

Summary Minutes Of The

AASHTO Bridge Rating and Design Products Meeting

April 17 - 18 2013

Ft. Worth, TX

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General Information – Meeting of the Bridge Design & Rating Task Force

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Participants:

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| AASHTO | Judy Skeen | Project Manager | Bridge |
| T&AA | Wally Ballou | Kansas DOT | T&AA Liaison |
| BrD/R Task Force | Tim Armbrecht Bryan Silvis Dean Teal Todd Thompson Amjad Waheed Tom Saad (by phone) | Illinois DOT Virginia DOT Kansas DOT South Dakota DOT Ohio DOT FHWA Resource Center | Chair Bridge Design (BrD) Bridge Design (BrD) Bridge Rating (BrR) Bridge Rating (BrR) FHWA Liaison |
| BrM Task Force | Mark Faulhaber | Kentucky Transp Cabinet | Bridge Management (BRM) |
| BrD/R Contractor | Jim Duray Herman Lee Jeff Campbell | Baker Baker Baker | |

Notes Taker: Bryan Silvis

Agenda Item 0: Review Agenda/Assign Minutes Recorder

Tim Armbrecht opened the meeting and welcomed Todd Thompson to the Task Force. Tom Saad could not attend the meeting but will give the FHWA update over the phone. Dean Teal asked to add an item to the agenda (item 7h) to discuss electronic distribution of the product.

Agenda Item 1: Prior Business

1a. Review January Meeting Minutes

Minutes of TF meeting of January 2013, held in San Diego, CA, were approved with no changes.

1b. Review Action Items

Bryan reviewed the action items and updates were provided to the TF.

Agenda Item 2: Financial Overview and Work Plan Summary

2a. Update on Phase 15 (FY 2011) (Drilled Shaft)

Cracked Moment of Inertia for FP 27, Substructure Drilled Shaft Spec Checking, is the only active portion of the 2010-2011 Work Plan. It will be included in Beta testing and the release for Version 6.5.0.

2b. Update on Phase 16 (FY2012) (R/C Slab System)

FP 6, R/C Slab System, is the only active portion of the 2011-2012 Work Plan. The NSG advanced rating summary report is under development, but near completion. All other portions are in Alpha testing.



The Phase 15 and 16 Work Plans were amended to provide time extensions in lieu of moving the outstanding items into future work plans. This provided the Task Force and Contractor flexibility to add substantial additional enhancement of other ongoing items requested by the TAG and enabled active work on the deferred items to proceed prior to the Phase 17 Work Plan.

2c. Update on Phase 17 (FY2013)

The Contractor reviewed the MSE Work Plan for Phase 17.

The Fixed Price Tasks for Phase 17 were reviewed. Development for FP 1, FP 5, FP 6 and FP 7 is complete. Alpha testing for FP5 is complete and the task is actually 80 percent complete. FP 4, Curved Girder LRFR rating, is still under development.

FP2, PT Multi-cell Box Beam LRFR Rating, and FP3, RC Multi-cell Box Beam LRFD Spec-Check/LRFR Rating, were previously deferred to the 6.5.1 release. The first round of PT mockup review is complete and the Contractor anticipates providing the second round of PT mockup and first round of RC mockup to be available by the TAG meeting, but will forward them when complete. The first round of RC mockups was scheduled to follow the Round 1 PT mockups to incorporate comments into both enhancement mockups.

There was no new activity on Service Units since the January meeting.

Rebranding for Phase 17 was reviewed. Rebranding Phase 1 involved splash screens released in 6.4.1. Phase 2 development is nearly complete along with substantial testing. The actual percent complete is shown below 70 percent as development work on the User Manual and AASHTOWare Startup Guide is ongoing. The Rebranding work will be complete for 6.5.0 release.

Agenda Item 3: Update on BrR/BrD Licensees (FY 2013)

3a. Product Report

Two changes were noted for update in the Agency portion of the Product Report.

It was noted that total Consultant licenses were up, but non-Agency Sponsored licenses were down. Possible reasons for this were discussed.

