

AASHTOWare Bridge Design-Rating (BrDR) Task Force Summary Meeting Minutes

June 11 - 12, 2014

Portland, ME

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| General Information – Meeting of the Bridge Design & Rating Task Force | 3 |
| Agenda Item 0: Review Agenda/Assign Minutes Recorder | 3 |
| Agenda Item 1: Prior Business | 3 |
| 1a. Review April Meeting Minutes | 3 |
| 1b. Review Action Items | 4 |
| Agenda Item 2: Financial Overview and Work Plan Summary | 4 |
| 2a. Update on Phase 17 (FY 2013)..... | 4 |
| 2b. Update on Phase 18 (FY2014)..... | 4 |
| 2c. Update on 6.7 Release Work Plan | 5 |
| 2d. Update on Modernization | 5 |
| 2e. Update on FE Engine Modernization Work Plan..... | 5 |
| Agenda Item 3: Update on BrD/BrR Licensees (FY 2014) | 5 |
| 3a. Product Report | 5 |
| 3b. Service Unit Report | 5 |
| 3c. Licensing Options | 5 |
| 3d. Evaluation Software Report..... | 5 |
| Agenda Item 4: Support and Maintenance Report..... | 5 |
| 4a. Incident and Support Summary | 5 |
| 4b. Progress on Bug Resolution..... | 5 |
| 4c. Enhancement List Update | 6 |
| 4d. Maintenance Issues | 6 |
| 4e. Bug Policy..... | 6 |
| Agenda Item 5: Update on 6.6..... | 6 |
| 5a. Progress and Schedule Review | 6 |
| 5b. TAG Update..... | 6 |
| 5c. May 13-15 Beta TAG Meeting..... | 6 |
| 5d. Progress on 6.7 Development..... | 7 |
| Agenda Item 6: Enhancements | 7 |
| 6a. Training Presentation for 3D Analysis | 7 |
| 6b. Reports TAG Estimates..... | 7 |
| 6c. Conversion of VML Truss Graphics to SVG Estimate..... | 7 |
| 6d. P/S Design Tool Requirements - Draft | 7 |
| 6e. Gusset Plate Comments | 8 |
| 6f. Lateral Flange Bending Moment Report | 8 |
| Agenda Item 7: Miscellaneous Items..... | 8 |
| 7a. FE Engine Modernization Update | 8 |
| 7b. Estimate for Product Report Utility | 8 |
| 7c. Modernization User Interface Ideas | 8 |



| | |
|---|----|
| 7d. Rating Tool Enhancement (Load Permitting) | 9 |
| Agenda Item 8: Third Party Issues | 9 |
| Agenda Item 9: User Group Meeting Update | 9 |
| 9a. Summary Minutes from April Meeting | 9 |
| 9b. Status of 2014 RADBIG Planning / Registration | 10 |
| 9c. Meeting Agenda Discussion | 10 |
| Agenda Item 10: Work Plan | 10 |
| 10a. Modernization Work Plan – Phase 2 | 10 |
| 10b. Planning Estimates | 11 |
| 10c. Future Work Plans | 11 |
| Agenda Item 11: FHWA Update | 11 |
| Agenda Item 12: Five Year Projection for BrDR | 12 |
| Agenda Item 13: Licensing Issues | 12 |
| 13a. International Licenses | 12 |
| 13b. Special Consultant Option Licensees | 12 |
| Agenda Item 14: Marketing Activities | 12 |
| 14a. Alaska | 12 |
| 14b. KYTC | 12 |
| 14c. PennDOT | 12 |
| Agenda Item 15: Review Action Item list from this meeting | 12 |
| Agenda Item 16: Task Force Executive Session (as needed) | 12 |



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

Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Participants:

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|-----------------|---|---|---|
| AASHTO | Judy Skeen Bruce Johnson Wally Ballou | AASHTO Oregon DOT Kansas DOT | Project Manager SCOJD Liaison T&AA Liaison |
| BrM Task Force | Douglas Blades Mark Faulhaber | FHWA Resource Center Kentucky Trans Cabinet | FHWA Liaison Bridge Management (BrM) |
| BrDR Task Force | Tim Armbrecht Jeff Olsen Dean Teal Todd Thompson Amjad Waheed Tom Saad Wally Ballou | Illinois DOT Montana DOT Kansas DOT South Dakota DOT Ohio DOT FHWA Midwest Resource Center Kansas DOT | Chair Bridge Design (BrD) Bridge Design (BrD) Bridge Rating (BrR) Bridge Rating (BrR) FHWA Liaison T&AA Liaison |
| BrDR Contractor | Jim Duray Herman Lee | Baker Baker | BrDR Contractor BrDR Contractor |
| Guests | Beckie Curtis Joshua Dietsche | Michigan DOT Wisconsin DOT | FY15 BrM TF FY15 BrDR TF |

Notes Taker: Amjad Waheed / Judy Skeen

Agenda Item 0: Review Agenda/Assign Minutes

Recorder

Tim Armbrecht opened the meeting at 10:00 AM. Amjad Waheed was assigned as the meeting minute recorder. Judy Skeen will also take notes and combine with the notes taken by Amjad.

Tim welcomed new BrDR Task Force member Josh Dietsche (Wis DOT). The meeting agenda was reviewed and a couple of revisions were suggested. Tim and Judy informed the members that Brad Wagner (Michigan DOT) will be on the phone on June 12 at 1:00 PM to review the agenda for the RADBUG meeting, Traverse City, Michigan in August.

Agenda Item 1: Prior Business

1a. Review April Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the April 1-2, 2014 Task Force meeting in San Francisco, CA were reviewed. Minutes were approved with no changes.

Wally provided an update on some new items that TA&A has been discussing. Below are the new items.

- Application **Infrastructure Standard** – T&AA has introduced changes to the standards to address the frequency of industry updates to web browser software. Since browser software is typically updated on an annual basis, the AASHTOWare software standards have been amended to require AASHTOWare



product software to be functional with current browser versions within 12 months of browser software version adoption by industry. TF asked for the explanation of the date when T&AA specified 12 month period would start. Wally admitted that there is some confusion when the 12 month window to implement new version of browser will start. Wally will seek T&AA clarification for TF. [Wally provided this explanation after consulting with T&AA: "Plans shall be created and executed to complete the development and testing to support new versions of the application infrastructure components in each AASHTOWare product within 24 months after each new component version achieves general availability status. The production support for a new version of an application infrastructure component shall be included in the next planned release of the AASHTOWare product after the 24 month date. The exception is for new versions of browsers, which shall be tested and implemented within 12 months after the date of general availability and shall be supported in the next planned release after the 12 month date. General availability is a term used by Microsoft and other vendors that is defined as that stage of the product life cycle when the product, is stable, having successfully passed through all earlier release stages \(such as beta and candidate releases\) and is believed to be reliable, free of serious bugs, and suitable for use in production systems. The general availability date is announced by the vendor of each component product and is typically posted on the vendor's web site."](#)

- **Disaster Recovery Backup Plan –** AASHTOWare contractors are not required to develop and provide a tailored backup plan

for AASHTOWare products, rather AASHTO will accept the standard backup plan/strategy that supports contractors' internal operations. If the contractor does not have an internal backup plan in place, a backup plan for the AASHTOWare software must be developed and described at no additional cost to AASHTO. T&AA also requires an archive copy of the code twice a year that contractors have been providing already.

Amjad inquired about the recovery backup plans of individual states and wanted to know the best practices adapted by other states.

1b. Review Action Items

Jeff reviewed the action items and following updates were provided to the Task Force:

The Task Force discussed the inclusion of the action item descriptions in the meeting minutes, along with the status updates, in the last few meeting minutes. It was agreed that we will continue with this approach in future meeting minutes.

Agenda Item 2: Financial Overview and Work Plan Summary

2a. Update on Phase 17 (FY 2013)

Baker provided budget status. Items left over 6.5 WP were included in 6.6 and are now being beta tested. Baker will close out 6.5 work plan in September, 2014.

2b. Update on Phase 18 (FY2014)

Baker reviewed the budget report and budget tracking charts to depict spending v budget. As of the end of February, 6.6 was at 70%. All tasks are out of development and are currently in alpha testing. All FP items are 80% complete (alpha testing is complete) except FP2. FP2 Prestress Concrete LRFD Design Tool development is on hold. Baker is working through additional design



tool requirements. Development process will proceed once the requirements are finalized.

