Round Table Discussion – Information Technology in DOTs
IHEEP 2009 – San Antonio, Texas
September 27, 2009
Facilitator: Dan Buhler, Manitoba DOT

1. Opening and Introductions:
   • Name and Position/Role in the DOT
   • Brief statement of an Engineering/IT project you are involved with

   – Dan Buhler, Manitoba MOT, IT Director (dan.buhler@gov.mb.ca) – IT Support / SharePoint
   – Dan Belcher, Michigan DOT, Design Services Manager (belcherd@mi.gov) – Engineering Support / Land Survey / ProjectWise
   – Tim Jennings, Texas DOT, Enterprise Application Manager (tjennings@dot.state.tx.us)
   – Steve Brown (old school Nebraska) (steve.brown@hdrinc.com)
   – Rande Robinson, North Carolina DOT, Technology Support Special Advisor (rjrobinson@ncdot.gov) – Engineering Support / Upgrade to V8i Switch
   – Jim Fisher, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Systems Engineer (jim.fisher@ky.gov) – Project Wise / Share Point
   – Frank Bushong, Texas DOT, Director of IT Architecture (fbushon@dot.state.tx.us) – SharePoint, Dashboards
   – Dean Wilkerson, Texas DOT, Engineering and Survey Solutions Support and Delivery Services Director (dwilker@dot.state.tx.us) – Engineering, Surveying, GIS, GPS, & Photogrammetry
   – Michael Meinecke, Texas DOT, Engineer Support (mmeinecke@dot.state.tx.us) – ProjectWise / XM
   – Douglas Fees, Missouri DOT, Assistant IS Director (douglas.fees@modot.mo.gov)
   – Kevin Martin, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Tech III (alex1.smith@ky.gov)
   – Alex Smith, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, TEBM Highway Design (Kevin.martin@ky.gov)
   – Sam Hankla, Texas DOT, Information Support Tech (shankla@dot.state.tx.us)
   – Mitch Pope, Texas DOT, Infrastructure Delivery Director (mpope@dot.state.tx.us)
   – John Mora, Texas DOT, Engineering Support (jmora@dot.state.tx.us) – Project Wise
   – Ray Oldham, Idaho Transportation Department, CADD Support Manager (ray.oldham@itd.idaho.gov) – Digital Signatures
   – Linda Surber, Iowa DOT, Budget Administrator (linda.surber@dot.iowa.gov)
   – Julie Steenhoek, Iowa DOT, IT Specialist (Julie.steenhoek@dot.iowa.gov)
   – Wally Ballou, Kansas DOT, Engineering Support Manager (ballou@ksdot.org) – Oversize Overweight Sharepoint
   – Ron Winterrowd, Oregon DOT, Service Delivery Manager - IT Support (Ronald.e.winterrowd@odot.state.or.us)
2. Additional Topics of Interest (suggestions)
   - Read DOT Newsletter / Area Reports

3. Automated/Electronic Development and Delivery Tools for Training
   *Is your Agency using automation to prepare and deliver training? How is it developed? How is it used?*

   In House Training
   Texas - Camtasia Videos
   Michigan - camtasia
   Mississippi – Using Bentley to develop training for surveying (on-site), Online training through Bentley is used but not successful
   Oregon – Camtasia Videos
   Iowa – SofTutor investigation, Bentley for training, inhouse development, Adobe Connect
   Kansas – weekly meeting through video conferences

4. Use of Video Teleconferencing in the DOT
   *Is the DOT using VTC as normal practice? How is it deployed? Are there policies on its use?*

   KY uses statewide
   MN statewide setup video teleconference / travel restriction mandate this /
   ND statewide setup video teleconference
   MS underutilized but have the state setup
   NC used but does not decrease number of meetings
   IA amount of time for meetings is reduced due to less travel, travel budgets reduced
   KS travel has to be preapproved so VTC is utilized instead
   MMOT – monthly meetings changed to weekly through VTC / missed face to face
   NC – is there a way to collaborate without meeting?

5. 508 compliance
   *This has been discussed at the last two IHEEP conferences. Is this still an important topic in your DOT? How has your DOT resolve this issue?*

   IA – webgroup is handling modification to policies / one group to do all websites
TX – state legislation that all websites are 508 compliant / accessibility agent for the agency
KS – state legislation that all within reason / starting to use SharePoint content management
KY – websites were user managed moving to SharePoint content management
MMOT - linking

   *Does your DOT have formalized contingency and mitigation plans? Is anything special being done to prepare for the H1N1 threat?*

   OR – expansion of VPN capabilities starting for work at home / security levels is the challenge for individual token authentication / telecommute exists but not popular
   KS – expansion of VPN / in-house increase of temperature readers
   NC – VPN access for upper management
   MI – new policies in place for sanitary conditions
   MN – remote office are successful but not used widely / expansion of VPN has not been successful yet
   MS – remote desktop access
   OR – remote desktop access
   TX – Citrix access for limited number of people / plan is in place just in case but up to managers for usage or not / limitations are relayed / send people home if they have flu like symptoms return only with doctor note

7. Application Hosting by Commercial Vendor (SaaS)
   *Does your DOT use “commercial” hosting for applications? For what type of applications? What are the experiences? Is it recommended?*

   MMOT – centralized server / seems to be a way to get things implemented on time. / Bid letting
   OR – GovDelivery / InfoTech / neo gov (HR) / Discussion of Google Wikis – policy issues with doing this
   MI – neo gov
   ND – centralized / outside has to have a waiver to participate
   IA – support of applications done in-house
   NC – PIO goes through YouTube / other means (google mail, etc) are being investigated
   MI – u send it . com for ftp transfers
   OR – YouTube / flicker / twitter
   TX – YouTube / flicker / twitter / discussing ways to use social networking. / Bing Maps / podcasts
   MN – all kept in-house / social media not being used / keep close attention to file retention anything still kept does become public record

8. GIS Trends – What are the primary GIS platform(s) in the DOTs
   *Is there a general movement towards any particular GIS platforms in DOTs, or are the three or four major players maintaining their market shares?*
KY, OR, TX - ESRI
IA GeoMedia – statewide LiDAR digital photography
MS – developing a GIS portal through internal development similar to GoogleEarth
KY bridge records / roadway data

9. Internet 2.0 - Social Network Uses
Does your DOT use any of the “Social Networks” to conduct DOT business? Which tools are used? For what types of applications? Are there obstacles to adoption of this technology in the DOTs?

ND – communications division only has access
MS – evacuation / emergency preparedness only / accidents
OR – investigating for road closures to be populated to GovDelivery and 511 / congestion / traffic camera / OnStar data is pushed to DOT such that when an airbag is deployed they are notified.
NC – wikis used by average person is a mindset learning curve / meetings / daily logs / support issues / internal dot.net.nuke / possible migration to SharePoint / to be useful, everyone has to contribute but DOT personnel are conservative and CYA
KY SharePoint wiki is limited / steering away from wikis due to legal nature of how lawyers will utilize the information shared. Looking at DocX and PDF for sharing official documents / looking at an internal communication tool like chat

10. Implementation or Operatorless Weigh Scales and Weigh Stations
Does your DOT use these or similar technologies? What are your experiences?

MMOT – neat stuff in sales but not implemented
ID – Weigh in Motion but not completely unmanned

11. What are new or emerging technologies we should all keep an eye on?
Have you seen or deployed some technology that you think has potential in the DOT that you would recommend be put on our “watch list”?

KY - Enterprise Scanning?
MS – Application Extender for scanning / started in 2000 now any information is available online