3b. Service Unit Report

The Contractor reviewed the Service Unit report with the Task Force and indicated there were no new changes since the January meeting.

3c. Licensing Options

The Task Force discussed investigating the need to offer an Unlimited Consultant License option to allow consultants to license the products for unlimited use in more than one state DOT. Modifications to the BrD/BrR single workstation licensing fees for FY14 were also discussed.

Agenda Item 4: Support and Maintenance Report

4a. Incident and Support Summary

The Contractor reviewed the Incident and Support Summary report. 41 incidents were reported between January 2013 and April 2013. The number of unresolved incidents was reported as 26 in the same period. The two unresolved critical bugs will be resolved prior to the release of 6.5.0.

It was also noted that the number of unresolved bugs remains historically low.

4b. Progress on Bug Resolution

The Contractor reviewed Maintenance Progress reports for the 6.5 and 6.6 releases. For the 6.5 release, only 8 of the 15 assigned bugs listed were unresolved. The Contractor was able to obtain a stripped down version of the Madero code from BridgeTech to investigate the deck rating issue that likely resulted from a change in the Fortran compiler (one of the eight



remaining). For the 6.6 release, 39 of the 49 assigned bugs have been resolved and will be included in 6.5.0.

4c. Enhancement List Update

The Beta TAG Enhancement Buckets and BrDR Enhancement Lists were reviewed. Both were updated for enhancements included in the 6.5 (updated) and 6.6 Work Plans (new). The final twelve enhancements starting with 12168, are new and the Contractor noted that approximately half of those related to culverts.

4d. Maintenance Issues

Two maintenance items will be addressed in 6.5. The Contractor will develop estimates for high priority maintenance items for discussion during the June Task Force meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Update on 6.5

5a. Progress and Schedule Review

6.5 Beta 1 will be delivered the week of April 22nd. This release will include the following:

- 1) FP 4 UI for curved girders (no analysis yet)
- 2) FP 4 Diaphragm forces based on a 3D analysis for straight girders
- 3) Slab System (but not integral which is in the amendment)
- 4) FP 5 Capacity Override
- 5) FP 1 UG enhancements
- 6) FP 1 CO DOT utility
- 7) FP 14 NM UI enhancement - member loads and pedestrian loads (2 of 3)
- 8) Release bug fixes
- 9) Drilled shaft cracked MOI
- 10) FP 8 2013 spec updates
- 11) Rebranding

The Contractor will provide updated DLL's for the Beta TAG meeting beginning May 6th.

6.5 Beta 2 will be delivered the week of May 20th.

This release will include the following:

- 1) FP 4 Curved analysis
- 2) FP 7 MT Corrugated metal deck phase 2

3) FP 6 LRFR for NSG

6.5 Beta 3 will be delivered the week of June 3rd. 6.5 Acceptance Build will be delivered the week of June 19th. 6.5 will be released June 28th.

Dean Teal will contact the TAG on the proposed aggressive schedule to ensure the TAG will be able to dedicate time for testing in order to meet the schedule.

6.5.1 will be released in the fall of 2013.

The Contractor moved to the 2012 Developer's Studio (update 1) in February. The change in software has introduced a few problems within the finite element engine of the 64 bit version. The 32 bit version works fine. The Contractor could fall back to the 2010 build of the 64 bit version to develop the final 64 bit product. A newer update to 2012 Developer's Studio is available; however, it has not yet been tested. If this fixes the problem with the 64 bit version, 2012 (update 2) will be used to build the 64 bit release version.

The Modernization Design work plan was approved by SCOJD on 04/12/13 and will be executed by the Contractor/AASHTO sometime in the next week. The modernization plan workshop will not be scheduled until July to mitigate distraction from the completion of 6.5.0.

5b. SLI Testing for 6.5 Update

The SLI work plan was approved by SCOJD and the contract with SLI was executed on 02/26/13. They have completed the first round of installation testing (pre-beta testing) and have reported six minor issues to the Contractor. Four of the six issues have already been resolved. The second round of SLI testing will occur prior to the release of 6.5.0 (Beta 3 or Acceptance Build).

