

## **Data & Analysis Technical Assistance Program Introduction Webinar**

February 6, 2014, 1:30 to 2:00 EST

Participants: 43

### **FINAL TRANSCRIPT:**

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for standing by. Welcome to the Introduction to Safety Data and Analysis Technical Assistance Program Call. At this time all participants are in a listen only mode. If you should require assistance during the call please press start then zero. I would now like to turn the call over to your host, Sharon Chan Edmiston. Please go ahead.

---

Hello everyone. On behalf of the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Safety I would like to welcome everyone to the first Data and Analysis Technical Assistance quarterly webinar. My name is Sharon Chan Edmiston and I am with the USDOT Volpe Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Joining us as presenters today are Mshadoni Smith from the Office of Safety's Roadway Data Safety Program and Heather Richardson from the Volpe Center. Before we begin I would like to point out a few key features of the web room. At the top left of the screen you can see the audio call-in information and attendees list. At the bottom of the screen you can see a chat pod. If you are having technical difficulties, please use the chat pod to send a message to Heather Richardson. You can also use the chat pod to submit questions to our presenters throughout the webinar. We will queue up all questions to answer during the Q and A section. And at the end of this webinar you will also have an opportunity to use the chat pod to suggest ideas and topics for future webinars. So, our webinar will run until 2:00 PM today. There are folks unable to attend today so we are recording the session so they can listen to the presentation and Q and A session at a later date. If you have not done so already, please fill out the polling questions on the screen. And with that I would like to turn the webinar over to Mshadoni. Who will introduce you to the Data and Analysis Technical Assistance Program.

---

Thank you, Sharon, and good afternoon everyone. Thank you so much for participating in our introductory webinar. This afternoon we will go over the general procedures for the technical assistance program and introduction. And then Heather Richardson is going to walk us through a sample scenario. We will leave plenty of room at the end to take questions and answers. I want to give you an overview of the Road Safety Data Program or as we call it the RSDP, which is the umbrella program that is sponsoring the Data and Analysis Technical Assistance Program. We have conducted a lot of outreach at Federal Highway over the last couple of years. And some of the feedback we have received from you has led to the development of new programs like this technical assistance program. It is a combination of technical assistance that we have provided in the past and more flexible technical assistance all through one application. That includes your RDIP or Roadway Data Improvement Program and the forthcoming Roadway Data Extraction Technical Assistance Program. So it's like a one stop shopping technical assistance for all data and analysis needs.

---

Any state or local transportation agency can apply. This also applies to tribes, cities, counties and DOTs. Experts can respond to any safety data and analysis question; experts such as universities, resource center, and consultants. And the responses are tailored to your needs, they are customized and they are free. We will also as part of our program sponsor quarterly technical

webinars that are specifically focused on one or more technical needs as identified in the community. Sharon may have mentioned earlier that in the chat pod, you can put in your ideas for technical topics for future quarterly webinars. Now I'm going to turn the webinar over to Heather who is going to walk us through the application process.

---

Thank you, Mshadoni. We're going to walk through a sample application scenario to give you a sense of the process. Let's say you are a state agency that recently participated in the Roadway Data Improvement Program. The RDIP recommended reviewing and assessing all of your State's roadway data inventories, as well as developing a data collection improvement plan. Your agency hasn't done an inventory review in the past and needs assistance on how to go about it. You also need guidance in developing the improvement plan. You go to the website to start the application process.

Here is the Roadway Safety Data Program home page. You select the yellow box to go to the data and analysis technical assistance landing page.

The landing page provides an overview of the program. Click "apply now" to start the application process.

---

This will lead you to the initial application page. Simply fill in all of the required contact information. At the bottom half of the screen there is a list of safety topics to select. It is important to select the "Data and Analysis Tools" highlighted by the red arrow.

This next page allows you to choose the safety program or topic that best represents your request. As you can see, this technical assistance programs covers a number of safety programs and topics. You must select a primary program or topic to continue. Subtopics appear when you select one of the main topics or program. Our scenario involves data collection and there are a number of subtopics listed. However, none of them really fit our scenario need so I will select "other" and fill in "develop data inventory improvement plan" and click next.

The next page asks you to provide additional details about your specific request. Please keep in mind, the greater the detail you can provide here, the faster we are able to move forward with responding to your request. For our scenario, I have filled in a brief description about the need to assess the data inventories and need for an improvement plan.

---

Now that we know what topic you are asking about, we want to know the type of assistance you want. The options available in the application are consultation with a subject matter expert, training, workshop or demonstration with an expert, or a facilitated peer exchange. If none of these options seem appropriate for your request, you can also select "other" and provide information. Again, we want this response to be tailored to what your agency needs. Each radio button opens space to answer some additional questions about the type of response you are requesting. For our example scenario, I've selected the second option for training/workshop/demonstration and filled in here some reasons why a workshop would provide we are guidance needed. Finally, hit the submit button.

A confirmation page appears after the submit button is hit to show you the application has been received by FHWA. Just as a reminder, the more detail provided in the application, the more effectively we are able to respond to your request.

