AASHTO Subcommittee on Right of Way, Utilities and Outdoor Advertising

Technical Council for Utility Mapping, SUE and GIS

Meeting Minutes and Notes

November 6th 2013 (12:30-1:30pmET)

Introductions and Technical Council Objectives – By Vice Chair, John Krause FDOT

Roll Call During roll call Mr. Krause asked each member to indicate their area of interest. Either Utilities, SUE, R/W, GIS or All. Attendee's names and area of interest were recorded. Those not on the original list or substituting for others were asked to submit their contact information.

Meeting Objective John Krause displayed the meeting objective on the screen and summarized the objective is to gather ideas, from DOT's throughout the country to guide the subcommittee and make future recommendations in time for the annual AASHTO meeting.

Open Discussion

John Krause (JK): Encouraged the technical council to begin an open discussion of ideas, issues, and interests. He kicked off the discussion with examples and a review of "What FDOT is doing" especially research efforts related to CADD/GIS interoperability and data modeling.

John mentioned that FDOT funded researched by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute to investigated and reported ways to perform CAD/GIS interoperability and model data. Based on the research FDOT is beginning to implement some of the recommendations. Also Bentley has developed a new work flow that promotes CAD features to GIS features.

> Jim: Are states starting to build a central repository for this data?
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> JK: Could be in the future, currently the FDOT focus is on r/w parcels and the next one is underground utilities
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> Jesse C: Consultants want access to our utility information, but this raises security concerns, liability, and legal issues.
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> JK: Agree, example in FDOT, bridge data is exempt from open record requests. Also the systems can be designed to include data access controls.
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> Nelson: Utility permitting in CADD format or other?
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> JK: We are moving from paper format to electronic/digital submission. We need the geospatial component to tie data together.
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> Nelson: Is there a push to require standard format to accomplish delivery goals? Maryland is considering requiring a GIS permit format.
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> Rod McDaniel: Number 1, is AASHTO advancing any security or data storage recommendations and Number 2, how are other DOT's doing the storage for the utility data? Rod feels Utah has the legislative issue covered but the data storage issue is unresolved.
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> Member: Asked if any states have a SUE system.
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> Greta: AASHTO does not have those recommendations at this time. Survey questions could be sent to her and she will distribute the survey to the members.
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> Jesse C: Since 2005 Texas has used a pdf format for plans that includes the Lat/Long coordinates. They have 80,000 permits in the online permitting system with more than 200 users and are starting to experience

technical issues such as access time and system overload.   More and more engineers want to see and query the data.

Kenny F: Indiana has an electronic permitting system with references to mile markers. Has color coded GIS layers but the layers are not as-built from vendors and have no vertical component. Their system is designed for internal users only. The public does not access the system. The system can link to permits.

Member: Relocation jobs are hard to include since they use pdf documents in which the data is not easy to add to the GIS.

JK: Suggests the discussion move to the recommendation part of the meeting.

Recommendation Discussion

JK: Are any other states doing data mining?

JK: What are you doing about best practices and standards?

Greta: Also we should look at common standards to include all, like design as well as utilities etc. Greta mentioned the piece meal approach verse the national approach.

JK: FDOT looks at the buried utilities from an emergency standpoint as well, for example after a storm, how can we identify those utilities that can be dangerous.

INDOT: Is there any national initiative regarding security and/or legal issues?

Greta: Well since we have both public and private entities involved this is a difficult issue.

Nelson: Pipes ACT? (2002) within Maryland utilities have to supply information using a design ticket, but no standard format has been established at this time so they receive multiple formats.

JK: Utility companies have varying amounts of leverage on this.

John, InfraMap: Data is incomplete, the committee needs to take a stand on the design process for utility information (SUE). Since the data is essential and a system should be implemented.

JK: We do PD&E that involve more SUE work, but needs to be standardized to include a standard format for delivery to facilitate import into GIS for management decision making.

Member: Does AASHTO have a collaboration web site where the team can share information? Greta searching online and then said currently this technical council does not, but we could request one and they may be able to provide a portal.

Edgar K: The institute is working with Nelson to match utility information and integrate data. Maryland has some good project examples. Edgar also mentioned that Florida is a good example to look at for data integration using data models and tools for data integration.

Jesse C: Texas has created a 5 year vision for a perfect working system. It includes dollars, level of effort, and other items. He suggested a help desk system be in place to handle both public and utility company requests, also consider that our way of doing business is changing.

 JK: Referred to the milk delivery analogy his boss uses. Our system of doing business is changing quickly and we need to change to be efficient.

JK: Discusses the FDOT Aerial Photo Look Up System APLUS and how this delivery system has changed an manual method to an automated system. This system is in fact moving to its second web based version. It has aerial photos from the 1940's that the public can download and view online.

John, InfraMap: Comments that accuracy needs to be part of the equation and ensure completeness of data.

JK: Mentioned that quality levels are a good way to define accuracy levels. This is how Georgia handles accuracy issues.

Gary: Commented on a national study program called Sharp2, it should fold well into the committee concerns.

JK: What are the existing state status for SUE data?

JK: Meeting was concluded, John thanked everyone and again requested information be sent to AASHTO/JK.

END of Meeting (1:30pm)