The Monthly Progress Report was reviewed. The Installation Testing Checklist with individual tests



to verify functionality after installation was reviewed.

5c. Beta TAG Meeting Draft Agenda

Beta TAG Membership: Three members have left the TAG and one new member was added.

The TAG testing agenda includes an item to discuss user interface enhancements proposed by the New Mexico DOT and Contractor. The enhancements prioritized high by the TAG members could be packaged for incorporation into 6.6.

5d. Beta TAG Schedule

The members of the TAG will have access to Beta 1 the week prior to the Pittsburgh testing meeting.

5e. TAG Features Checklist

The Beta checklist draft was developed from applicable areas of the alpha test plan. It will ensure the TAG understands the areas that need to be tested and provide a starting point for testing. Dean will also use the checklist to review what each tester has accomplished (prior to the testing of Beta 3) in order to determine where 'holes' in the testing process exist.

Specific portions of the checklist should be tested by the states who requested the inclusion of the specific feature or enhancement. The Contractor will provide Dean Teal with information on which features were requested by which states.

states responded to the first email request. Five states ultimately responded to the survey

Most of the comments focused on the need for a pre-stressed design tool, plate girder sizing and the need for a third design tool for splice design.

Several respondents expressed the desire to approach the PS design tool using a default template as a starting point. The default template should be customizable so each state can store their typical defaults for design. The Users would also like to have access to material properties at their fingertips ($f'c$ and $f'ci$), have distribution factors pre-programmed and be able to get to the design tool without populating the entire tree. Bryan commented that Step 3, check stress at beam ends, of the User proposed design sequence should not iterate $f'c$, debonded strands and draped strands when necessary. DOT's have preferences for debonded or draped strands and those options should be selected prior to design iterations.

The Contractor's original concept was that the design tool should be completely separate from BrD/BrR with a utility to also directly interface which is in-line with User comments. The concept includes the ability to populate or draw from a file.

The plate girder tool will be more difficult to run given the variance in area sizes. An iterative process holding back some capacity is likely required to ensure the end result still passes after all plate transitions are made

Agenda Item 6: Enhancements

6a. "Opis as a Design Tool" Survey Results

Bryan Silvis surveyed the BrD (Opis) licensee End Users to secure input on their needs in the area of design tools. The feedback was solicited in two iterations. Bryan began with an email request for input then followed-up by combining the responses from the initial contact and forwarding the summary back to those surveyed to solicit additional feedback/input. Only two

The Task Force is somewhat disappointed that the response to the survey was so limited. Jeff Olsen will be asked take over this task when Bryan transitions off the Task Force. The Plate Girder Design Tool should be considered for inclusion in Versions 6.6 or 6.7.



6b. Curved Girder Import Utility

The Contractor reviewed the import of MDX files for curved beam analysis. Approximately 572 commands were identified in MDX and it may be cost prohibitive to import all MDX commands into the curved girder module.

The Contractor obtained a sampling of input files to get a better idea of how many commands need to be imported. In the 13 MDX bridges provided, 210 of the 572 commands were used. The Contractor would like to obtain additional MDX files, preferably from different states so they can get a better variance of files. Once they have the files, they can run them through the MDX parser along with the existing 13 bridges to get a better feel for which MDX commands need to be converted and provide an update at the June meeting.

The Task Force is mindful that this effort should also be pursued for Descus file command conversion. Timing this proposed enhancement with Curved Girder release would be the most benefit to Users.

6c. Post-Tensioned Mockup Comments

The Contractor received a few responses from the states that use post-tensioned multi-cell box girders before receiving a detailed response from Caltrans last week. The Contractor considers the majority of the comments as enhancements. The Contractor plans to address all comments prior to the TAG meeting and would like to have some time on the TAG testing agenda in May to discuss the comments. One hour to support this discussion should suffice.

6d. VI 12179 – LRFD Load Modifiers – Culverts

The WisDOT Box Culvert program that the Culvert Engine is based on does not apply load modifiers in the LRFD load combinations. This enhancement to the AASHTO Culvert Engine allows the engine to use the bridge or library load modifiers specified by the User. The Task

Force directed the Contractor to begin work on this task, incorporate it into 6.5.0 and charge to Task Force Directed Tasks.