2c. Update on 6.7 Release Work Plan

Baker provided the update on 6.7 release.
FP8 – 10% complete
FP11 – 60% complete. Almost finished with development
FP14 – 60% complete. Almost finished with development
FP16 – 30% complete. User interface is complete

2d. Update on Modernization

Baker informed the Task Force that not much work is expected to be done during the next few weeks prior to the end of this fiscal year. Budgeted modernization project money in FY14 will be left unspent at the end of the year.

2e. Update on FE Engine Modernization Work Plan

This was discussed later under agenda item 7a.

Agenda Item 3: Update on BrD/BrR Licensees (FY 2014)

3a. Product Report

Baker presented the product report. The report included current academic, individual consultant and agency sponsored consultant licenses. Evaluation licenses have been removed from this report and were discussed under agenda item 3d. The report is current as of the end of April.

3b. Service Unit Report

The Service Unit report was provided and reviewed by the Task Force. There has been no change in the Service Unit report since the April 2014 meeting. Tim had the understanding that ILDOT had committed service units to fund the welded wire enhancement. Amjad and Dean advised that they understood that the welded wire enhancement was funded by the Task Force. Tim will verify the funding source for the welded wire enhancement.

3c. Licensing Options

The Task Force discussed the possibility of allowing FHWA to license the BrR Unlimited license and then allow other Federal Agencies to license the product under that unlimited license using the Special Consultant Option licensing option. Alternately they discussed the possibility of allowing other Federal agencies to use the FHWA unlimited license outright. The discussion was tabled with no final decision. Tom Saad should be developing a proposal for federal agencies licensing options for Task Force consideration.

3d. Evaluation Software Report

The Evaluation Software report was provided and reviewed by the Task Force. Surveys are being sent out at the end of the evaluation periods.

Tim will mention to Matt Farrar that we can reactivate the BrD evaluation licenses for the Idaho ITD if they wish to continue to evaluate the software.

Agenda Item 4: Support and Maintenance Report

4a. Incident and Support Summary

Baker presented the Incident and Support Summary report. 7 more bugs were added since last quarter totaling to 24 bugs. The Task Force made the decision to not include BRASS bugs in future reports.

4b. Progress on Bug Resolution

Baker reviewed Maintenance Progress reports for 6.6 and 6.7 releases. They were broken into two separate reports. All bugs in 6.6 reported last year have been resolved. There are currently 21 items which may be fixed before the 6.6 beta test release.

There are currently 24 items assigned to be fixed in 6.7. 34 bugs have been resolved.



4c. Enhancement List Update

The Testing TAG Enhancement Buckets and BrDR Enhancement lists were reviewed. 17 new enhancements were added to the BrDR Enhancement list since the April Task Force meeting.

The Task Force discussed the need to critically review the items on the BrDR Enhancement List prior to the modernization effort to remove those that have been overcome by events to produce a list of enhancements that will be addressed moving forward. The group charged with reviewing the list needs to be participants with a history of the product and the current enhancement list in order to ensure appropriate decisions are made with regard to which enhancements should be carried forward. The review group should consist of Task Force members and select representatives from both BrD and BrR. The review activity should be scheduled as a three and a half day meeting at Baker's offices in Pittsburgh. The revised enhancement list will be integrated into the scope of the modernization effort.

4d. Maintenance Issues

No discussion.

4e. Bug Policy

The Task Force discussed the definition of 'Critical' issues and made the decision to pursue establishing a definition to be used to categorize issues as critical. Dean suggested to rewrite the old Bug policy documents to coincide with the JIRA terminology and adding alerts in JIRA depending on the nature of the bug. In reviewing the issue categorization used in the past and the categories established in JIRA, the categories are not aligned.

Baker has the ability to add priority levels within JIRA to customize the categories for our use.

Appropriate categories / priorities are needed to ensure bug notifications are sent to the users in an appropriate manner and in a reasonable timeframe.

Users will only have the ability to add the issues in JIRA. The contractor will assign the appropriate priority level to the bugs identified.

