
Subcommittee Teleconference on FMIS 5.0 and 2 CFR 200 Supercircular Notes

Thursday 11 December 2014 / 2:30 pm EST

Present on Call - SOFMA Leadership/FHWA/AASHTO

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

Present on Call - Member Departments

Alaska, California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, Wisconsin

Notes

FMIS

Elissa Konove, Chief Financial Officer of the Federal Highway Administration, pointed everyone to the memos passed on to SOFMA, which include the new Go Live date for FMIS 5.0 of April 13, 2015. Additionally, FHWA has provided dates for some key FMIS 5 milestones regarding topics such as development, User Acceptance Testing, reporting issues. FMIS 4 will be shut down for 10-14 days while the new environment is being set up and the data migrated. FHWA is finalizing a training schedule, to be released soon. Demos will occur to go along with the training.

Q&A/Comments on FMIS

Q: Is there a date set for the user manual to be released?

A: The user manual will be available with the training.

Q: The state guidance scheduled for release in mid-December is different than the user manual associated with the training?

A: Yes, the state guidance document will have the technical requirements that need to be updated for some of the modifications since the first round of UAT and to address those Priority 1 requirements. The user manual for training purposes will be related to entering data, and reviewing/approving obligations and expenditures.

Q: Is there a contingency plan in the case states have issues with entering some projects into the system?

A: One of the activities planned for February following training is the readiness assessments, which will be a more individual discussion between the division office and state. That would be the time that a contingency plan would be created if needed.

Comment: Response times from states sending in defects is still slow.

A: That has been a focus area. What has been identified is there are some defects that might be taking longer to work through for the solution. The state should be getting a fairly immediate

response back that the defect has been tracked/acknowledged. In the new year, FHWA will train team representatives for each region of the area, to serve as an intermediary and help with the responsiveness. Before that is set up, states should contact their division office if they are not getting a response after submitting a defect.

2 CFR 200 Supercircular

Ms. Konove said the guidance released on this subject outlines some key areas of impact that this OMB government-wide regulation will have. This crosses over into FMIS as FHWA will need to add a few new fields to collect the data required by the Supercircular.

Q&A/Comments on Supercircular

Comment: Clarification wanted on the new field related to Project End Date, which seems like an interim from FMIS 4 before FMIS 5, but needed by FMIS 5.

A: For now, because the requirements of the Supercircular go into effect as of Dec. 25, some method is needed to collect info. With being close to implementation on FMIS 5, FMIS 4 did not make sense. The interim solution is that FHWA is asking that the project end date be included in the 'State Remarks' field.

Comment: Clarification wanted on definition of 'Project End Date', and whether it is by project or by phase.

A: It is by project agreement (an agreement end date). If there are multiple phases within a particular project agreement, there will have to be one end date for the entire agreement. The date should be based on state procedures and project schedules...it is when all eligible costs have been incurred.

Q: How would a contractor claim/arbitration be treated if after the Project End Date?

A: As with any other term/condition in a project agreement, the Project End Date can be modified if there are certain circumstances that require a modification.

Q: For any changes to the Project End Date, would that require a formal justification in the State Remarks field?

A: FHWA is looking for justification, but has not decided how to go about that yet.

Q: The Supercircular requires an indirect cost rate on all subrecipient projects, correct?

A: If they want to claim an indirect cost, yes.

The next SOFMA call w/ Elissa Konove will be held early in the new year.

The teleconference was adjourned.