
Subcommittee Teleconference on FMIS 5.0 Notes

Tuesday 29 July 2014 / 2:00 – 3:00pm EST

Present on Call - SOFMA Leadership

Chelley Hilmes (SOFMA Chair), Brenda Morris (SOFMA Secretary), Elissa Konove (FHWA)
Joung Lee (AASHTO), Bud McDonald (AASHTO)

Present on Call - Member Departments

California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana,
North Carolina, Oklahoma, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Notes

Ed Timpf from Michigan DOT gave a recap of the FMIS survey completed by SOFMA members, with the results previously sent out to subcommittee members. This included a number of various concerns. Only half of the respondents are confident they can meet the current October 1 implementation date.

FHWA CFO Elissa Konove said main goals for FHWA in this process include communication and outreach, so she appreciates opportunities such as this to speak to states. Guidance was initially released in November 2013, and adjustments were made in response to feedback received from states and other stakeholders, and the guidance was rereleased in May 2014. All modules are open for testing currently to all users besides for the Projects module which is open to select users. After the FHWA webinars conclude, they will be taking requests for one-on-one discussion for any remaining information needed.

A number of states on the call raised concern about the October 1 implementation deadline.

Comments/Questions & Answers

Q: How are PR numbers handled for projects in which there is a single point and not a range of PR numbers per segment?

A: That is an adjustment that will be made to the software, to allow for the beginning and ending mile point to be equal

Comment: Concern raised regarding the testing ending August 15

A: The testing environment will not close August 15 and will continue on. August 15 is the date by which FHWA needs to receive word of defects in order to get them fixed by October 1. (In response to additional concern being raised about that (for defects found after then), Ms. Konove said the focus up until August 15 is on finding the critical defects. The ability to perform key business processes is considered a critical element.)

- An additional concern was subsequently raised about there not being enough testing time if the October 1 implementation does occur.

Q: Is there any consideration being given to the October 1 implementation date being postponed?

A: That is what is being worked toward. Once Phase 2 of UAT is completed, they will evaluate the situation then (seeing how many issues have been worked through). September 1 is an approximate date for an FHWA decision on whether to go forward on the October 1 implementation.

Q: From Ms. Konove: What actions were being taken by states in response to the November 2013 guidance?

A: The November guidance was incomplete, not providing sufficient information to develop a schema.

Q: Is it a non-negotiable item regarding the new requirement of roads and bridges listing every location, as that will require specific business practices with implications for the state DOT?

A: Yes, it is new for FMIS collecting that info, but it is long-standing agency policy for location data to be collected through HPMS.

Q: Will there be a requirement to tie expenditures to location?

A: Not for the immediate future.

Q: If there is more than one location on an existing project modified, how is that going to be handled? Will the requirement be from that time forward or will the funding breakdown have to be reflected from existing funding/location?

A: If the funding is being increased or the location changed on a specific detail line, you would have to add geospatial information just for that detail line.

There will be a follow-up SOFMA teleconference with Ms. Konove before FHWA makes the decision on whether to go forward with the October 1 implementation.

Chair Hilmes thanked the states for joining. She requested that info coming from FHWA be shared directly rather than going through the regional offices, as that creates a minor delay and with the current time crunch. The call was adjourned.