



Florida Department of Transportation Research

The Development of Improved Information Management Processes for FDOT Dispute Review Board System

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Disputes that arise between FDOT and contractors during construction projects have the potential to cause monetary and time losses, and often result in time-consuming and expensive litigation. A Dispute Review Board (DRB) is a proven alternative method of dispute resolution that provides specialized expertise in technical areas and in the administration of construction contracts. According to the Dispute Review Board Foundation, by 2000, 97 percent of construction disputes using DRBs were settled without proceeding to litigation. These disputes involved 757 projects and \$39.5 billion.

The FDOT Construction Office maintains a list of Dispute Review Board Recommendation reports on its website, <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/Construction/CONSTADM/drbd/DRBDecisions.shtm> in PDF format. They are prepared using a variety of templates that differ in content, structure, and description methods. The PDF format creates unstructured data files that are not designed for computerized applications. Because of the variety of report formats, and because PDF file formats have limited search capabilities, information retrieval is difficult, time consuming, and costly.

Under contract with FDOT, researchers at Florida International University developed a report management software system using Oracle-based Web technologies to improve DRB report management. The system will be accessible to FDOT engineers and registered users through the FDOT intranet site with the following features.

- Capture basic information in each DRB report, including the report date, district, parties, report reference information, project name,

FDOT Contact: Sastry Putcha, FDOT Construction Office
 Principal Investigator: Yimin Zhu, Florida International University
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Office of Construction
DRB Recommendations

District 1 District 2 District 3
 District 4 District 5 District 6
 District 7 District 8

FDOT is in the process of recording it's acceptance, partial acceptance, or rejection for all DRB recommendations. At present, the results are incomplete.

A = Accepted
R = Rejected
P = Partial

Dist	FIN #	Contract	Subject	ARIP
1	4224031-5201	T1341	SR70 - Time Extension Due to Shortage of Thermoplastic Material	A
1	1978622-5201	T1317	SR 758 (Bridge Over Grand Canal) - Repairs to Existing Timber Pedestrian Walkway	A
1	4176462-5201	T1256	CR 564A - Bridge Repair (Bridge # 060017, #060031)	A
1	4081852-5201	T1242	SR 64 (Anna Maria Bridge) - Additional Compensation for Hopkins Frames & Structural Steel	A
1	2009661-5201	T1108	I75 & Alico Rd. Interchange-Water Use Permit Responsibility	R
1	1961211-5201	T1089	SR 78 - Payment for Intersection Work	A
1	1967562-5201	T1082	SR 78 - Additional Compensation & Time	R
1	1967051-5201	T1078	SR 78 Repair work required due to design errors, express and constructive changes and over-inspection of Contractors work. Request for a contract time extension and damages due to delays suffered as a result of the issues over the storm sewer pipe (Original DRB Recommendation)	NA
			Owner (FDOT) Request for Clarification (for above issue)	NA
			DRB Response to Owner (FDOT) Request for Clarification (for above issue)	NA
			Owner (FDOT) 2nd Request for Clarification (for above issue)	NA
			SR 78 Repair work required due to design errors, express and constructive changes and over-inspection of Contractors work. Request for a contract time extension and damages due to delays suffered as a result of the issues over the storm sewer pipe. REVISED DRB Recommendation (for above issue)	P
1	1967051-5201	T1078	SR 78 - Laser Profiling & Damage to Drain Pipes	A
1	1976791-5201	T1064	SR 25 (US 27) - Asphalt Price Adjustment	A
1	4038901-5201	T1027	US 27 Delays and Extra Work	P

Screen shot of the Dispute Review Board website

subject, and DRB members involved in the case.

- Enable users to query DRB reports and perform analysis based on metadata stored in the system. Users will be able to search reports by key words, subjects, or issues, or by selecting one of several types of DRB data.
- Enable users to identify external documents that are associated with a DRB report.
- Store and retrieve DRB information seamlessly saving time and money, and increasing accuracy.

Researchers identified several areas in which the system can be further enhanced including the automation of data inputs using text mining techniques, developing a metadata model for lessons learned in order to perform a direct search, and integrating more types of external documents into the review process.

The system is scheduled to go online in the near future once final testing is complete.