Agenda Item 5: Update on 6.6

5a. Progress and Schedule Review

Baker informed the Task Force that 6.6 Beta 3 will be released on Thursday, June 12, 2014.

Baker gave a tentative schedule for the BrDR 6.6 release. If the testers can finish with their comments by June 19, the acceptance build can be released by June 24 (subject to the nature of the Beta 3 comments). Tester comments on the acceptance build can then be forwarded to Baker by June 27 and it will allow Baker to start building the release by June 30. The 6.6 version will be released on July 3. To make this schedule successful, the beta testers should focus on testing the components previously identified in betas 1 and 2.

Dean mentioned that it is an aggressive schedule for the Beta testers but he was hopeful the testers will be able to complete testing in time. Jeff Olsen will be helping Dean with communicating to the Beta TAG.

5b. TAG Update

No discussion

5c. May 13-15 Beta TAG Meeting

Dean gave a report on the TAG meeting in May in Baker's office. The number of activities scheduled for the May TAG Meeting was more aggressive than the available time the TAG had to accomplish the desired activities during their three-day meeting. Dean advised the primary focus of Beta TAG should be on the testing of the product so that a quality product can be delivered to the users. Due to extensive testing



activities during Beta TAG meeting, the TAG did not have sufficient time to review and make recommendations on the enhancement list and the bug reporting policy or discuss modernization.

Dean mentioned that the presentation on JIRA during the meeting was very informative and helpful.

It was suggested that, with the Modernization efforts, the Task Force should consider establishing additional special purpose TAGs to ensure the workload is spread across resources and Beta TAG is not overloaded with tasks other than software testing.

Dean maintains a spreadsheet of which end users respond to his requests for review and feedback on Functional Design Specifications (screen mockups and flowcharts).

On a question from the Task Force, Dean asserted that based on the Beta TAG testing, he is confident that the 6.6 will be released as per schedule, as the only major thing the TAG encountered was the sign convention.

5d. Progress on 6.7 Development

This was discussed under agenda item 2c. Baker still needs to address some comments on the Gusset Plate definition. Another set of mock-ups will be developed to fully describe the gusset plates. A revised review gate will be forwarded to the Task Force.

Agenda Item 6: Enhancements

6a. Training Presentation for 3D Analysis

Baker developed a 3D Analysis presentation for Todd to present at SCOBS (T-19). There were a few slides that need to be modified based on the comments Baker received.

6b. Reports TAG Estimates

Baker reviewed and categorized the 25 Report TAG recommendations into three categories

(Estimated, Recommended for Modernization, and Scope Required). TAG recommendations that represent a large scope have been deferred to be addressed in the modernization. The Task Force will need to make the decision on whether or not those recommended for modernization should be included in the scope of the modernization effort. Reports to satisfy MAP-21 requirements should also be investigated.

6c. Conversion of VML Truss Graphics to SVG Estimate

Vector Markup Language (VML) is obsolete in IE10. IE8 and earlier versions of browser do not support SVG. The contractor presented an estimate of \$18,000 to modify VML Graphics to SVG. Baker explained the modification will not detect the browser version. Baker explained that to detect browser version, it will be required to run a JavaScript in the browser and that will not be a good idea. The TF made the decision to include it in the discussion for 6.7 WP as a TF directed item.

6d. P/S Design Tool Requirements - Draft

The requirements document was reviewed with the TAG members during their May meeting in Pittsburgh. The TAG made recommendations on requirements to add and delete. An updated version of the P/S Design tool requirements was presented to the Task Force. Baker was hopeful that the estimate will be ready for August the Task Force meeting. The Task Force discussed investigating options to break the project into two phases if the estimate is too big to make the work effort manageable. Some suggestions were made to include Simple and Normal modes in phase one and Advanced and Integrated modes in Phase two. Jeff Olsen and Baker staff will present the mockups to the TAG. The TAG will be asked to prioritize their requirements to allow the Task Force to make decisions on how to break the delivery into two phases.



6e. Gusset Plate Comments

Baker has received the comments on the first version of gusset plate analysis mockups from the TAG and is going over the comments. Baker will revise the mockups. Gusset plate analysis is expected to be included in the 6.7 WP.

