TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT STATE OF THE PRACTICE PILOT PROGRAM REPORT SUMMARY

Background

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) initiated the TAM State of the Practice Report to review Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plans and Asset Management (AM) programs nationwide. FTA reviewed the TAM plans and AM programs at various agencies to identify AM processes and efforts implemented and promote best practices and exemplary methods for TAM implementation. This was not a TAM compliance review. Participating agencies volunteered for consideration in this pilot review program; nine agencies were selected for review.

The review identified both bright spots and shared challenges across the four pillars of TAM implementation. While agencies demonstrated commitment to AM throughout their organizations, issues related to succession planning/training, data standardization, prioritization, and technology integration were noted.

Objectives

FTA retained AECOM to conduct a pilot of the TAM State of the Practice Review using a representative sample of nine transit agencies. The report summarizes the highlights and challenges in implementing TAM practices and FTA policies and identifies recommendations for improvement for the nine participating agencies. A pilot review used the 4-Pillar Approach, which included the following:

Pillar 1—Organizational and Institutional
Recognizing the importance of executive-level support for TAM initiatives to underscore that top management is committed to TAM. A commitment from top management established the foundation for holistic implementation and adoption of all four pillars of AM throughout the organization.

Pillar 2—Data
Understanding the importance of standardizing data collection processes for accuracy and consistency across departments. By prioritizing the standardization of data collection procedures, these agencies can establish a cohesive framework that fosters accuracy, consistency, and reliability in the information that was collected.

Pillar 3—Business Process
Recognizing the importance of assessing asset criticality and risk management to prioritize maintenance and replacement decisions effectively. Prioritizing asset criticality and risk management will contribute to the overall resilience and sustainability of organizational infrastructure and operations.

Pillar 4—Technology
Being more proactive in leveraging technology and implementing decision-making tools to gain deeper insights into asset life cycles, anticipate maintenance needs, and prioritize resource allocation to inform TAM data and processes.

Findings and Conclusions

A closing survey sent to participating agencies provided an opportunity for agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot review process and to provide feedback. The closing survey gauged staff comprehension of the process and determined whether the final report offered valuable insights for their agencies. This feedback will be considered as part of future reviews and help align the parties involved in the process. Seven of the nine agencies participated in the survey. The agencies' feedback on the TAM State of the Practice Report process was positive, and respondents provided clear explanations and valuable insights for FTA consideration.

Key Findings:

The document review during the pilot included descriptions and examples to better aid agencies in responding to project needs. Two key recommendations arose from this review.

1. This review should be institutionalized as a technical assistance program offered by FTA. This would allow agencies to volunteer and implement the review as it fits their schedule and needs.

2. A draft high-level roadmap of recommendations should be created based on interviews to give each agency goals to aim for in the next 3 – 5 years. Developing a roadmap would also require an additional consensus-building workshop to further refine the roadmap.

The overall level of effort recommended is 150– 220 hours per agency. This accounted for a high-level review of provided documents, three interview workshops, a draft and final report with a single round of comments, a simple leadership presentation overview, a roadmap, and consensus-building workshop for the roadmap.

Benefits

Participating agencies expressed their appreciation for the overall methodology used in the review on a scale ranging from 1 to 5 at highest. The average score of 4.63 out of 5 indicated high appreciation for the methodology. The agencies praised the well-structured, easy-to-read report and the four-pillar model, noting the effective assessment of strengths and weaknesses and practical recommendations. The report was determined to be valuable for internal communication and clarifying roles and touchpoints within TAM.