---

Just to recap the process we've gone through, a state agency needing assistance with reviewing its data inventory process and developing an improvement plan submitted a request to the data and analysis technical assistance program. As a result, the agency is being paired with a subject matter expert who will hold an on-site workshop to provide guidance on both the review process and developing an improvement plan. Again, I want to emphasize that the response type will be based on the request received. If you have a question about a specific aspect of a software tool it may only require a phone consultation with an expert. Whereas a question about a process for integrating local data may be better served with a peer-to-peer webinar exchange to learn how fellow agencies have handled a similar situation.

---

There are a few key things to know about this technical assistance program. As we start the program, a general rule of thumb will be that requests should not take more than three months to complete. The Data & Analysis Technical Assistance program can help an agency review documents or assess software programs and functionality and activities similar to this. However, it may NOT be used to hire new staff, collect data results for the agency or buy software for the agency.

The application is up and running so please feel free to submit a request at any time. As Sharon mentioned earlier, all webinars will be stored on the RSDP website for reference. Please feel free to forward to interested colleagues and spread the word. The tentative date for the next webinar is May 8. Please check the RSDP website so please mark your calendars and check the RSDP website and watch for email announcements.

Now, the topic of the next webinar has not been selected because we want to hear what subjects are interesting to you. We are considering technical webinars that provide something like a demonstration of SafetyAnalyst or one that covers developing an HSM implementation plan. What other technical topics would you like us to cover in the quarterly webinars? Please enter your suggestions in the chat pod along with any questions you have for us. I'll give you a second to add those in.

---

We've gone through quite a bit in a short period of time. We'll take a few minutes to answer any questions you have. We'll start with those that have already been submitted in the chat pod. You can continue submitting your questions as we go through these answers.

---

Okay, so it looks like we've had a couple in terms of asking if these agencies were eligible to apply that has been generated by our outreach. Federal Lands Management Agencies and MPOs may apply for assistance. I would say go ahead and apply and if it is for some reason that we are

unable to fulfill your request we will let you know and try to identify an opportunity where you can get your needs met. So when in doubt go ahead and fill it out.

---

It looks like we have a couple of suggestions for topics for the next webinar as well - Developing an inventory for bicycle facilities. Something with SafetyAnalyst and another with the ISATe tool.

---

Okay, Esther has a question - how do you determine what request for technical assistance will be funded and which ones will not?

---

If I can take a stab at that, and this is Mshadoni. It really is a case by case basis. It depends on what the need is or what the need has been identified. Once the request comes in, the staff gets together and at times we may need to gather more information from the requester to identify what the request is supporting in terms of what application it is supporting. Then we will make the determination. Even if this program is unable to provide assistance, maybe due to a longer time frame or a cost that would be prohibitive we will try to find an avenue that could help for their request or find the resources they may need.

---

If I may ask a question of someone who has put a topic in the chat pod, there are a couple of software programs being listed. Does that mean you want a walk-through of those software programs? Could you explain what you would like to see for those topics? Do you want us to walk you through those? Feel free to type in the chat feature or you may ask your question over the phone.

---

So while we have a few moments while folks are typing into the chat pod, I want to bring your attention to the application. It has several sub sets of information that will help you identify specific needs. And also on the RSDP main page -- there is information about programs we have and other resources that may be the first step in learning about certain applications or getting some research to find out if you are ready to submit a technical assistance request. There are resources available to help you and guide you. If you realize you get to a point where you do not know where to go -- then the technical assistance application is probably a good option.

---

I see there has been clarification from a couple of folks in the chat pod. I think those are reasonable topics for potential webinars. One is a demonstration of the tool application and that being the ISATe tool; and then the other one was an overview of USRAP and what are the data needs for the program, a walk-through of IHSDM, and capabilities of SafetyAnalyst. Those are all very good suggestions. Thank you.

---

So everyone can continue to submit their ideas for future webinar topics to Bob Pollack or to anyone of us. It looks like someone else has a question so I'll wait for that to come in.

---

Another suggested topic is the effective use of LiDAR and HD video for data collection. Thank you for all of these suggestions. Msh, any last words?

---

I want to check. Do we have anybody on the phone line waiting?

---

We do not have a phone line. Everything should go through that chat pod.

---

Okay. It looks like the ideas have tapered off. I do want to offer that even after the webinar if you have an idea please feel free to contact me or Bob Pollack (Robert.pollack@dot.gov) with your topics, ideas or your questions. We are very thankful for your time today. We are very excited about this new program and offering you a flexible way to use the resources that Federal Highway has for you.

---

Our next webinar we're planning for May. I think the tentative date was May 8. We will be sure to provide outreach as far as when that date will be. The next webinar is going to be technical in nature so keep in mind it will be much more in depth and detailed. We will provide information about who should participate and what prior knowledge would be most beneficial at that time. I want to thank you again. And this concludes our webinar. Have a great day.

---

Thank you.

---

You may now disconnect.

---

[ Event Concluded]