

AASHTO Technology Implementation Group
"Road Safety Audits"

Conference Call
December 7, 2004
8-9am (Eastern)

attendees:

Jeremy Fissel – AASHTO
Louisa Ward – FHWA (DC)
Tom Welch – IA DOT
Tony Giancola – NACE
Gerry Audibert - ME DOT
Brad Foley – ME DOT (Dir of Safety Office)

TIG Introduction

- Activities and operations of TIG were briefly explained.
- Tom and Louisa, who were on the TRB panel of Road Safety Audits indicated that Synthesis 336 was complete, but not yet distributed. This synthesis should include those states currently implementing RSAs. and other information to dissolve on how to market this program to the AASHTO Community. Louisa and Tom added the following states involvement:

NJ, MN, SC, SD, VT, WI, KS, GA
PA – used in districts only, political problems with State implementation
IA – used on resurfacing projects only
NY – used on IR projects only
IL – trying 1 RSA as part of FHWA's "Case Studies" projects
KY – has training
MI – RSA's used at intersections
ME – Done thru FHWA, used in Preliminary Design Phases. Looking to perform RSAs in the Planning and Programming Phases to identify safety needs prior to funding to ensure that safety needs are met.
WY/MT – used locally (possibly due to influences from Gene Wilson)
TX – 'parts' of RSA's used
OH – The City of Mentor is conducting RSAs and the City of Cincinnati is trying 1 RSA as part of FHWA "Case Studies" project
OK – Trying 1 RSA as part of FHWA's "Case Studies" project
CA – Trying 1 RSA and comparing to existing safety review process

- Tony Giancola asked the definition of "Road Safety Audit." He was concerned that a broad definition would be useful and not a narrow focus. Louisa provided "A Road Safety Audit is a formal safety performance examination of an existing or future road or intersection by an independent audit team," from FHWA's new definition published in an RSA brochure.

Panel membership

- Should include TRB, LTAP, as well as the other organizations participating on the call.
- Tom Snyder – IA County Engineer will participate according to Tony
- Bill Wright (Clark County, WA) , Gene Calvert (collier County, FL) – are potential panel members. Jeremy had contact with James R. Shanafelt 360-705-7282 at WA who is eager for participation.
- LTAP possibilities:
 - IN – Has shown interest earlier, but person hired had medical problems. Looking for a replacement
 - WV, KY, FL – Tony identified these 3 LTAP centers who have been awarded a pilot safety circuit rider grant and may be interested.
 - IA – has experience, Tom indicates this rep will be at TRB in Jan 2005.

Jeremy will contact LTAP president and LTAP for panel membership. May concentrate on WV, KY, and FL. IA currently has membership through Tom Welch.

- Chairperson(s)
The group acknowledged the possible need for co-chairs. Tom indicates his expertise is in resurfacing, and is willing to co-chair on this behalf.

Need to find a co-chair for the new construction/planning side. ME DOT has a travel ban for an unknown amount of time. Jeremy will contact Terecia Wilson (SC DOT) and Mike Baglio (PA DOT) for panel membership and possibly a co-chair.

Workplan

- The group indicated to concentrate on the concept of RSA's. Presentations at appropriate Meetings (AASHTO, LTAP, etc.) may be the first line of action. Another item may be workshops or peer exchanges discussing the "success" stories of completed RSA's rather than tentative implementation on a current project. The group thought a larger workshop may bring better discussions.
- Louisa indicated that FHWA is holding a training course for local RSAs in Seattle in March, and later in Washington, DC. It may be a good idea to hold TIG RSA Workshop in Washington, DC immediately after that workshop to capitalize on the LTAP attendees ability to attend. Should be discussed at next meeting
- FHWA has already established promotional materials; brochure and website: www.roadwaysafetyaudits.org. TIG panel may want to review and expand upon those already developed.

Next Meeting

- Since many will already be present at TRB, the group tentatively scheduled Tuesday Jan. 11, 2005 at 1:30pm.

Another option will be to have an informal meeting over a late-lunch on Tuesday or contacting Donna Vlasak at TRB for space. Jeremy will arrange depending on room availability on Tuesday Jan 11th.

A last resort may be to use FHWA's suite at the Marriott Wardman Tower. Jeremy/Louisa will attempt to arrange if needed.

- The goal for this meeting is to develop a workplan and budget proposal for TIG approval.