

**Summary Minutes Of The  
AASHTOWare Bridge Design-Rating (BrDR) Task Force Meeting  
October 26 - 28, 2020  
Secaucus, NJ (Virtual)**

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

Date: Monday, October 26, 2020

### Participants:

AASHTO	Judy Tarwater	AASHTO	Project Manager
SCOA	Tim Armbrecht	SCOA	SCOA Liaison
	Tim Jennings	AASHTO	T&AA
BrDR Task Force	Todd Thompson	South Dakota DOT	Chair
	Mark Bucci	Louisiana DOTD	Bridge Design (BrD)
	Michael Johnson	Idaho TD	Bridge Rating (BrR)
	Jeff Ruby	Kansas DOT	Bridge Design (BrD)
	Tom Saad	FHWA	FHWA Liaison
	Vinacs Vinayagamoorthy	California DOT	Bridge Rating (BrR)
BrDR Contractor	Herman Lee	ProMiles	BrDR Contractor
	Geoff Trees	ProMiles	BrDR Contractor
	Tim Pilcher	ProMiles	BrDR Contractor
BrM Task Force	Beckie Curtis	Michigan DOT	Bridge Management

Notes Taker: Judy Tarwater and Vinacs Vinayagamoorthy.

### Agenda Item 0: Review Agenda/Assign Minutes

#### Recorder

Todd Thompson opened the meeting at 1:00pm. The agenda was reviewed and no additional agenda items were added at this time.

### Agenda Item 1: Prior Business

#### 1a. Review August Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the August 7, 2020 Virtual Task Force Meeting (New Orleans, LA) were reviewed. The meeting minutes were approved as-is.

#### 1b. Review Action Items

Vinacs reviewed the Action Items and provided updates to the Task Force.

### Agenda Item 2: Financial Overview and Work

#### Plan Summary

#### 2a. Update of the FY2021 MSE Work Plan

ProMiles provided an update of the FY2021 MSE work plan budget as of 09/30/20.

#### 2b. Update Modernization Phase 4 Work Plan

ProMiles provided an update of the BrDR Modernization work plan budget as of 09/30/20. Development is expected to be completed in early December. One additional beta testing cycle is planned. Supplemental Beta Testing is underway. Supplemental beta testing areas are focused on the BrDR features that are not typically tested by the agency volunteers.

### Agenda Item 3: Update on BrDR Licenses (FY2021)

#### 3a. Product Report

Judy Tarwater presented a product license summary report developed from the Excel output from AASHTOWare Manager. The report included licenses ordered as of 10/20/2020.



Item	FY19	FY20	FY21	
Bridge Design - 120-Day Evaluation License	2	4	2	
Bridge Design Developer License	1	2	2	
Bridge Design Educational License	12	9	11	
Bridge Design Single Workstation Option	4	7	6	
Bridge Design Special Consultant Option	31	35	32	
Bridge Design Unlimited Option (Members)	16	17	17	
Bridge Design Unlimited Option (Non-Members)	0	0	0	
Bridge Design/Rating Service Units	38	106	43	
<b>Bridge Rating - 120-Day Evaluation License</b>				
Bridge Rating - 120-Day Evaluation License	6	8	7	
Bridge Rating Agency Sponsored Consultant Licenses	4	4	4	ILDOT, MIDOT, OHDOT, VADOT
Bridge Rating Developer License	7	7	4	
Bridge Rating Educational License	13	9	11	
Bridge Rating Single Workstation Option	26	27	30	
Bridge Rating Special Consultant Option	358	382	326	
Bridge Rating Unlimited Option (Members)	35	37	34	*
Bridge Rating Unlimited Option (Non-Members)	12	16	17	**
Consultant/Developer Extended Support	0	0	1	Pickering Firm, Inc.
Sponsored Consultant Licenses (Bridge Rating) - No Fee	119	137	104	ILDOT
Sponsored Consultant Licenses (Bridge Rating) - No Fee	94	106	86	MIDOT
Sponsored Consultant Licenses (Bridge Rating) - No Fee	99	106	89	OHDOT
Sponsored Consultant Licenses (Bridge Rating) - No Fee	78	78	75	VADOT
PGSuper Professional	3	4	5	KDOT, MassDOT, ORDOT,

