

Cost Estimating TAG Minutes – Oct. 6, 2008

Opening:

Meeting called to order by TAG Chairman, Jennifer McAllister, who welcomed everyone to the meeting. Member roll call was taken.

Members or proxies in attendance

Jennifer McAllister, Ohio
Bob Lewis, Kentucky (left to attend another TAG meeting)
Mike Jenkins, Indiana
John Riedl, Oregon
Marc Connolly, New York
Kay Stutsman, Minnesota

Other Attendees:

Samuel Henderson, Virginia
Tim Darrow, New York State DOT
Diana Broan, New York State DOT
Jim Patton, InfoTech, Inc.
Asif Mali, New York State Thruway
Harold Crusan, New York State Thruway
Matt Bromirsky, New York State DOT
Sarah Collins, LA DOTD
Kathy Yelle, InfoTech, Inc.
Michael Perry, New York State Thruway
Roger Bierbaum, Iowa DOT
Jim Johnson, Florida DOT
Todd Bergland, Minnesota DOT
Charles Nazz, New York State DOT
Randy Lawton, InfoTech, Inc.
Cindy Bass, InfoTech, Inc.
Cherie Shelton, Kentucky DOT
Sanjay Shah, New York
Jeff Thorn, New York State DOT
Mark Davies, New York State DOT
David Kent, New York State DOT
Arvind Salgam, New York State DOT
Marc Connolly, New York State DOT
William L. Wallace, Alabama DOT
Ray Drewett, LA DOTD
Randal Sandars, LA DOTD
Kay Stutsman, Minnesota DOT
Bill Kodani, California DOT
John Riedl, Oregon DOT
Pratip Lahiri, New York State DOT
B. Elizabeth E. Yap, Philippines DPWH
Sharon Mabel G. Bautista, Philippines DPWH

Cheri Sylvester, Florida DOT
Susan Zhang, Louisiana DOTD
William Connor, Florida DOT
Nasser Pourfarzaneh, Florida DOT
Ron Giesin, New York State DOT
Turner Bond, Missouri DOT
Gus Bieber, Colorado DOT
Andy Crenshaw, Alabama DOT

Total Attendees = 46

Mission Statement

The mission statement was reviewed. Ensuing discussion resulted in the mission statement being slightly modified by removing the word “Software”. The new mission statement is:

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

Short term goals:

The short term goals were reviewed and minor adjustments made as follows:

1. Pursue active involvement as subject matter experts in the development of a comprehensive estimating model within web Trns.port.
2. Encourage Users to post problems and/or solutions on the listserve as a means of sharing all available information about AASHTO estimating products and processes.

Long term goals:

The review of the long range goals resulted in goal number 2 being modified as follows:

Provide expertise to the Technical Review Team for the development of estimating functionality and methodologies.

Meeting minutes from 2007

The minutes of the 2007 meeting were reviewed. John Riedl made a motion to approve minutes as posted. Mike Jenkins seconded the motion; motion carried.

Election of officers

2007 Coordinator: Jennifer McAllister, Ohio DOT
2007 Assistant Coordinator: Bob Lewis, Kentucky DOT

2008 Coordinator: Mike Jenkins, Indiana DOT
2008 Assistant Coordinator, Marc Connolly, New York State DOT

Updates from past year

TMR Discussion

The discussion of TMRs and ballot items was completed via e-mail in advance of this meeting.

Items from Floor

Mike Jenkins led a discussion of the current activities of the Cost Estimation Technical Review Team (CE TRT). This TRT was formed by AASHTO to develop initial requirements for the future of cost estimating applications as it relates to the web Trns.port initiative. There was significant discussion about this initiative, and the group was requested to submit requirements and user stories to this TRT as soon as possible, so that they might be discussed at the TRT's next meeting to be held in November in San Antonio, Texas. The presentation that Mike presented at the 2008 TEA conference will be posted on the TUG web as well as a reference source, and a link to e-mail the TRT will also be provided. Things to bear in mind: The first "cut" at CES which occurred decades ago might have failed because the application was too complex. While the TRT desires to have an all encompassing software application for cradle-to-grave estimating, they need to be cognizant of the fact that an overly complicated application might not be palatable to all potential users.

There was a brief discussion on the possibility of developing a national or regional database of bid histories affording states the opportunity to share historical data with neighboring agencies or regional peers. The TAG did not take any immediate action on this discussion, but all present agreed that the idea was worthwhile. Since it crosses over the traditional "modular" lines of the application, it was determined that it might be a discussion topic for some other TAGs to be made aware.

Two attendees requested the opportunity to join the Cost Estimating TAG; Asif Mali from the New York State Thruway Association, and Gus Bieber from the Colorado DOT. These requests will be forwarded to the TUG Chair for consideration of approval.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Jenkins and seconded by Kay Stutsman.