6f. Lateral Flange Bending Moment Report

The Task Force directed Baker to prepare an estimate to produce LRFR Lateral Flange moments & stresses reports for discussion during the August 2014 Task Force meeting.

Agenda Item 7: Miscellaneous Items

7a. FE Engine Modernization Update

Baker provided a summary of the work to date on the FE Engine Modernization project. Conversion of the FE Model Builder Test classes is almost complete. 52 test cases of migrating from C++ to C# were completed. Next steps include implementing STAAD import into the FE Model classes and developing the testing interface that will enable the new C# engine to be called from native C++ apps. TNT vector libraries of math functions were used in the C++. Baker is looking into a better and efficient solution in C#. Baker and Rob Moore are also working on exception reporting and recovery.

7b. Estimate for Product Report Utility

Baker will document the estimate for the effort required to import AASHTOWare Manager Report data into their standard reports. Also see under agenda item 3a.

7c. Modernization User Interface Ideas

Baker presented some of the ideas for modernization of User Interface (UI). Following ideas were included in Baker's presentation/handout.

- Implement Window Docking instead of MDI to support multiple monitors. (Like visual studio 2012+)
- Implement Windows Foundation Presentation (WFP) to make UI attractive
- Implement a Ribbon tool bar instead of a traditional toolbar.
- Have Pre-Processing and Post-Processing modes, like STAAD or Midas. Pre/Post modes would promote separation of defining a bridge and viewing results, thus simplifying both.
- Add ability to revert a window to what is in the domain. Add a Clear button to erase all content in window controls. (Use arrow to specify different ways to cancel, clear, etc.)
- Improve window consistency (pixel spacing, capitalization of names, etc.).
- Have the output and input organized in one place so it is easy to document.
- Data Grid columns should be the correct size for the values being input.

Bridge Workspace:

- Put dependent fields as read-only if entered on other windows.
- 3D Representation of Model o Split GUI (make use of empty space)
 - Tree on left, graphics on right (3D model with click capability)
 - Default on with ability to turn off
 - Highlight members in graphics when clicked. Provide right click (properties, basic info, etc.)
- Use more warnings to help guide user. Add more Min/Max constraints. Provide a warning but allow.
- Address more missing information during data entry with graphical representation.
- Live graphics in wizards do help designers.
- Show results (enable tool bar item) even if not sitting on specific tree item.

Overall Application:



- Graphical results for spec. Plot capacity vs demand, capacity vs stirrup spacing, any spec result, etc.
- Tree structure should follow standard order and always work the same for all structure types.

Analysis:

- Analysis progress is not always clear. Give better status of time remaining (time to complete).
- Custom validation.
 - Geometry validation, load, materials, etc.
 - Choose what to validate.
 - Allow always enforce validation.
- Handle cancelling progress dialog better.
- Show warnings during analysis progress (filter on/off similar to Visual Studio).
- Color code analysis sections and analysis steps.

Documentation:

- Improve F1 help.
 - Dock help window.
 - Window author or developer should write help.
- Add Context Help (?) icon upper right to click on controls to get basic information.
- More explanation in help sections. For example why do we use bridge alternative.

Reports:

- Would like to be able to format a load rating report so I can get outputs of material properties, section properties, moments, shears, and capacities.
- Would like to be able to customize reports by adding heading.
- Output formats should be able to be imported to word or excel.
- Output format should be standardized to one type (.xml or other possible types).
- Store results in binary, xml, csv format to be

able to extract, transform, load data. Also have text file to view results.

- Many users requested PDF formats for reports.

Baker asked for more ideas from the Task Force. Some other ideas that were discussed included: simplified tree based on the type of structure selected and showing required and optional items with different colors, required items for third party engines, ability to produce user defined wizards, etc. Baker will also seek input from bridge designers working in Baker who are doing bridge load rating for Virginia.

7d. Rating Tool Enhancement (Load Permitting)

Baker developed a prototype and defined the requirements for the enhancement.

