

**2007 Cost Estimation Technical Advisory Group Meeting
October 7, 2007
St. Louis Missouri**

Roll Call:

Member List:

Members or proxies in attendance

Jennifer McAllister, Ohio
Mike Jenkins, Indiana
Mike Fowler, Vermont
John Miller, Nebraska
Sharon Plymire, proxy for Richard Kiefer, Virginia
John Riedl, Oregon
Greg Davis, proxy for Dale Stanley, Florida
Marc Connolly, New York
Cheri Shelton, proxy for Bob Lewis, Kentucky
Kay Stutsman, Minnesota DOT (new member)

Members Absent:

Suzy Price, Montana
Joe Weber, New Jersey

Other Attendees:

Four attendees from InfoTech
One attendee from Earth Tech
One attendee from Nova Scotia
Twenty-one attendees from twelve different state agencies

Total Attendees = 37

Ballot items:

A discussion of ballot procedures as they relate to C/S and wTrns.port resulted in a consensus opinion that it is important to consider ballot items in a more global setting since these votes may impact what goes into the backlog for the cost estimation portion of web Trns.port. The group also understands that the funding scenario for Estimator™ is independent of the web Trns.port initiative and therefore those items should be scrutinized more closely than others. As such, at the meeting, a thorough review of all ballot items ensued with the resulting actions taken.

- Mike Fowler of Vermont will be requesting five new ballot items. A synopsis of each follows:
 - XML for extra data fields: In the current release of Estimator™ there is an issue with the way extra data fields are stored within the xml file that

prevents an easy pass of this data from Estimator™ to PES. Since the intent of the extra data fields was to facilitate data entry of PES data within Estimator™ in order to originate a project in that application, the inaccurate transposition into the xml file precludes that event. Hence it is necessary to have this data transformed before the pass can work effectively.

- Extra data input tab: This is a GUI enhancement to move the extra data entry process to a tab to facilitate power adding and make it more palatable to ht eusers.
- Custom reports: Add the ability to run custom reports in Crystal for estimator data. This would necessitate an agency purchasing an additional Crystal license with full rights. This license is not packaged with the Estimator™ program.
- Estimate verification: Add an option to run the estimate verification process at various points in the work flow, specifically each time an estimate is opened and each time a save is requested.
- Code table verification: Add the District code table and provide a drop down for selecting the District rather than allowing for free entry in this field.

Review of 2006 TAG Meeting:

A quick review of the 2006 TAG Meeting was held. It was noted that at that time there were only four members in attendance. A solicitation by the TAG Coordinator for new members was voiced, and instructions about how to apply for membership were offered.

Web Trns.port Discussion:

A discussion of our involvement as a TAG in the cost estimation initiatives for web Trns.port included an overview of the similar function being performed by the Proposal through Award TAG. Juanita Moore, coordinator for PTA discussed their involvements, time commitments, etc. and commented on the value of the work they are doing. As a TAG, we requested that the TTF consider facilitating the same involvement by the CE TAG in cost estimation.

Web Trns.port Technical Review Team for Cost Estimation:

John Riedl spoke regarding the formation and second request for resumes to serve on the Technical Review Team for Cost Estimation.

Cost Group setup and usage in CES

Jim Patton of InfoTech gave an overview of cost group usage in CES for the purpose of performing parametric estimation in that application. He first discussed the logic and basic methodology of setting up cost groups and then provided a demo of the functionality within CES.

Mission Statement and Goals Discussion:

The mission statement was reviewed and determined to be appropriate as written. Long and short range goals were revised to read as follows:

Long Range Goals:

1. Promote the use of AASHTO/Trns.Port estimating software.
2. Provide expertise to the Technical Review Team for the development of the estimating function within web Trns.port.
3. Assist in educating the AASHTO community as to available products and their use.

Short Range Goals:

1. Pursue active involvement as subject matter experts in the initial development of a comprehensive estimating model within web Trns.port.
2. 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.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Fowler and seconded by Sharon Plymire.