

## CE TAG October 23, 2006

- Meeting commenced at 1:30 PM
  
- 4 members in attendance
  - Mike Jenkins
  - Mike Fowler
  - John Miller
  - Paul Herring
  
- 50 attendees overall
  - 36 state DOT representatives
  - 2 representatives from Nova Scotia department of transportation
  - 2 representatives from the Philippines Department of Public Works and Highways
  - 8 representatives from Infotech
  - 2 representatives from Earth Tech
  
- 3 new members applied
  - Paul Herring retired from the membership with Dale Stanley to replace him for FDOT
  - Jennifer McAllister of ODOT
  - Bob Lewis of KYTC

### **AGENDA for Cost Estimating TAG October 2006**

#### **Old business:**

Approval of the following minutes from last year:

November 7, 2005

Members in Attendance: Jennie Carlson, Mike Fowler, John Miller, Mike Jenkins, Paul Herring.

New member: John Riedl, Oregon Dept. of Transportation.

Reviewed mission statement and short and long range goals.

Mission Statement: To provide a forum for users of Trns\*port estimation products, to discuss maintenance issues and proposed enhancements, make software recommendations to the user group general body, and Trns\*port Task Force.

Short range goal: Encourage users to post problems and/or solutions on the listserv as a means of sharing all available information regarding the implementation of CES and Estimator and their use.

Long range goals:

- Promote the use of AASHTO/Trns\*port estimating software.
- Maintain existing estimating software and keep current with technology.
- Education of the AASHTO community as to:
  - o Available products and their use.
  - o How to use available products
  - o Support implementation of existing software.

NGT presentation (Roger Bierbaum)

Discussion of NGT roadmap \* why is CES last?

Tracer \* timing \* phase 1 available shortly, Phase 2 \* incorporation with InfoTech

Debbie Wood, elected CE TAG Asst. Coordinator was unable to attend this year, Mike Jenkins volunteered to take her place.

Ballot item review:

The CE TAG endorses TMR 8878, 8879 (CE TAG recommends moving TMR to general as it is multi-module, submitting state says it is a priority for them in CES and would like to leave it as is.), and 8680 (add comment to allow item by item override, add CES as additional module, this could be something for NGT), 8684, and 8882. Discussed 7221, the CE TAG endorsed it in 2004, and would like to recommend to other states to put some vote points on this item.

Proposed Enhancement:

Add fed/state project number to Estimator.

Add the fed/state project number (PROJECT.PJPRJNUM) to the estimate. Modify the report to cover sheet to include the value. Modify the imports/exports of Estimator, CES, and PES to transfer the column.

- Moved to discuss minutes from conference call held previously to the meeting which provided the opportunity to move through the basic meeting functions.

## **Newly created Old Business:**

### **Minutes for October 12, 2006 conference call.**

Attendees: Mike Jenkins INDOT, John Miller NE DOR, Paul Herring FDOT, David Castleberg WiDOT, Pamela Barry InfoTech, Mike Fowler VTDOT, Rita Owens FDOT, Karen Veenstra FDOT, John Riedl ODOT

### **Mission Statement:**

To provide a forum for users of Trns\*port estimation products, to discuss maintenance issues and proposed enhancements, make software recommendations to the user group general body and Trns\*port Task Force.

Motion to accept as is 1st by Mike Fowler and 2nd by John Miller to accept as is and carried by members in attendance.

=====

### **Long Range Goals:**

1. Promote the use of AASHTO/Trns.Port estimating software.
2. Maintain existing estimating software and keep current with technology.
3. Education of the AASHTO community as to:
  - a. Available products and their use.
  - b. How to use available products

4. Support implementation of the existing software

Motion to accept as is 1st by John Miller and 2nd by Mike Fowler to accept as is and carried by members in attendance.

=====

### **Short Range Goals:**

1. Encourage Users to post problems and/or solutions on the listserve as a means of sharing all available information regarding the implementation of CES and Estimator and their use.

### **The following changes to the short term goal were added after a brief discussion:**

1. Encourage Users to post problems and/or solutions on the listserve as a means of sharing all available information regarding the implementation of CES, Estimator and also to include TRACER along with their use.
2. Explore and educate the user of various methodology available in the estimating products of TRNS\*PORT.
3. Provide input and direction of the development of the NGT product as it relates to the various estimating tools and/or methodologies.

Motion to accept changes as is was 1st by John Miller and 2nd by Paul Herring to accept as is and carried by members in attendance.

=====

InfoTech was requested:

During the estimation tag conference call today, the tag asked whether the

NGT team has some document that indicates if any of the cost estimation ballot items will be considered for NGT. They also asked this same question of the DSS items and general ballot items. Is there such a document that can be shared with the TAGs?

The purpose in their asking is that they will delete TMRs if they are going to be covered by NGT.

What follow are the results of that question:

From: Teresa Franklin [mailto:Teresa.Franklin@infotechfl.com]

There is no document and this statement would come from the TTF or the TUG Chair. We have gone over this with the TAGs. The TUG Chair is presenting on this topic at the TUG but has already communicated in conference call and I think in email that NGT related TMRs should remain on the ballot unless they are already done or are in progress. (TAG comment: Dave do you recall this and how it may have been presented to the Cost estimating TAG) The voting process allows TTF and NGT Business Manager(s) to determine what should be added to the NGT Backlog and helps with prioritization/timing. I will ask David to send the email again to the TAGs on the ballot item relationship to NGT. Items should be considered for removal if they are done, in progress or obsolete (no longer needed in Trnsport (c/s or NGT). (TAG comment: This consideration for removal is what we are after and wanting to review)

Because of my lack of recall Pamela added this comment and I need some help.

