

9-1523

“Electronic Appraisal
Development Study”

February 2005

Research Brief

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SUMMARY OF RESEARCH PROGRESS

Research Project 9-1523, “Electronic Appraisal Development Study,” began in September, 2004. Significant progress has been made so far towards researching on the key components that are essential for conceptualizing, prototyping, developing, and implementing an Electronic Appraisal System (EAS) while TxDOT and the Research Team are working together to revise and fine-tuning the project contract. The highlights of the research progress to date are summarized here as follows:

- At the kick-off of this project, a FHWA-sponsored scan was conducted in San Antonio, Texas. Representatives from nearly all of the 13 states participating in Project 9-1523 gathered in San Antonio to share their state’s experiences with the right-of-way appraisal process. Participants expressed their desires for the proposed EAS and a substantial amount of information was gleaned by the Research Team.
- Appraisal forms from nearly all of the participating DOTs have been collected. Several non-DOT appraisal forms have also been collected as reference materials. The content of these forms is currently being carefully reviewed so that common data items can be defined and a standardized expandable electronic appraisal form developed containing data and information vital to the appraisal process.

- The Research Team has conducted frequent meetings with the Program Coordinator (PC), Project Director (PD), and the Project Advisors (PAs) from TxDOT. As a result, the Research Team has successfully crafted the conceptual framework for the EAS. This framework depicts the components required for a successful EAS and the interrelationships among them.
- Based off of the conceptual framework and the review of appraisal business process, the Research Team has developed a list of potential user functional needs for the proposed EAS.
- Building upon information from the appraisal form reviews, the conceptual framework and the user needs, the Research Team is currently working on developing a list of data needs for a standardized electronic appraisal form.

What’s Next? Participating state DOTs will soon receive 1) a copy of the conceptual framework and 2) a list of user functional needs for review and/or ranking. Through this process, the Research Team will be able to incorporate the input of each of the participating state DOTs. The Delphi Process, a structured method for developing consensus among participants in a manner that reduces bias, will be adopted as a methodology to conduct the user needs prioritization.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Project Director, Mr. John Zimmerman, at jjimmern@dot.state.tx.us, or the Research Supervisor, Dr. Zhanmin Zhang, at z.zhang@mail.utexas.edu.