

SSM Conference Call

August 14, 2014

1:00 PM Eastern Time

Minutes

Conference Call Attendees:

Jim Swisher - VDOT
Jason Davis – LADOTD
Kathy Watkins – VDOT
Dave Iverson – MNDOT
Derrick Castle – KTC
Rick Douds – GA DOT
Katheryn Malusky - AASHTO
Henry Lacinak – AASHTO

Purpose of Conference Call

Participants asked to review design documents distributed with the conference call invite with the following goals:

- How can we improve upon DM 2.0 (what issues need to be addressed)
- What we can get from the new DM 3.0 with the design planned by i-Engineering. (Need detailed input.)

Dave Iverson:

- Data entry is sometimes slow. Likes doing 1 record at a time in able to review old data and compare to new data. Important to have current data viewable when new data is entered.

Jason Davis:

- Other state data should be viewable when new data is entered for comparison. This was available in DM 1.0. Testing states can now only see own data in DM 2.0.
- Bulk data entry for testing states would be beneficial in order to speed up data entry.

Derrick Castle:

- DM 3.0 will operate much like an Excel spreadsheet. If templet is in excel, can be given to testing states in order to collect data (local on own computer). Jason Davis indicated that this is current procedure in DM 2.0.

Jason Davis:

- Employee will develop format (using macros) which would be a helper program to upload information to DM site with the ability to see and compare data.
- Format being used now is the same as used in the original printed format for over the last 10 years. Using computers, many formats can now be used.

Dave Iverson:

- Some way to speed up data entry (changing screens – getting out and getting back in) would be beneficial.

Jason Davis:

- Export feature is a great improvement.
- Change default links to something more applicable. Such as going to data rather than product information.

Jim Swisher:

- Is i-Engineering reformatting the way data is handled? Navigation and operational speed is quicker.

Derrick Castle:

- I-engineering is switching platforms (not sure of exact details) to be more user friendly (touch screen technology) and future advancements and compatibility.
- Quicker and easier to find data:
- Search criteria will fall into 3 categories:
 - General overview (4 or 5 criteria used to filter products)
 - Product or Specification search (more detailed – search based upon test data)
 - Google search (search on term)

Jim Swisher:

- Has i-Engineering completed design for SSM or is the current document just a draft.

Derrick Castle:

- This is just an exhibition.
- DM 2.0 info was taken as historical data and used as model on DM 3.0.
- Modifications can be made for DM 3.0.

Jim Swisher:

- Detailed information regarding cells and format were presented in the past and the response received in many case was that it could not be done.
- Question- we can take 2.0 and go through each page –

Derrick Castle:

- Look at what does work in DM 2.0 and make sure it is kept. List what does not work.
- I-Engineering has sent out request to list what needs to be looked at for a generic search (4 or 5) along with a product or specification search.
- Design document will develop how the result appear.

Jim Swisher:

- Need to be considerate of overdesigning something that is beyond the capability of DM 3.0.

- Notified that a webinar will be conducted with i-Engineering and the TC chairs and vice-chairs on September 2nd to discuss further details of information needed for the development of DM 3.0.
- Manufacturer's submittal process will be handled later. Submission of products with drop down boxes to specify AASHTO & ASTM types, etc. will improve data collection and speed up process.
- In next couple of weeks, if you have any comments to offer in the next couple of weeks, send the info or screen shot to Jim Swisher.

Jason Davis:

- Printer version may be useful.

Jim Swisher:

- How do we want search results to look? If we do not specify, we will get what i-Engineering develops without our input.

Henry Lacinak:

- Two types of searches:
 - Search for specific product
 - Search based upon filtering data to meet specified requirement (including several geometric designs for retroreflectivity results)

Derrick Castle:

- This feature was in 1.0 titled as Specified Search
- Intent is to bring this back into DM 3.0 to do a search by building a query. Drop down box to list test. Enter limits in data box.
- This query can be saved.
- Data to be searched has to be coded data
 - Numeric value
 - Standard terms or numeric rating scale – All testing states need to enter data using same terms or a well-defined numeric scale.
- Graphing function is not planned in DM 3.0.

Jason Davis:

- State may develop program to download data and create graphs (helper applications) and share with other uses. Program can be uploaded to DM 3.0 file for sharing.

Derrick Castle:

- Based on information received at last conference call, it is his understanding that DM 3.0 has definite plans to develop the specified data search based upon coded data fields.
- Graphing is not planned on being developed in DM 3.0 at this time.

Jason Davis:

- Photographs are needed in DM 3.0. (Examples include describing color change)

Jim Swisher & Derrick Castle:

- Standardization needs to be carefully documented when utilizing photographs.
- May consider listing photos as analytical data (available to users only).

Jim Swisher:

- Final Report Format – requested comments from TC member regarding desired format of final data presentation. May also get info from manufacturers – will address after state input.
- Review of distributed attachments – look through and submit any comments.

Derrick Castle:

- Process will be laid out and build design which will be beta tested to a small group (may include manufacturers).
- Desire is to build based upon full planned final outcome and not have to go back and retrofit.
- Key to have input from experts within SSM TC.

Henry Lacinak:

- Mechanics of setting up a search needs to be developed by SSM TC experts rather than i-Engineering. (Using specs listed in standard specifications on SSM may assist in developing search criteria since it is very specific.)

Jim Swisher:

- Repeated webinar call with i-Engineering planned for September 2
- Solicited ideas and complaints from TC members after reviewing documents
- Request to keep it simple and hopefully the system will work
- Hopeful we can get a dependable search developed within DM 3.0 for SSM.