

DSS CONTRACT MONITORING
TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

OCTOBER 17, 2001

COORDINATOR: JOE FERGUSON, WEST VIRGINIA

ASSISTANT COORDINATOR: BARBARA SCRUGGS, VIRGINIA

Joe Ferguson, Coordinator opened the meeting and called roll. A total of 16 attendees were present, 4 members, 2 new members (Myles Sweeney, New Mexico and Anthony Compton, Texas), 6 visitors and 4 InfoTech representatives.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Joe Ferguson announced this would be his last year attending the Trnsport User Group Conference and the TAG will need to elect a new coordinator. An election of officers was held and the results were:

Coordinator: Barbara Scruggs – Virginia

Assistant Coordinator – Myles Sweeney – New Mexico

Joe Ferguson went over the minutes of the previous meeting and the minutes were approved as read.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The TAG reviewed the mission statement and added the word *analysis* after market. The mission statement was then approved as modified. Our mission statement is as follows:

The mission of the Contract Monitoring TAG is to protect, enhance and support the BAMS/DSS module of AASHTO Trns•Port, Transportation Software Management Solution, by assisting the TUG in making decisions relating to direction, support and services required for effective transportation construction contract monitoring, market analysis and contract analysis.

LONG RANGE GOALS:

The TAG requested a description be added for the long-range goal for clarity. Each year this has been in the minutes but didn't seem to be fully understood. The TTF requested a proposal to rewrite but there is no source for funding. Randy Lawton, ITI, stated that the

purpose of the rewrite for DSS was to make it easier and faster. He also stated there is a DSS prototype on the cloverleaf website. He estimated the cost of the rewrite to be 24 million.

FHWA/AASHTO could be used as a funding source. ITI is ready to begin the rewrite but will need a funding commitment. Randy Lawton provided the description for clarity below as requested by the TAG:

The primary objectives of the project are:

- To upgrade the current system to include more sophisticated, interactive user interfaces that will make the system more robust and user-friendly
- To augment the system with additional capabilities, which will address the needs of a broader base of users throughout the Transportation Agency and beyond.

The major benefits include the following:

- Point-and-click access to detailed or summary construction project information for better decision making.
- Upgraded, interactive bid analysis and collusion detection enabling the state to detect problems such as front-end loading, unbalancing, and bid rigging
- Data analysis tools to support a more complete investigation of bidding patterns for evidence of collusion.
- Improved support for project cost estimation and the ability to produce cost estimates at an earlier time.
- Savings through improved and more automated market evaluation tools, which in turn enable the state to manage the letting schedule more effectively by avoiding saturated times in the market and rescheduling lettings to obtain competitive bids.
- Access to real-time construction production rates for improved cost and project time estimates through improved integration with other Trns•Port modules.
- Improved ability to share information in a controlled manner with external users and systems.

SHORT RANGE GOALS:

The TAG reviewed the short-range goals and modified by deleting *to all members* in the last sentence. Our modified version is as follows:

Design/Build contracts: While the Contract Monitoring TA recognizes the desire of various states to let and award design build contracts, the TAG strongly opposes this trend. Information critical to Contract Monitoring is and will be lost through this process. However, the TAG strongly urges all states to examine all options for capturing data before letting design build contracts. The TAG will be collecting information relevant to these types of contracts and will be distributing recommendations on how to deal with this issue.

Mike Fowler, Vermont, will coordinate with other states to have them provide their method of tracking design build contracts. He will also solicit support for information on this issue from the Cost Estimating TAG. There was also mention that some states may have outlawed design-build contracts.

BALLOT ITEMS:

All ballot items were supported. NBI2001 4767 was revised as follows:

The item scope was changed to small, and the fourth sentence was replaced with... Adding a runtime option would allow the data manager to specify a specific set of calculation programs.

It was discussed that the SAS is no longer a certified database and DSS6 is using MYSQL. There was some displeasure in the decision making of this request by the TTF since the resolution was entered last October to keep SAS as a certified database.

The meeting adjourned.