrative Items.** Completed several administrative items at the request of the Trns•port Task Force, including preparation and revision of the 1999-2004 Trns•port Long Range Work Plan and the 1999-00 Trns•port Maintenance, Support, and Enhancement Work Plan; preparation and maintenance of a Service Unit schedule; preparation of reports covering the status of Trns•port maintenance items and their planned release schedules; and preparation or updating of various white papers, presentations, or proposals on subjects such as Year 2000 compliance in Trns•port components, creation of a BAMS/DSS Data Mart, re-engineering of BAMS/DSS, creation of a materials management subsystem for SiteManager, creation of Internet and intranet Trns•port modules, and continuation of our investigation into building innovative contracting capabilities into Trns•port.
2. **Marketing.** Sent written responses to inquiries about Trns•port and Trns•port-related products to 34 states (Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming). Made formal Trns•port product suite presentations to 13 states (California, Hawaii, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Washington).
3. **TRNS•PORT NEWS.** Preparation of *Trns•port NEWS* (the Trns•port newsletter) published in winter and fall 1999.

TRNS•PORT RELATED ACTIVITIES

◆ CLIENT/SERVER TRNS•PORT CES, PES, LAS, CAS, AND BAMS/DSS

1. **Completion of warranty period for Trns•port Client/Server BAMS/DSS Release 4.1a.** In December 1998 the warranty period was completed for the enhancement items contained in the Client/Server BAMS/DSS 4.1a release. No warranty errors were reported; therefore, no warranty resolution release was delivered.
2. **Completion of warranty period for Trns•port Client/Server PES/LAS/CAS Release 4.1b and Stand-Alone PES Worksheet Release 4.1b.** In December 1998 the warranty period was completed for the enhancement items contained in the Client/Server PES/LAS/CAS 4.1b release. No warranty errors were reported; therefore, no warranty resolution release was delivered.

3. ***Delivery of Trns•port Client/Server PES/LAS Release 5.0a Beta.*** In April 1999 the beta test release of Client/Server PES/LAS 5.0a was shipped to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). This shipment contained beta editions of enhanced processes for building projects and proposals.
4. ***Delivery of Trns•port Client/Server CES Release 5.0a Beta and Stand-Alone BAMS/DSS Release 5.0a Beta.*** In May 1999 the beta test release of Client/Server CES 5.0a and Stand-Alone BAMS/DSS 5.0a was delivered to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).
5. ***Delivery of Trns•port Client/Server PES/LAS Release 5.0a Beta Update 1.*** In June 1999 the beta update 1 release of Client/Server PES/LAS 5.0a was delivered to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).
6. ***Delivery of Trns•port Client/Server CES Release 5.0a Beta and Stand-Alone BAMS/DSS Release 5.0a Beta Update 1.*** In July 1999 the beta update 1 release of Client/Server CES 5.0a and Stand-Alone BAMS/DSS 5.0a was delivered to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).
7. ***Delivery of Trns•port Stand-Alone PES Worksheet Release 5.0a Beta.*** In July 1999 the beta release of Stand-Alone PES Worksheet 5.0a was shipped to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).
8. ***Completion of beta testing period for Trns•port Client/Server PES/LAS Release 5.0a.*** In September 1999 the beta testing period was completed for the enhancement items contained in the Client/Server PES/LAS 5.0a beta release.
9. ***Client/Server Observer.*** Preparation of the *Client/Server Observer* (the Client/Server Trns•port CES, PES, LAS, CAS and BAMS/DSS newsletter), published quarterly since 1997.

◆ COLLUSION DETECTION TRAINING

Conducted a Collusion Detection Seminar at the Info Tech facility in Gainesville, Florida during February 1999. Representatives attended the seminar from several State Departments of Transportation, Inspector General Offices, Highway and Transportation Commissions, and Attorney General Offices.

◆ COLORADO CONSULTING

Completed work under a contract with the Colorado Department of Transportation to provide data analysis services. Also began work under a contract to provide Parametric Estimation consulting services.

◆ FLORIDA AASHTOWARE™ TRNS•PORT IMPLEMENTATION

Began implementing AASHTOWare™ Trns•port modules under a contract with the Florida Department of Transportation.

◆ INDIANA SCHEDULING/PROJECT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Began implementing Phase I of a Scheduling/Project Management System under a joint contract with the Indiana Department of Transportation. In addition, we guided and mentored Indiana staff regarding some of the applicable technologies.

◆ IOWA FIELDBOOK

Completed the merger of Iowa FieldBook functionality into a more generic product through our work on FieldManager.