Agenda Item 8: Third Party Issues

Todd followed-up with Dr. Fu (University of Maryland). Dr. Fu advised that they plan to hold off on pursuing a developer's license until after the modernization effort. Todd will follow-up with the other third party contractors regarding their proposals for having their software added to the FY16 AASHTOWare Catalog.

The Task Force will also ask them for input on third party interface. A meeting with the third party contractors will be held on the Thursday after the RADBUG meeting in August 2014, in Traverse City, MI. Discussion on their feedback on the future of the product will be initiated during the meeting in Traverse City.

Agenda Item 9: User Group Meeting Update

9a. Summary Minutes from April Meeting

Baker provided the draft of the summary minutes from the San Francisco meeting in the meeting packet. The Task Force made the decision to defer action on finalizing the San



Francisco meeting summary to allow more time during the meeting to discuss other issues.

9b. Status of 2014 RADBIG Planning / Registration

The RADBUG 'Save the Date' email went out to BrDR End User Designees and 2013 RADBUG meeting attendees on 12/09/13. The meeting registration website announcement email went out on 02/04/14. To date, 51 attendees have registered for the conference.

Brad Wagner sent a RADBUG announcement to MIDOT employees, Michigan Tech contacts and local consultants on 03/26/14. The hotel offers complimentary shuttle service from/to the airport; however, the morning shuttle schedule does not begin until 8:00am. Judy will communicate with conference attendees to secure information on early morning departure flights and will work with the hotel to secure an early shuttle start time on the Thursday and Friday departure days as needed.

9c. Meeting Agenda Discussion

Brad Wagner joined the meeting via conference call at 1:30 PM to discuss the RADBUG meeting agenda and logistics. Brad walked the TF through the draft RADBUG Meeting agenda. Brad recommended moving the RADBUG business meeting up in the agenda, scheduling it on the morning of the second day. Brad suggested the other non-business meeting members can potentially have a concurrent meeting to discuss their recommendations for input on changes/enhancements to the product. The discussion could be facilitated and the recommendations documented for presentation to the RADBUG and Bridge Task Force. A presentation could also be included in the agenda for this breakout meeting. TF requested a time slot to have a brainstorming session on the modernization ideas. Though the scope will be

developed in the fall, but TF will have enough ideas to start a dialog. Tim said that during voting on the enhancements, the UG should consider that some of the enhancements will be better taken care of during the modernization process and recoding of the product. RADBUG voting will be handled in the same manner as it has been handled in the past.

Fundamental and advanced trainings will be offered at the RADBUG. Baker will develop the training format and provide the training during the meeting.

Agenda topics were discussed in detail and time slots were appropriately arranged. The call ended at 3:21 PM.

Agenda Item 10: Work Plan

10a. Modernization Work Plan – Phase 2

Baker presented phase 2 draft 2 of Project Work Plan (modernization design). Some background of the modernization plan that started in March 2013 was provided to the new TF members. Developers & TF members met Professor Anthony Lattanze of Carnegie Melon University in August 2013 to discuss modernization WP. 2nd Workshop with Prof. Lattanze was held in March 2014. There will be some money (\$38k) leftover from the phase 1 that will be requested to carry forward to FY15. SCOJD approval will be needed.

Todd Thompson pointed out that the constraints included on page 2 of the WP under 1.5 Constraints can impact the schedule and hence it should be included in the project schedule. On a question from Judy, Baker said that they are looking into staffing needs and the modernization project will not have any bearing on the development plan.

Judy recommended to add project outcomes to the project work plan. Task Force members were requested to review draft 2 of the work plan by



June 18, 2014 and send their comments, if any to Baker.

The Task Force made the decision to schedule a meeting in July 2014, in Pittsburgh (Baker's offices) to critically review the entire enhancement list and make decisions on which of these need to be prioritized to remain as an enhancement going forward. The Task Force agreed to include up to four BrDR TAG members in the prioritization meeting (two with BrD experience and two with BrR experience). The goal is to have the scope decisions made in the near term to support the distribution of the Modernization Solicitation by the end of calendar year 2014. Dean will be making the arrangements for the meeting.

Judy briefly explained how the solicitation for BrM 5.2 was accomplished. The states which committed funds were requested to pay their commitment over a two year period (FY13-FT14). A similar solicitation model could be established for the BrDR Modernization effort. The Task Force can also request FHWA to grant permission to states to use SPR money.

