

ECONWORKS EXPERT TASK GROUP MEETING 2016 Quarter 3 Update: Summary & Next Steps

GoToWebinar

Thursday, 09/15/16 (2:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. EST)

ATTENDEES (in Bold):

<u>Members</u>	<u>Liaisons & Others</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Dybing, <i>North Dakota State University</i> • Darnell Grisby, <i>American Public Transportation Association</i> • Ben Gruswitz, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission • Kelly Gwin, <i>Georgia DOT</i> • Jeff Harris, Utah DOT • Bill Keyrouze, <i>Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations</i> • Michael Kies, Arizona DOT • Subrat Mahapatra, <i>Maryland State Highway Administration</i> • Sebastian Montagne, North Carolina DOT • Ben Orsbon, <i>South Dakota DOT</i> • Steve Polzin, University of South Florida • Eric Randall, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments • Joseph Schofer, Northwestern University • David Schwartz, Kansas DOT • Jeff Sudmeier, Colorado DOT • Kevin Verre, <i>Nevada DOT</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mara Campbell on behalf of Kristin Hull, CH2M • Ryan Endorf, Federal Highway Administration • Brian Gardner, Federal Highway Administration • Matthew Hardy, <i>AASHTO</i> • Bryan Hong, AASHTO • Stefan Natzke, Federal Highway Administration • Amanda Rutherford, Federal Highway Administration • Valentin Vulov, Federal Highway Administration • Karen White, <i>Bureau of Transportation Statistics</i> • Adam Winston on behalf of Steve Fitzroy, Economic Development Research Group, Inc.

NEXT STEPS

- Minutes from this quarterly update will be sent out to the ETG.
- Bryan will send a doodle poll to the selection committee to determine what day during the week of September 26th or October 3rd will work best for the group to discuss the RFP applicants.

SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Roll Call

On September 15, 2016 at 2:33 P.M. (EST), Bryan Hong welcomed the EconWorks Expert Task Group (ETG), and began the meeting by taking attendance and describing the GoToMeeting platform. The attendees were asked to mute their phones if they were not speaking to the group. ETG Chairman Jeff Sudmeier shared opening remarks and outlined the agenda for the afternoon.

2. 2016 Quarter 2 Action Item Review

After thanking Jeff, Bryan mentioned the progress of several action items from the ETG's last meeting in June.

- The ETG reported the representation on TRB committees shown in Figure 1. This will be helpful in handling opportunities to provide updates for external groups interested in EconWorks. Members will receive talking points to share on such occasions.

Figure 1. ETG Representation on TRB Committees

Committee Code	Committee Name	Member(s)
ABC30	Performance Management	Valentin Vulov
ABE20	Transportation Economics	Valentin Vulov
ABJ10	National Transportation Data Requirements and Programs	Steve Polzin (Co-Chair)
ABJ45t	National Household Travel Survey Taskforce	Steve Polzin
ADA10	Statewide Multimodal Planning	Jeff Sudmeier
ADD10	Transportation and Economic Development	Stefan Natzke

- Second, ETG members were to spread the word about EconWorks and contribute case study candidates. Bryan thanked those who gave some thought to this, and thanked EDR Group for compiling an in-depth profile of eligible TIGER grant projects for this work.

3. 2016 Quarter 3 Updates

- Work on revising the [Economic Analysis Training module](#) is now complete. The ETG had previously received a preview link in the preparatory email. More visuals and interactive components were incorporated, along with new narration and knowledge checks. It will eventually replace the old version on the website.
- Secondly, AASHTO released the RFP for case study database development and its supporting materials to the following eight university transportation centers on August 25th and September 9th.
 - City University of New York
 - University at Buffalo, State University of New York
 - University of Arkansas
 - University of California, Berkeley
 - University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
 - University of Maryland
 - University of Southern California
 - University of Texas, Austin

The materials included the white paper titled “The Evolution of Ex Post Economic Analysis of Transportation Impacts: Opportunities for Further Research and Analysis,” and “University Transportation Center Engagement for the Econworks Case Studies and Wider Economic Benefit (WEB) Tools,” which gave an overview of the opportunities for case study candidates through the TIGER program. EDR Group, CH2M, and AASHTO contracts staff were thanked for their assistance.

The ETG was informed that the deadline for applications is Thursday, September 22nd. An award will be provided to the applicant by Friday, October 7th. Bryan will send a doodle poll to the selection committee to determine what day during the week of September 26th or October 3rd will work best for the group to discuss the applicants. After the committee's work is concluded, the full ETG will be apprised of the final decision for any reaction.

4. Marketing and Outreach Updates & Discussion

AASHTO, FHWA, and the Volpe Center met on July 14th in Washington, DC. They shared progress on the Marketing Plan and initial brochure draft, brainstormed outreach ideas such as a GovDelivery mailing list. From the meeting came a master contact list containing names and email addresses for every person who attended a workshop or asked a technical question, and a timeline mapping out future events and what deliverables are associated with each.

Looking ahead to the TRB Annual Meeting, the ADD50 Environmental Justice Committee is interested in receiving a general update about what has happened in the past year and alerting it to future events. Bryan will be giving this brief presentation in January 2017.

The EconWorks coordinating team also provided the ETG with a copy of the brochure, "What The Tools Can Do For You!" and the facts and figures sheet. As events unfold and updates are needed, these will be changed in the document and distributed to continue generating interest. Bryan clarified with Jeff that the brochure is a different item than the EconWorks One-Pager. Finally, the transit case studies are being included in the case study database website and will be ready soon.

5. Implementation Assistance Program (IAP) Updates

Brian Gardner shared the completion dates for the four case studies (C03) recipients and the eight wider economic benefits (C11) recipients. In total ten of them are finished, with the last two expected to end in December 2016 and February 2017. The [completed reports](#) were posted on the EconWorks website. He provided an overview of the summary observations for both tools and then the envisioned next steps, which include syntheses, a newsletter, and webinars beginning this autumn.

6. Final Questions/Topics As-Needed

Steve Polzin wondered if there was a way to have EconWorks work with the FTA's cost evaluation process. Adam Winston mentioned that the 7 new transit case studies did not use any FTA guidance on protocol/standard evaluation processes in conducting the case study research and development. Instead they were based on the [EconWorks Case Study Development Training Modules](#) and guides. He mentioned that this raises a question whether FTA developed cases should be considered for inclusion in EconWorks. Steve then mentioned that EconWorks could be a useful vehicle to reach out to the 2016 presidential candidates in terms of project selection when considering their infrastructure proposals.

7. Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Bryan thanked participants for their time and effort. The ETG was advised that the next several meetings would take place in December 2016 in Washington, DC. With no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:06 P.M.

MEETING MATERIALS (5)

- ETG Meeting 4 Agenda_External_9.9.16_Final (Word)

- EconWorks Brochure_FINAL_090616 (PDF)
- EconWorks Figures and Facts_09.09.16 (Word)
- EconWorks Marketing Timeline v5 (Xlsx)
- Economic Analysis Training Module
(http://www.patriciametzthompson.com/EconWorks_081616%20-%20Storyline%20output/story.html)