Item	FY19	FY20	FY21	
				Caltrans(2)
BridgeLink Professional	2	2	2	ITD, MSDOT

\* Have not received orders for NJTA, SDDOT, and WVDOT

\*\* Added Collins Engineers, Gannett Fleming, & Modjeski and Masters

United Consulting dropped BrR Unlimited (ordered 6 Special Consultant Option licenses for FY21 - INDOT)

### 3b. Service Unit Report

ProMiles presented the service unit summary report. 3c. Evaluation Software  
The current summary of BrDR software evaluations was reviewed.

## **Agenda Item 4: Support and Maintenance Report**

### 4a. Incident and Report Summary

ProMiles presented the Defect History Report through release 6.8.4. Seventy-five (75) new defects have been added since the Task Force meeting in June 2020. The total number of defects reported were 2790. Currently, 2613 defects have been resolved; 177 defects are unresolved (165 are high priority, 12 are low priority). None of the unresolved issues are urgent or critical.

### 4b. Progress on Bug Resolution

ProMiles presented the BrDR Maintenance Progress Report. As of 10/25/20, 427 bugs have been reported. 250 of the reported bugs have been resolved and the remaining 177 have been assigned. (The total number of bugs reported in June was 275. The large increase of bug reporting is due to the increased focus on testing made



possible through the supplemental testing effort.)

**4c. Enhancement List Update**

ProMiles presented an update on the Enhancement List.

Two (2) additional enhancements have been added to the BrDR Enhancement List since the June Task Force meeting.

Technical	BSSD-2620	BrR Culvert Specifications	On Call
Useability	BSSD-2663	Both Variables and Formulas for Input	(Acceptance Build)

The TAG Enhancement Bucket contains all the BrDR Enhancements by category. There has been no changes to this list since the last Task Force meeting

**4d. Maintenance Issues**

No Discussion.

**Agenda Item 5: Modernization**

**5a. Project Update and Schedule Review**

ProMiles advised that additional test bridges have been provided by the following states: Alabama, Illinois, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, South Dakota, and West Virginia.

Tasks were assigned to the supplemental testing team members to ensure all bridge types are tested. ProMiles is managing the testing process, making determinations on the breadth and depth of testing required for each bridge. Testing team members document and forward issues identified to the development team. Issues which impact the testing process are given higher priority to ensure the issue is resolved sooner than later, to allow the testing process to proceed.

**5b. Beta Testing Update**

ProMiles provided the following beta testing schedule.

Beta Testing	Schedule	BBTSD Issues
Beta 6	06/02/20 – 07/17/20	35
Beta 7	08/28/20 – 09/25/20	100
Beta 8	10/09/20 – 11/06/20	20
On Call	12/04/20 – 12/18/20	
	Beta Testing TAG to give acceptance direction by 12/23/20	

The Task Force discussed the issue of more than one tester finding and documenting the same issue, not knowing the issue has already been reported by another tester. To resolve the issue, an automated build process has been developed to fix issues and regenerate the build (for internal developer use). ProMiles is looking to make this internal release process available to some members of the Testing TAG. (The internal automated build is currently made available for members with the Unlimited License credentials.) ProMiles will have the Acceptance Build completed by early-December.

**Agenda Item 6: TAG Updates**

**6a. Modernization TAG**

No additional discussion.

**6b. Culvert TAG**

Mike Johnson advised that he has received interest from the BrDR community in the establishment of the Culvert TAG. The Culvert TAG members are:

Johnson, Michael	Idaho TD, Chair	michael.johnson@itd.idaho.gov
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Boehler, Ruben	Illinois DOT	Ruben.boehler@illinois.gov
Curtis, Beckie	Michigan DOT	Curtisr4@michigan.gov
Michael Hagos	Manitoba	Michael.hagos@gov.mb.ca
Jones, Daniel	Alabama DOT	jonesdan@dot.state.al.us
Silverstrim, Damian	AI Engineers	dsilverstrim@aiengineers.com
Stauts, Darren	California DOT	Darren.r.stauts@dot.ca.gov

The Culvert TAG will begin their focus on comparing the spreadsheets from Ohio, Connecticut, and Michigan (modifications to the Ohio spreadsheet).