The Illinois DOT submitted an incident involving rebar size where the selection range was beyond the capabilities of the original WisDOT Box Culvert program. Selecting a bar outside does generate a message, but User expectation is that any selection should be used.

The Task Force agreed that if the GUI includes specific selections (like bar sizes), the user expectation that the selection will be available for analysis in the AASHTO engine is justified. The Task Force is committed to ensuring that any selection available to the user will be considered in the analysis.

An enhancement for welded wire fabric was also discussed for possible inclusion, but the estimated level of work was at a level that prohibited incorporation at this time.

6e. Caltrans Slab Requests Estimate

The Contractor presented rough estimates for the level of effort required to implement additional RC slab system functionality into the product proposed by Caltrans. The Task Force discussed the individual requests in detail including support for/against specific enhancements and alternate methods to accomplish the original intent. The Caltrans request will be tabled for now and combined with other User comments on the functionality provided after slab system is released. All requests for slab system enhancements could be prioritized at that time.

Agenda Item 7: Miscellaneous Topics

7a. AASHTOWare Manager Reports (2012-VO-056)

Judy provided an overview of the changes being made to the AASHTOWare Manager Excel Spreadsheet 'report'. The revised Excel file will allow the Project Manager and Contractor staff



to gain easy access to user licensing data. iEngineering is currently testing the new output option. It is hoped that this files can be made available to the Contractor within the next month. With the changes being made, licensing is moving in the direction of on-line capability.

7b. Software Architecture Update

The Contractor is working with SUMA Technologies to secure staff augmentation services. He has also discussed the status of our modernization effort with Anthony Lattanze. The stakeholder workshop will be scheduled in the July or later timeframe. The Contractor will establish the dates and communicate to the Task Force two months prior to the meeting as attendees will need to secure travel approval. Stakeholder attendees will include 1 PM, 1 T&AA, 4 Task Force, 3 TAG, 4/5 Contractor and Dan Wyly. Jim Ramsey has also expressed interest in attending. Up to 15 participants may attend and the Task Force needs to be thinking about which TAG members will be invited. The Contractor has met to discuss the good/bad in the existing architecture and is working to document their strides to make advances in the product code base.

7c. Report TAG Update

A breakout session at the TAG meeting will be held on May 9th to review the current reports and determine what reports will be needed in the future. Amjad is currently working to finalize the meeting agenda. Report TAG members who are not able to attend the meeting have forwarded their comments to Amjad to ensure their input is considered in the final recommendation which will be presented to the Task Force. Tim provided the conference call information to Amjad for members unable to attend but able to participate in the breakout session. Dean Teal was also asked to attend the session.

7d. Status of JIRA Implementation

The number of BrDR JIRA users was decreased from 527 existing accounts (at the January meeting) to 387 accounts. The Task Force decided to move forward with BrDR Option 2, as presented by the Contractor (2 accounts for Unlimited, 2 accounts for Agency Sponsored, 1 account for Single Workstation) = 128 + 55 = 183. BrDR will try to remain within a total user license account total below 250. Agencies will be contacted a month in advance of the need to reduce accounts.

Old incidents will remain in IssueNET for the purpose of having them available in the 'archived' environment. Nothing will be removed from IssueNET for the time being. Active enhancements will be moved from IssueNET to JIRA. The transition will occur after Beta testing for 6.5.0 is complete.

7e. Tracking Matrix

The Contractor reviewed the tracking matrix developed to document key deliverables in the 6.6 contract. The tracking matrix originated from a T&AA request to ensure all gates/steps are followed. The tracking matrix will include a 'date change' and a second sheet in the spreadsheet to insert comments on spreadsheet updates as they are incorporated.

7f. Concrete Pipe Association Review of BrDR Culvert

During meetings between the concrete culvert industry and the Michigan DOT to discuss loads, a representative of the American Concrete Pipe Association (ACPA) asked whether AASHTO had reached out to any fabricators to verify the software. He wondered whether ACPA would qualify for a license to verify culvert load ratings using BrR. The Task Force agreed to allow ACPA to review and comment on the culvert engine via the issuance of a 6-month Evaluation License.



