Program Delivery Improvement Tool (PDIT): Status Report

AASHTO Standing Committee on Highways and Standing Committee on Planning

October 28, 2006
How Far We’ve Come
Purpose of PDIT

• Identify areas for continuous improvement of the Federal-aid program delivery processes
• Identify Federal and State successful practices that can be shared
• Foster a collaborative discussion between FHWA and the State DOTs
• Ultimately, improve performance of program and project delivery
PDIT Program Areas

1) Planning
2) Environment
3) Right-of-Way
4) Finance
5) Safety
6) Civil Rights
7) Design
8) Construction
9) Operations
10) System Preservation
Concern: *AASHTO Needs to be more involved in the development process*

- FHWA formed joint Leadership Team with AASHTO Representatives (PDLT)
- Joint FHWA and AASHTO Chairs appointed to all 10 of the Working Groups
- Regular joint meetings to resolve issues and set direction
- Joint process has led to many of the changes in the tool
Concern: *The focus of the Tool needs to be changed to be on improvement vs. comparison*

- The numerical scoring has been eliminated
- The tool seeks to identify practices that lead to program improvement
- Emphasis placed on identifying “successful practices” under each of the Core Elements
- The tool has been renamed to reflect focus on “improvement” versus “assessment”
Concern: *The tool is too cumbersome and needs to be simplified.*

- Specific guidance was developed by the PDLT that emphasized clarity, objectivity, and simplicity.
- The Joint FHWA/AASHTO Work Groups used this guidance to rewrite all parts of the tool.
- There have been two rounds of review and comments from the PDLT.
Concern: *The process needs to provide sufficient time for collaboration and testing*

- Significant collaboration by the PDLT and the Joint FHWA/AASHTO Work Groups throughout the summer
- Process resulted in a refined tool and a recommendation by the PDLT to move to the pilot stage.
- Prepared to begin Piloting the current draft in four States (one per AASHTO Region)
- Evaluate results and finalize
Next Steps

- Identify Pilot States – Volunteers are Sought!
- Conduct Pilot
- Assess Pilot and modify the tool
- Launch Nationwide
- Evaluate
- Share successful practices