◆ MICHIGAN CPRKS/IDR DEVELOPMENT

In September 1995 Info Tech entered into a contract with Michigan DOT to rewrite their Construction Project Record Keeping System (CPRKS) and the Inspectors' Daily Report (IDR) into a client/server windows application using PowerBuilder and the same tools we used to develop Client/Server Trns•port and FieldBook. The resulting product combines functions and features from MDOT's CPRKS/IDR and Info Tech's FieldBook into a more generic, more comprehensive product called FieldManager. The beta release of FieldManager was provided to MDOT in November 1996 and the first production release was issued in March 1998.

In May 1998 Info Tech and MDOT entered into an agreement for joint ownership of FieldManager. Under the terms of that agreement Info Tech will perform product development, marketing, and licensing with input from MDOT and other users. Info Tech also will provide customer support.

In May 1999 Info Tech delivered FieldPad Release 2.0 to MDOT. FieldPad software provides functionality on hand-held devices for use by inspectors.

In October 1999 Info Tech delivered FieldManager Release 3.1 and FieldPad Release 2.1 to MDOT.

◆ **NEW MEXICO TRNS•PORT EXPEDITE™ IMPLEMENTATION**

Completed work under a contract with the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department to provide training and implementation services for Trns•port Expedite™.

◆ **NORTH CAROLINA IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT AND ENHANCEMENT DEVELOPMENT**

Began Trns•port PES/LAS and Expedite™ implementation support and enhancement development services under a contract with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Deliverables include the current version of PES/LAS, an advance test version of the Batch Rewrite PES/LAS including Stand-Alone PES Worksheet, NCDOT Phase I enhancements, Windows Expedite release, temporary Expedite interfaces, the Batch Rewrite production PES/LAS release including Stand-Alone PES Worksheet, and NCDOT Phase II enhancements.

◆ **OUTSOURCING**

Continued providing outsourcing services to the Wyoming and Idaho transportation agencies.

◆ **TEXAS CONTRACTS**

Completed work under a contract with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to port their Highway Cost Index System (HCI) and Trns•port BAMS/DSS from the mainframe to a Client/Server PC platform. We delivered the warranty resolution release in April 1999. Info Tech has entered into a two-year support phase with TxDOT.

Continued providing on-site SiteManager implementation and support services under a software maintenance and support services contract with TxDOT.

◆ **WISCONSIN FIELDMANAGER™ SITE LICENSE AGREEMENT**

In November 1998 Info Tech entered into an agreement with the Wisconsin DOT to provide a nonexclusive, renewable license to use the FieldManager software product set consisting of the FieldManager, FieldBook, FieldPad, and FieldBuilder components for a period of one year, and technical support for this software.

◆ **WYOMING DATA EXTRACTION**

Completed work under a contract with the Wyoming Department of Transportation to provide data extraction services.

◆ CLOVERLEAF

Provided Cloverleaf Network Management Support services to all Trns•port Task Force members and Trns•port licensees. Cloverleaf is now fully accessible over the Internet. However certain areas still require a password for access. Info Tech will provide passwords upon request to any Trns•port licensee. Content maintained on Cloverleaf includes information about AASHTO and AASHTOWare; Trns•port Maintenance Requests, Trns•port Task Force meetings, and Trns•port product updates. Info Tech is also hosting the TUG web site and several Listservers on Cloverleaf for the Trns•port user community. More information on Cloverleaf is available from Info Tech.

◆ BID EXPRESS

In August 1997, Info Tech created Bid Express for on-line bidding exchange. Bid Express is a service being offered to the state departments of transportation and their contracting community to facilitate nationwide bid management by providing secure bid submittals, electronic mail communication with other vendors, and integration with Trns•port Expedite, AASHTO's Electronic Bid System. This service is available over the Internet at www.bidx.com. Bid Express is currently in production in Georgia, Iowa, South Carolina and Wisconsin. Implementation activities are under way in Michigan, and implementation planning is in progress in New Mexico. Georgia recently completed a successful pilot test of Bid Express's newest feature, two-way electronic bidding and put it into full production in September 1999. Twelve contractors submitted their bids over the Internet service and several were awarded as the low bid.

CONCLUSION

The past twelve months have seen significant growth in the technical and functional sophistication of Trns•port , and a corresponding increase in Info Tech's responsibilities. Info Tech has accomplished a great deal in support of the AASHTO Trns•port software over the past year. In addition to the continuing development and implementation of generic Client/Server Trns•port modules for AASHTO member agencies, we participated in a significant number of direct contracts with those agencies and completed transition activities associated with taking on responsibility for the SiteManager module.

We are experiencing a significant increase in On-Site Services offered through AASHTO. In the past twelve months, Info Tech completed over 16% more Service Units than in the preceding twelve-month period, and this trend is projected to continue.

We are excited about the continuing evolution of Trns•port System Products in terms of both their current functionality and promise for the future as we work with Trns•port Users to make implementation a complete success. We look forward to carrying on this work over the next year, and we are continually increasing our capacity to ensure we can meet anticipated demand and provide the Trns•port user community with products and services meeting the highest standards of quality.