7g. Evaluation Survey (2013-BrDR-009)
Judy Skeen presented the draft post-software evaluation survey. Improvement suggestions were discussed. Judy will make the necessary changes for Task Force review prior to finalizing. A link to the survey will be emailed to all organizations who obtain an evaluation copy of BrD or BrR at the end of their 120-day evaluation period (delayed delivery will be investigated). The transmittal email will inform the recipient that the survey is comprised of only eight questions and responses to the survey are important given that fact that feedback on our products is beneficial to the AASHTOWare Bridge Task Force to allow us to continue to make improvements to our software. The Contractor will also cc Judy Skeen on all evaluation survey emails to notify her to periodically check responses that have been collected via the survey instrument.

7h. Electronic Distribution of the Software
Electronic distribution of the software should be an option where Agencies have the option of requesting disks. Potential issues could exist as a result of the specific licenses obtained by the Agencies (BrD and/or BrR Unlimited and/or Work Station). A key to unlock specific licenses may be necessary.

Agenda Item 8: Third Party Issues

Todd Thompson has agreed to take over Josh Sletten's role as the Task Force liaison for third parties. Todd will review the minutes from the last meeting in Niagara Falls, NY. It appears the Third-Party Contractors are happy to be working with AASHTO in this regard. The mid-year meeting was not held. The next third party developer meeting will be held the day following the User Group meeting in Virginia Beach, VA from 8 –10 AM.

Agenda Item 9: User Group

9a. Summary Minutes from January 2013 Meeting

The Contractor provided draft summary minutes from the January meeting and will post or forward the Word version. The summary minutes from June, August, and October were approved but have not yet been provided to the User Group.

9b. User Group Meeting Responses to Date

Eighteen attendees are currently registered. Chris Lowe (User Group President) will be invited to attend the June Task Force meeting in Seattle.

9c. Schedule for Sending Out User Group Meeting Reminders

Reminder updates will be sent out as the meeting dates approach.

9d. User Group Survey

The last BrDR and BrM User Group Survey was provided/reviewed. The BrDR survey will need to be developed and finalized prior to June 24th (date six weeks prior to the User Group Meeting) in order to get the survey out, responses received, and summary PowerPoint developed for presentation during the User Group meeting.

Agenda Item 10: Work Plan

10a. FY 2014 Work Plan

Deferred to future meetings.

10b. Future Work Plans

Deferred to future meetings.

10c. Strategic Plan Update

Judy updated the SCOJD Strategic Plan Bridge Task Force action items to reflect the current status; however, there are a few areas where additional information is needed to complete the update. One specific example is with Action Item, 2.B.1 – Contractor incentive and penalty payments. The Task Force was not in favor of incentive/penalty payments as flexibility to adjust scheduled enhancements against User



priorities would be reduced and there are no perceived issues at this time.

Agenda Item 11: FHWA Update

NBIP Assessments: The second round of National Bridge Inspection Program (NBIP) assessments (2013) was completed on March 31st. In the coming weeks, FHWA will be conducting quality assurance activities and compiling the results for the annual report to agency leadership.

Updated metrics to be used for the PY 2014 assessment cycle that begins on April 1st were disseminated to the Division Offices. The updates reflect the remainder of the revisions agreed to with the joint FHWA/AASHTO task force last year. Additionally, FHWA added commentary and revised the formatting to improve the clarity of the metrics and address comments from Divisions and the States. Going forward, FHWA anticipates stability in the metrics until the NBIS regulation update is completed (projected by October 2015). A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking may be published as early as this fall.

A Federal Register Notice will be issued soon that discusses the NBIP oversight process and penalty provisions introduced by MAP-21. Per the Notice/legislation, States must be notified of areas of noncompliance by December 31st. States have 45 days (until mid-February) to address the identified deficiencies or submit a PCA.

FHWA will be conducting in-house training via webinars on May 14-15, 2013 to prepare Division bridge staff for implementing changes to the review process for PY 2014.