Tom Saad is hopeful that the approval for the use of SPR funds to support BrDR modernization efforts will go through smoothly.

In the October 2014 Task Force meeting, a discussion will take place on the fate of current application enhancements during transition and after the modernization completion. The contractor will prepare an initial draft of the Solicitation documents (as a component of the Modernization Phase 2 project) by November 2014.

10b. Planning Estimates

No discussion.

10c. Future Work Plans

No discussion.

Agenda Item 11: FHWA Update

Tom Saad provided the FHWA update which is included below:

New Director, FHWA Office of Bridges and Structures

Dr. Joey Hartmann, FHWA Bridge and Tunnel Team Leader, was recently named the new Director of the FHWA Office of Bridges and Structures, a position that opened with Myint Lwin's retirement in September 2013. Tom Everett, FHWA Bridge Program Team Leader, was announced as the new Director of the Office of Program Administration.

FHWA webinar, Load Rating for SHVs

On March 12, 2014, FHWA hosted a webinar to provide clarification on the need to load rate bridges for Specialized Hauling Vehicles (SHVs) consistent with FHWA memorandum dated November 15, 2013 entitled Load Rating of Specialized Hauling Vehicles. A set Questions and Answers on this topic was disseminated during the webinar, and to FHWA Division offices to aid in providing clarity in this requirement. The Q&As are intended to provide clarification and further guidance on the approach FHWA will use to oversee bridge load ratings as they relate to SHVs. Please be reminded to include the evaluation of SHVs in the load rating process, as necessary, since these vehicles comply with all Formula B requirements and are considered legal to operate in every State.

Webinar Series on Earthquake Planning and Response

A series of "Earthquake Planning and Response Tools" webinars has been organized by the Federal Highway Administration, the United States Geological Survey, and California Department of Transportation. The purpose of these webinars is to familiarize emergency managers, planners, and responders, engineers,



and transportation planners with two software tools: Risks due to Earthquake Damage to Roadway Systems (REDARS) and ShakeCast. The two software programs are available to State Departments of Transportations for mitigating the impacts of major earthquakes to highway infrastructure and for determining areas most in need of immediate response following an event. Both tools analyze vulnerability of bridges relative to ground shaking, each focusing on delivering products tailored to meet a specific use case. Session 1 was held March 5, 2014, to provide an overview of the tools available to States for earthquake planning & response. Session 2 was hosted on March 19, 2014, on REDARs and session 3 on ShakeCast will be held April 2, 2014.

Upcoming NHI Load Rating training

FHWA/NHI course no. 130092, Load and Resistance Factor Rating of Highway Bridges was hosted by the New Jersey DOT on March 4-7 and will be hosted in Minneapolis, MN on April 8-11 and April 28- May 1.

Agenda Item 12: Five Year Projection for BrDR

Discussion was deferred.

Agenda Item 13: Licensing Issues

13a. International Licenses

No discussion.

13b. Special Consultant Option Licensees

No discussion.

Agenda Item 14: Marketing Activities

14a. Alaska

Baker provided an overview of the email conversation with the Alaska DOT.

14b. KYTC

KYTC is considering using Midas software. KYTC sent an email on March 26, 2014 inquiring about the cost of AASHTOWare BrDR software. They

were interested in securing licensing information in case they made the decision to compare bridge design and rating software options.

14c. PennDOT

PennDOT provided Baker with curved girder with heavy skew bridge data to perform an analysis of the structure using AASHTOWare Bridge Rating. Baker forwarded their analysis results to PennDOT on March 24. One of the required deliverables was 'lateral flange moments' which are not currently available in our standard reports.

Agenda Item 15: Review Action Item list from this meeting

Amjad and Judy reviewed the action items recorded during the meeting.

Agenda Item 16: Task Force Executive Session (as needed)

The BrDR Five Year Plan was discussed briefly during executive session. No discussion was held.

At the end of the last TF meeting as the Chair, Tim Armbrrecht thanked all TF members for their hard work. Tim said he enjoyed working with all members of the TF.

The meeting was adjourned on June 12, 2014 at 4:47 PM.

