

Subcommittee Teleconference on FMIS 5.0 Notes

Thursday 16 October 2014 / 2:00 pm EST

Present on Call - SOFMA Leadership/FHWA/AASHTO

Chelley Hilmes (SOFMA Chair), Robin Naitove (SOFMA Vice Chair), Elissa Konove (FHWA), Joung Lee (AASHTO), Bud McDonald (AASHTO)

Present on Call - Member Departments

Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Notes

Elissa Konove, Chief Financial Officer of the Federal Highway Administration, pointed everyone to the memo sent to FHWA Division Administrators (and passed to SOFMA members) on October 15 that provides an update on where FHWA is regarding a re-baselining of the schedule for FMIS 5.0 implementation. They are planning to go into production in early CY 2015. In the re-baselining, they are taking into account all of the issues that have been identified through testing, and they are still working to be sure they have all the critical fixes addressed. FHWA plans to have the analysis and scheduling activities completed in the next few weeks, and that will determine the revised "Go Live" date. Ms. Konove noted that the FHWA Office of Policy is sponsoring/leading a pooled fund study to assist states meet the requirement to map projects for the FHWA HPMS network.

Q&A

Q: When a state identifies a defect and logs it on FHWA's web site, no communication is received in response (if it was a defect and fixed, data problem, etc.). Can there be an improvement in that communication?

A: Yes. They have been working on that. They use two channels of communication, one being a direct response, and the other is that release notes are being posted to the FMIS User News and Information Web Site that can be looked at to see if the issue has been addressed there. If a state does not get a resolution from either of those sources, they can contact Phil Troutman at phil.troutman@dot.gov.

Q: Florida DOT asked a question regarding not being able to put federal funds on a FMIS line that didn't already have federal or advance construction funds on it in FMIS 5.0. Their system was designed on the ability to do that, and if that ability is being taken away, they would like to know why and whether or not that change is being made so changes can be made to Florida's system if so.

A: One of the overarching approaches taken in designing FMIS 5.0 was trying to streamline the fields and data FHWA was collecting. Since the impact on state DOT business processes has been brought to their attention, this issue is among the critical issues being worked through, attempting to fix with the least impact to everyone. States will hear as soon as it is finalized, which FHWA is working to do as soon as possible.

Q: A question was asked regarding the geodata on coding, with FMIS 5.0 requiring geodata on every line of coding being very laborious. In the past, a state could designate projects that had many locations and mark it as statewide after hitting a certain number.

A: FHWA is pushing hard to find a workable solution for both themselves and state DOTs on this issue. Their business rules were programmed to attempt to map every dollar to improve and support the performance management and transparency of where federal highway funding is going.

Q: A topic came up in a recent webinar that there are two lists of priorities for FHWA: Priority Ones being those that would be implemented in concurrence with FMIS implementation and then Priority Twos for which everything else that was an issue to be addressed but not prior to implementation.

A: Anything that is a Priority 1 will be included in the initial FMIS 5.0 release. Addressing other less critical issues would extend the timeline greatly. FHWA can share with states the lists of Priority 1 requirements to be included in the initial release and Priority 2 requirements that would be included in subsequent releases.

Joung Lee of AASHTO said this will be an ongoing opportunity for dialogue with FHWA on a fairly regular basis. Ms. Konove said if there are issues in the interim more appropriate for this group compared to settings such as the EDS webinars, an e-mail can be sent to her.

The teleconference was adjourned.