Publications: Publication Number FHWA-IF-12-052, the “Steel Bridge Design Handbook” Volumes 1 through 19 and six related design examples has been disseminated. This handbook covers a full range of topics and design

examples to provide bridge engineers and owners with the information needed to make knowledgeable decisions regarding the selection, design, fabrication, and construction of steel bridges. The handbook is based on the Fifth Edition, including the 2010 Interims, of the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications and is the culmination of seven years of effort beginning in 2005 by many recognized experts in the steel bridge industry. This Handbook may be downloaded at

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/steel/pubs/if12052/>

Publication Number FHWA-IF-13-020, the “Manual for Repair and Retrofit of Fatigue Cracks in Steel Bridges”. Development of this manual was initiated by the late Professor Robert Dexter from the University of Minnesota and finalized for publication by FHWA. It represents expert consensus guidelines that were gathered and vetted during a special fatigue workshop held at Lehigh University in 2002, with further revisions and updates made over the last decade. This manual may be downloaded at

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/steel/pubs/hif13020/hif13020.pdf>.

FHWA participates in AASHTO Strategic Plan workshop: FHWA participated in an AASHTO workshop on March 19 – 20, 2013, hosted by NCHRP to update the AASHTO 2005 Strategic Plan. The AASHTO Technical Committee Chairs, 7 FHWA representatives, consultants, industry representatives and academia were invited to participate in this workshop.

FHWA/AASHTO hosts webinar on Asset Management: At the request of the AASHTO Subcommittee of Bridges and Structures (SCOBS), FHWA in partnership with AASHTO conducted a one-hour webinar on March 6th on “Asset Management Plan per MAP-21” for State Bridge and FHWA Division Bridge Engineers. The



link to view the session is:
<http://youtu.be/OGiJeUGI4kl>.

Status report on Sequestration and continuing resolution: On March 1, 2013, across-the-board spending cuts (“sequestration”) took effect. The impacts of sequestration on the Federal-aid highway program are very limited. Under the terms of the Budget Control Act, contract authority that is subject to an annual obligation limitation is exempt from sequestration. Therefore, most of the surface transportation accounts funded by the Highway Trust Fund, including almost the entire Federal-aid highway program, are not subject to sequestration.

A Continuing Resolution was signed by the President that essentially funds MAP-21 at current levels through the end of the FY2013.

Iowa Load Rating Training: Local agencies in Iowa hosted the NHI Training Course 130092, LRFR for Highway Bridges in late March. Local agencies in Iowa are responsible for load rating bridges under their ownership. A number of the attendees were interested in learning more about load rating software and options for licensing ‘Bridge Rating’.

Agenda Item 12: Marketing / Training
12a. IBC Workshop

Dean will present an AASHTOWare Bridge Rating presentation at the International Bridge Conference (IBC) in Pittsburgh, PA in June. Dean will also give a presentation on the Bridge Products at the September iHEEP meeting in Overland Park, KS. The Contractor conducted a presentation of BrR to the WVDOT this week. Counties might be an un-tapped area from which to secure additional BrDR licensees. The Task Force briefly discussed the need for establishing a software licensing structure to better support the needs of smaller jurisdictions such as cities

and counties (similar to the pricing structure developed by the BrM Task Force for FY14). It was decided to observe the licensing activities within the BrM product to determine whether or not a similar pricing structure would be advantageous to BrDR.

Time should be scheduled during the June Task Force meeting to discuss a strategy to target states that are currently not licensing the BrDR products, specifically concentrating on BrD.

Tim discussed three bugs Illinois considers urgent and would like a patch for. VI12219 and VI12338 both involve trusses. One involves counters and the other sporadic results (i.e. right here, wrong here, right here, etc.). VI12163 involves a Prestress I-beam where shear values dropped suddenly.

Agenda Item 13: Review Action Item List from This Meeting

Bryan Silvis read the action items recorded during the meeting for the information of attendees.

Agenda Item 14: TF Executive Session (As Needed)

Executive Session adjourned at 4:30pm.