### 6c. Reports TAG

Vinacs advised that the Reports TAG (13 members) has had four meetings to date. Though the current software allows to generate different reports, reports are disjointed; as a result, a user may not be able to generate reports easily and quickly. The TAG has discussed the needs of the design engineers, rating engineers, and permit routing engineers. A draft list of changes to the reporting function has been developed. A Reports Tool is envisioned.

The Reports Tool would be implemented as a separate ribbon in the BrDR user interface. The following items would be included in the ribbon: Report Settings, Input Data Report, Analysis Report, Design Report, Load Rating Report, and Report Creation Tool. To accomplish this modernized report feature, additional modification/improvement to the software is needed. The TAG plans to share the concept with ProMiles discuss the feasibility of developing mockup and cost estimate.

## Agenda Item 7: Miscellaneous Topics

### 7a. Process to Manage BrDR Enhancement Requests

The Task Force discussed the need to get a handle on the ever-growing BrDR enhancement list.

Based on the enhancement list from the June 2020 BrDR Task Force meeting, there are 653 enhancement requests pending in Jira. These requests range from technical enhancements to interface usability and were submitted for consideration ranging from August 2013 through today. Over time, this enhancement list has reached a point where it has become very difficult to manage. As a result, there are many entries that are either no longer valid due to them having been addressed with a more modern release of the software, a duplicate entry, or will no longer be applicable due to the upcoming release of 7.0.

In an effort to reduce the backlog of enhancements, and make the list more manageable for the voting member agencies, Mark Bucci presented a list of recommendations for maintaining the enhancement backlog going forward.

### 7b. BrDR Jira TAG

Discussion deferred until January Task Force meeting.

### 7c. Regression Test Utility / Results Comparison Tool

Vinacs Vinayagamoorthy, Mark Bucci, and Mike Johnson have been working to develop detailed requirements for features to be included in the Regression Test Utility (utility for analysis result comparison). The testing utility would be a tool which resides outside of the BrDR system and as



such can be delivered independent of the 7.0 and 7.1 releases. The tool would be used to compare the analysis results from two different versions of the modernized BrDR system (7.0 and beyond).

#### 7d. Improvement needed for Subsystem to Modernize Report Tool

ProMiles discussed making changes to have data serialized to make the data more accessible to the user. This topic will be discussed in more detail during the January 2021 Task Force meeting.

#### 7e. Proposed Load Rating Tool Enhancements

Mike Johnson and ProMiles held a conference call on 10/06/20 to discuss proposed load rating tool enhancements. Several states were represented on the call. Alabama and Mississippi have reported that while running the load rating tool, they are unable to get past error notifications to complete the analysis cycle. ProMiles is following up with these states to resolve their issues in running the tool.

During the conference call the group also discussed developing a generic influence line rating option (based on structure capacities). All of the attendees were in favor of this as a future enhancement; however, this enhancement is a lower priority (i.e. lower priority than the LRFR enhancement).

Trusses and generic structure types will not be included in the enhancements to the Load Rating Tool. During the call Indiana DOT volunteered to champion the LRFR effort. Virginia, Indiana, Louisiana, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Ohio, and Idaho have all expressed an interest in adding LRFR to the Load Rating Tool. ProMiles also advised that the permitting organization within

ProMiles might be interested in also contributing funding to support this effort.

#### Agenda Item 8: BrDR Strategic Directions

No Discussion.

#### Agenda Item 9: Proposed BrDR SaaS Offering

ProMiles presented a proposal for a Cloud Based Service for BrDR Data (to store and access bridge data). REST services, including service versioning, would be used in the offering and the offering would be consistent with T&AA recommendations for this service. Hosting costs will likely be based on the number of bridge assets in the user's inventory.

