

Technical Abstract

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Title: DIGGS: A Dream Become Reality – Implementation Status

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Abstract: As many of the State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) recall, Data Interchange for Geotechnical and GeoEnvironmental Specialists (DIGGS) was developed as a coalition of government agencies, universities, and industry partners whose focus was on the creation and maintenance of an international data transfer standard for transportation-related data. The coalition was coordinated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and became the Transportation Pooled Fund project TPF-5(111) titled: “Development of Standards for Geotechnical Management Systems.” After a brief hiatus, the project was re-started in October 2011. As a result of a workshop that was convened at the end of the pooled fund study, the DIGGS community of members achieved a major milestone and responsibility for completion of the DIGGS standard was awarded to the Geo-Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in October 2013. Currently, the project is on track and is scheduled for completion and full release to the public in October 2015.

The purpose of this presentation will be to apprise the State DOTs in the Southwestern U.S. of the current implementation schedule for the DIGGS efforts regarding: (i) release of a data dictionary to define all elements of the DIGGS schema; (ii) transition ownership and responsibility of DIGGS to the Geo-Institute; (iii) training for the State DOTs on the use and adoption of the DIGGS schema/format; and (iv) development of a long term business plan and management structure for DIGGS. Examples will be provided to show how DIGGS can be used and implemented by the state DOTs, as well as how the adoption of such system will result in long-term benefits to the DOTs.

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