

Subcommittee Teleconference Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 23 November 2010 / 2:00 – 3:00pm EST

Present on Call - SOFMA Leadership

Betty Conners (SOFMA Chair)
Chelley Hilmes (SOFMA Vice Chair)
Joung Lee (AASHTO)
Bud McDonald (AASHTO)
Elissa Konove (FHWA)

Present on Call - Member Departments

Alabama, Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, D.C., Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington State, Wisconsin

Minutes

After Chair Conners' opening remarks, Elissa Konove, the Chief Financial Officer of FHWA, thanked everyone for the questions they have been sending in through the Subcommittee. Ms. Konove said that questions have been coming in from FHWA's division offices, and they have been updating the Q&A's site to accommodate those.

The questions that had been sent in along with others posed during the call were then discussed, with Ms. Konove providing answers. See the other attached document for these Q & A's.

Ms. Konove said that OMB can make themselves available if there is a future teleconference to help answer questions. AASHTO will reach out to OMB to try and arrange that.

After the portion of the call with Ms. Konove was concluded, the issues with the USASpending.gov web site were discussed. One comment was made regarding the security for registering, and that anyone that wants to misrepresent, they have the authority to report as long as they have the DUNS number. Additionally, there was concern about only seeing projects from FHWA in there, and not from other modes. A call was made to the Help Desk regarding the latter issue, and they indicated that none of the other entities have filed the first award update for any state into their system, other than NTTSA and the Safety Office, who shared the same two contract numbers.

Another comment was made about whether there will be an option to move files that do not need reporting from the worklist folder to somewhere else, or if they will always stay in the worklist.

A comment was made regarding if there was a way to send site design suggestions to OMB. Joung Lee said that when the notes from this call and the Q&A's are circulated, AASHTO can also put in a call to state DOTs asking for any system design and data-related suggestions, and a compilation can be made of those to send over to USASpending.gov/OMB.

Chair Betty Conners said that as a Subcommittee, they would like to ask the states which topics to cover in the future.

A question was asked about what should be done if a project is not in the system. A remark was made that the Help Desk said that there is nothing a state can do to put a project in the system; they have to wait for the federal partner to put it in. There have been no signs of penalties regarding noncompliance, so that is perhaps related to this fact.

Chair Conners thanked the states for joining and the call was adjourned.