The Task Force discussed several aspects of the proposed service, including

- how the services would be implemented
- how the services would be ordered (by the user)
- what data would be cached locally

#### Agenda Item 10: Enhancements

No Discussion.

#### Agenda Item 11: User Group

##### 11a. Summary Minutes from the August Task Force Meeting

The summary minutes for the August BrDR Task Force Virtual (New Orleans, LA) were provided. Judy Tarwater will post these on the SharePoint site for Task Force review and comment. Once in final form, the summary minutes will be forwarded to David Schroeder (RADBUG Secretary) for posting on the RADBUG website.

##### 11b. BrDR Survey Responses – Open Discussion

The Survey was open to the BrDR community July 1 – 17, 2020. 135 responses were received, 70



member state agencies (from 29 different member states), 9 local agencies, 0 U.S. agencies, and 56 consultants.

Six (6) responses from	New York
Five (5) responses from	Massachusetts
Three (3) responses from	Arizona, Texas
Two (2) responses from	Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Manitoba, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah
One (1) response from	California, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

**Agenda Item 12: Work Plans**

**12a. 7.1 Work Plan Discussion**

7.1 development would begin in December 2020. 7.1.0 would be delivered in June/July 2021 and 7.1.1 would be delivered in November 2021.

ProMiles provided the following ‘roadmap’ of BrDR enhancements to be incorporated into future releases.

**11c. Follow-up with BrDR Survey Respondents**

Several of the BrDR Survey respondents (13) were contacted by the Task Force/ProMiles and the results reviewed by the task force.

**11d. Follow-up on RADBUG Non-Member Discussion**

No Discussion.





Task	Description	Source	Benefit	BrDR 7.1 Jun 21 Release	BrDR 7.1.1 Dec 21 Release	BrDR 7.2 Jun 22 Release
1	<b>FP 1</b> Prestressed Concrete Design Tool Phase 2	TF	BrD		x	
2	<b>FP 2</b> Steel Design Tool	TF, RIPI	BrD		x	
3	<b>FP 25</b> AASHTO Timber Engine for ASR and LRFR	TF	BrR			
4	<b>FP 38</b> Allow user to specify custom file paths for various output	TF	Both	x		
5	<b>FP 36</b> BrM Web Service Integration	RIPI	BrR	x		
6	<b>FP 3</b> BRDRSUP-1619 Schedule based RC I beam with post tensioning	CA 1, MS	BrR	x		
7	<b>FP 4</b> BRDRSUP-1620 Phi factor for moment MCB PT	CA 2	BrR	x		
8	<b>FP 5</b> BRDRSUP-1621 LLDF for one or two cell box girder bridges	CA 3	Both	x		
9	<b>FP 6</b> BRDRSUP-1622 Limiting lever rule on single lane	CA 4	Both	x		
10	<b>FP 7</b> BRDRSUP-1623 Limit applicability range values to lever rule	CA 5	Both	x		
11	<b>FP 8</b> BRDRSUP-938 User-defined load distribution (DC2) to MCB webs	CA 6	Both	x		
12	<b>FP 9</b> BRDRSUP-1624 Establish LLDF using full box case	CA 7	Both	x		
13	<b>FP 10</b> BRDRSUP-936 Difference in skew between adjacent supports override	CA 10	Both	x		
14	<b>FP 11</b> BRDRSUP-1627 Range of applicability for slabs	CA 11	Both	x		
15	<b>FP 12</b> BRDRSUP-1628 Report writer for girder-floorbeam-stringer systems	CA 12	BrR	x		
16	<b>FP 13</b> BRDRSUP-695 Analyze local web yielding and local web crippling for steel beam ends	MTAG 1	Both			x
17	<b>FP 14</b> BRDRSUP-1029 LLDF for steel beam-timber deck	MTAG 3	Both			x
18	<b>FP 15</b> VI 9313 Steel channel for exterior girders	MTAG 4	Both			x
19	<b>FP 16</b> BRDRSUP-581 Hinges in girder floor systems	MTAG 5	BrR			x
20	<b>FP 17</b> BRDRSUP-641 Model section loss in PS girders	MTAG 6	BrR			x
21	<b>FP 18</b> BRDRSUP-728 and 1435 Girder profile schematic for cross-section based members	MTAG 7	Both			x
22	<b>FP 19</b> VI 11366 Cover plates on both surfaces of flange	MTAG 9	Both			x
23	<b>FP 20</b> BRDRSUP-1444 Slab section schematic including reinforcing steel	MTAG 10	Both			x
24	<b>FP 21</b> BRDRSUP-1431 Show PS strands on girder profile schematic	MTAG 11	Both			x
25	<b>FP 22</b> BRDRSUP-1436 Option to account for 100% section loss	MTAG 12	BrR			x
26	<b>FP 23</b> BRDRSUP-97 Allow MPF reduction due to low ADTT	MTAG 13	Both			x
27	<b>FP 24</b> BRDRSUP-732 Rate culverts with variable thickness slabs and walls	MTAG 14	Both			x
28	<b>FP 26</b> Report TAG Recommendation: 1 and 2	RTAG	Both			
29	<b>FP 27</b> Report TAG Recommendation: 3, 4, 9 and 21	RTAG	Both			
30	<b>FP 28</b> Report TAG Recommendation: 5 and 8	RTAG	Both			
31	<b>FP 29</b> Report TAG Recommendation: 6	RTAG	Both			
32	<b>FP 30</b> Report TAG Recommendation: 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17	RTAG	Both			