Here is an e-mail from Teresa about the question from the estimation TAG. This and with what David brought up in the TAG may assist with clarification. Hope this helps.

At the TAG we agreed to only delete and add those mention later in these minutes, and have the Task Force contact this TAG to review those that need to be fixed for C/S CES to PES for clarification.

- TAG agreed to endorse 7234 for modifying HREG for Urban/Rural to regression.

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InfoTech was requested: The TAG wishes to endorse this TMR 7234

During the conference call with the Estimation TAG today, they asked me to find out if TMR 7234 was validated already when the HREG model was reviewed?

Here is the TeamTrack write up:

The cost of some items may vary based upon if the contract is urban vs. rural. The current bid history process does not consider this. Include the value from the urban/rural column into the HREG model when generating the bid history and incorporate the urban/rural value from a job into the CES and Estimator price calculation.

This was flagged as a high priority enhancement.

Jeff and Jim are on site with customers and were unable to participate.

From: Fowler, Mike [mailto:Mike.Fowler@state.vt.us <mailto:Mike.Fowler@state.vt.us>]  
]

Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2006 1:32 PM

To: Pamela Barry

Cc: Randy Lawton

Subject: RE: TMR 7234 BAMS/DSS

Mike Jenkins was concerned that by endorsing this enhancement we would be incurring a large scope or creating potential problems by adding the level of improvement to the regression equations. He got hung up on this and those of us that served on the last DSS HIREG TRT weren't so intimidated because we felt the regression functionality had been worked over pretty good with that batch of enhancements. Mike wasn't convinced it would be the same so he wanted to be cautious about advocating the change for U/R. Ultimately, the question becomes for you is there any reason to be concerned with manipulating the current HIREG analysis to include U/R either in terms of scope or testing?

Pending InfoTech confirmation via Randy Lawton:

Mike Fowler had commented that he thought the regression functionality had been worked over pretty good with the batch of enhancements mentioned and this would minimize what is needed for TMR 7234.

If InfoTech would clear this up with the TAG so he can report whether to endorse 7234, it would appreciate it.

Randy Lawton cleared this issue and all concerns so that the TAG will endorse this TMR 7234.

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TAG wanted to make sure that the passes will be fixed in C/S and Modified to make the imports/exports of Estimator, CES, and PES seamless and enable the transfer of all the columns both ways operational so that states can use CES as intended. (i.e. PES to CES is ok, but CES to PES is not)

Trns\*port Task Force (Todd Bergland, Jim Johnson, Loren Lemmen) address the group after the TAG meeting and went through part of the TMR's list regarding this issue and will hold a Conference call to finish the task as time ran out for the day.

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VT per Mike Fowler would like to have TMR 8583 and 7819 pulled and removed from the Ballot.

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ITI is to give an update on the recalculation and Mapping requirement within costing/estimating issues for NGT. Concern were expressed that the TAG needed input into the current Webnair for NGT for the Pre-award/proposal. ITI assure a distribution of notice the TAG members.

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Lump Sump contract bidding and items.

Mike Fowler to lead this discussion and give an update from the TEA to include any additional meeting update:

Dave Castleberg needs to give update and review of the Special Committee for the LUMP SUM issue.

FLDOT is adding TMR's

Request to add the following TMRs to the TUG ballot:

TMR 9555: Ability to add a description when an automatic snapshot is taken.

TMR 9556: Provide a method to edit a snapshot description.

TMR 9557: Add option to override automatic snapshot (disable).

I understand that the deadline has passed for submitting TMRs. These TMRs were incorrectly submitted as maintenance requests prior to the deadline. Please accept my apologies and add these TMRs to the ballot.

- LS Committee...11 attendees want to participate

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FDOT	Cheri Sylvester		<a href="mailto:cheri.sylvester@dot.state.fl.us">cheri.sylvester@dot.state.fl.us</a>	407-264-3087
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FDOT	Greg Davis		<a href="mailto:phillipgreg.davis@dot.state.fl.us">phillipgreg.davis@dot.state.fl.us</a>	850-414-4170
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- NGT CE tools webinar....19 attendees want to participate

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Oregon DOT	John Riedl		<a href="mailto:john.j.riedl@odot.state.or.us">john.j.riedl@odot.state.or.us</a>	
VDOT	Barbara Scruggs		<a href="mailto:barbara.scruggs@vdot.virginia.gov">barbara.scruggs@vdot.virginia.gov</a>	804-786-3354
INDOT	Mike Jenkins		<a href="mailto:mjenkins@indot.in.gov">mjenkins@indot.in.gov</a>	317-232-6733

- Mike Fowler demonstrated tools VTrans and NYDOT developed to use in conjunction with an Estimator export .xml file. He offered to provide the VTrans tool to anyone interested

and noted he will check with Dave Kent of New York to determine the possibility of distributing their tool.

**Kyle Knudson will give a presentation of TRACER:**

No problem Mike, I will be there. Regarding an update to the future of TRACER, is there something you specifically had in mind because Teresa Franklin and I will be addressing this very issue during the general session meeting on 10/25 at 11:15am – 11:45am.

Kyle gave a 15 minute presentation on high level Parametric Estimating via TRACER with excellent dialog on Program estimates and various other points of interest brought up by Jeff Hisem of OH DOT on TRACER usage.

Earth Tech	Kyle Knudson		<a href="mailto:kyle.knudson@earthtech.com">kyle.knudson@earthtech.com</a>	303-771-3103
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- Elected Jennifer McAllister as new coordinator
- Dale Stanley as Assistant
  
- Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM

**Master Attendance List:**

INDOT	Mike Jenkins	X		
VTrans	Mike Fowler	X	<a href="mailto:mike.fowler@state.vt.us">mike.fowler@state.vt.us</a>	802-828-0160
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