

# **DSS CONTRACT MONITORING TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING**

**Austin, Texas  
November 6, 2002**

COORDINATOR: Barbara Scruggs, Virginia

ASSISTANT COORDINATOR: Myles Sweeney, New Mexico

The meeting was called to order. The following members were present:

Barbara Scruggs, Virginia  
Myles Sweeney, New Mexico  
Chet Grimsley, Florida  
Dino Sarganis, Colorado  
Tony Compton, Texas  
Mike Fowler, Vermont

In addition to the members listed above, fourteen (14) guests and six (6) Infotech employees were present. Don Fisher, Ohio, joined the TAG.

The minutes from the 2001 Meeting in Indiana, IN were distributed and approved as is.

The mission statement was approved as read.

The TAG reviewed the Long Range Goal and added the work *DSS* after proposal to rewrite. The Long Range Goal was approved as modified. Our Long Range goal is as follows:

The TTF requested a proposal to rewrite *DSS* but there is no source for funding. The purpose of the rewrite for *DSS* was to make it easier and faster. Randy Lawton, ITI, stated there is a *DSS* prototype on the cloverleaf website. He estimated the cost of the rewrite to be 24 million. The TTF needs to check with Chuck Conley of AASHTO to confirm renewed interest for funding.

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.

The Short Range Goal was approved as read. Mike Fowler, Vermont, will post the results of his survey on Design Build.

The TAG discussed the following ballot items:

- 4485 – Include Hybrid Lump Sum info on PRHIST reports
  - Virginia paid to have this enhancement done in DSS5 and will offer to AASHTO for it to be included in the DSS6 generic product. This offer will include verifying every model that uses hybrid lump sums.
  - **The DSS TAG voted to remove this item.**
- 4787 – Add calculation profiles to BAMS/DSS 6
  - **The DSS TAG voted to remove this item.**
- 4785 - Add the ability to edit reference files in BAMS/DSS 6
  - The TAG would like to add after...BAMS/DSS6, ... the functions that were allowed in DSS5 prior to the addition of the Site Manager Tables.

- 4489 – Add column width option for model reports
  - The DSS TAG endorses this item.
- 6078 – Model to compare estimate line items against historical data
  - Ohio requested to **remove** this item.
- **NEW BALLOT ITEM:**
  - In DSS6, **restore** the edit capability on all tables that previously were editable in DSS5.x, including any additional fields that were added to these tables. For the delete option, ensure that all dependent table records are also deleted and no orphan records are created. Because there is another ballot item to address the code tables and the reference tables, this request would assume that those tables were already handled.
  - This was submitted by Florida and the DSS TAG endorses.
- All other ballot items remain unchanged.

Conclusion:

The TAG discussed their disappointment with the TTF members present on making decisions without consulting the users, specifically regarding the loss of functionality.

With no other discussion, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.M.