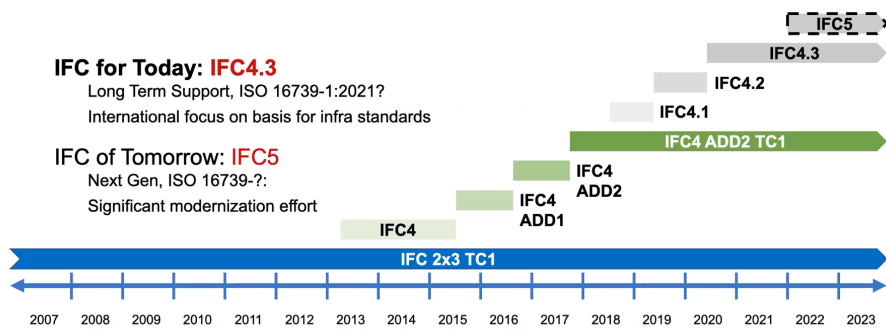
Task	Description	Source	Benefit	BrDR 7.1 Jun 21 Release	BrDR 7.1.1 Dec 21 Release	BrDR 7.2 Jun 22 Release
33	FP 31 Report TAG Recommendation: 15	RTAG	Both			
34	FP 32 Report TAG Recommendation: 24	RTAG	BrR			
35	FP 33 Report TAG Recommendation: 25	RTAG	BrR			
36	FP 34 User Requested Enhancements	UG	Both			x
37	FP 35 BRDRSUP-553 3D analysis for superstructure with hinges	IL	Both	x		
38	FP 37 Load Rating Tool's Permit Analysis Settings	MN	BrR	x		
39	Allow user to log into BrDR with Active Directory accounts	TF	Both			x
40	Rating Tool LRFR MCB, LRFR Multi-girder (RC, PS, Steel)	UG	BrR			x
41	Support Oracle Container database	TF	Both	x		
42	Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) modeling and LRFR analysis - Ballpark estimate	UG	BrR			x
43	IFC Converter Tool - BrDR API and UI Integration (Export only)	TF	Both			
44	IFC Implementation - BrDR API and UI Integration (Import and Export)	TF	Both		x	
45	IFC Converter Tool - IFC 4.3 (Export only)	TF	Both			
46	API License Mechanism	TF	Both	x		

ProMiles advised that the IFC version recommended by the buildingSMART coalition is IFC 4.3. Since the IFC 4.3 requirements are not yet available, IFC development will not be included in the original 7.1 Work Plan. ProMiles

will propose a contract mod in the April 2021 time frame to incorporate development work to support IFC 4.3.

## TPF-5(372) Update

### IFC4.3 vs. IFC5



### **Agenda Item 13: FHWA Update**

Tom Saad provided the following FHWA update.

FHWA launched the Bridge and Tunnel Inspection Critical Finding Databases (CFD), required by 23 U.S.C. 144(h), in June of this year. Reporting is due April 30, July 31, October 31 and January 31 each CY. FHWA is currently completing reporting for the second quarter, October 31 and some updates to the process are needed; the Critical Findings Database User Manual is being updated. While the responsibility for reporting critical bridge and tunnel findings and dispositions in the responsibility of FHWA Division Bridges Engineers, each Division works closely with their State DOT partners in defining the critical deficiencies that are being tracked. It is anticipated that this database will assist in identifying common challenges in maintaining highway bridges that can be addressed by modifying design, construction and operations practices.

FHWA has recently updated the National Highway Institute (NHI) Course No. 130092, *Load and Resistance Factor Rating of Highway Bridges*, to bring the course up-to-date with MBE revisions that have been adopted in recent years and to add content on gusset plate, culvert and timber bridge load ratings, among other content. With travel restrictions due to COVID19, NHI has postponed the delivery of a number of these 4-day instructor led courses. In the meantime, NHI is considering offering the course, virtually, if States request the training in a virtual format. Please contact [Thomas.saad@dot.gov](mailto:Thomas.saad@dot.gov) if your agency is interested in hosting this 4-day course, virtually. You may track the availability of courses and open seats at <https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/course->

[search?tab=0&key=130092&res=1](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge-search?tab=0&key=130092&res=1). Additionally, you can find excellent Reference Manuals that coincide with many of the FHWA NHI Course curriculum for bridge design and analysis engineers at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge>.

The FHWA Office of Bridges and Structures will host a load rating webinar on November 12, 2020. The title for this webinar is *Recent Researches to Support Improvement to VDOT's Bridge Load Rating Program*. This will be the 31<sup>st</sup> webinar in the FHWA Bridge Load Rating Webinar Series with the objective to provide awareness and share state of practice, lessons learned and available resources. In this webinar, we will highlight recent researches conducted by VDOT to better understand issues faced by Virginia and help improve VDOT's bridge load rating program. You may register for the webinar at:

<https://collaboration.fhwa.dot.gov/dot/fhwa/WC/Lists/Seminars/DispForm.aspx?ID=2599>

Previous webinars are recorded and available at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/loadrating/>.

The FHWA's Office of Bridges and Structures recently awarded a contract to compile and develop bridge load rating best practices in a project entitled *Advancing Bridge Load Rating: Best Practices and Model Frameworks*. Over the past decades, as States strive to meet the regulatory requirement for bridge rating and posting, they have been constantly improving their state of practice. States have aggregated high-quality load capacity data and computer models for their bridge network. The data and models constitute precious digital assets to manage and operate the bridge network. The power, functionality and efficiency of bridge rating computer software has improved, along with other technological advances in automated



rating and load permitting and routing. Use of Weight-in-Motion (WIM), advanced sensor and sensing technologies in highway load characterization and bridge performance monitoring is growing. This project will capture current best practices in load rating and look forward to identify opportunities for bridge owners to most effectively utilize the data that results from bridge load rating to build advanced load rating programs.

**Agenda Item 14: Five Year Projection for BrDR**

No Discussion. Will be discussed in executive session following the Joint Bridge Task Force meeting on October 28, 2020.

**Agenda Item 15: Licensing Issues**

**15a. Third-party Add-ons**

No Discussion.

**15b. Design Tools**

No Discussion.

**15c. AASHTOWare License Fee Strategies and Customer Success Roadmap**

No Discussion.

**Agenda Item 16: BrDR Modernization Quarterly Status Report**

ProMiles presented the draft BrDR Modernization Quarterly Status Report.

**Agenda Item 17: Review Action Item list from this meeting**

Judy Tarwater read the action items recorded during the meeting.

**Agenda Item 18: Task Force Executive Session (as needed)**

No Executive Session. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.

