

Transportation Estimators' Association (TEA)

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Letter of Justification to Attend the Transportation Estimators Association (TEA) Annual Meeting

The Transportation Estimators' Association or TEA is an organization of State Departments of Transportation (DOT) cost estimators from across the US and Canada. We all come to the TEA with the goal of pursuing innovation in our field. The Transportation Estimators' Association was founded in 1998, as the TEA/PUG, to support and inform estimation professionals throughout the country. In 2024, the TEA reorganized independent from the PUG, as a separate non-profit organization. Since the TEA was founded, there has been a much greater emphasis on quality early cost estimates and risk and lifecycle cost analysis in many States. There are new estimating challenges continually evolving that State DOT estimators must address.

While each State will only have one vote on issues brought before the TEA at the Annual Meeting, States are strongly encouraged to send as many estimators as desirable. The governing body of the TEA consists of the Board of Directors, consisting of the Past Chair, Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and up to four ad hoc Board Members. Each Board Member is an active member of a DOT. You may volunteer or be nominated to serve on the Board at the Annual Meeting.

The objectives of the TEA are to:

- Facilitate productive communication and dialog between State DOT's, Consultants, and Contractors related to project cost estimating on transportation infrastructure projects.
- Improve cost estimating techniques and publish recommendations used by transportation estimators (cost-based, historical-based, and parametric methodologies).
- Research, develop and refine new and existing cost estimating techniques, tools and resources.
- Stay current on market conditions and other factors that affect transportation infrastructure costs.
- Disseminate experiences and facilitate productive dialog in project cost estimating and practices via TEA's Annual Meeting (in-person), quarterly TEA Time (virtual) meetings, and our website <https://www.transportationestimators.org>

Once a year, the TEA hosts an in-person Annual Meeting for estimators to attend and learn about the newest technologies and methodologies in our industry. The TEA Annual Meeting provides a forum to exchange ideas and strategies. By attending the TEA, participants will be able to meet and communicate directly with estimating professionals from other States that use a variety of estimating techniques. States may have a dedicated Estimating Section or may have their designers develop the Estimates as they develop the project. They may use sophisticated software or just spreadsheets that get updated every year. The TEA provides an open forum to exchange ideas on how to develop estimates and estimating strategies in difficult cost climates.

The TEA Annual Meeting has covered these topics in the past: Presentations on Planning your Estimates; Economists from states and National Organizations such as AGC; Probabilistic Risk based Estimating; Presentations by FHWA experts; Build America/Buy America; Contractor Panel discussions; Host State highlighted projects; Best Practices from other States; Consultant interaction; User presentations; Technical sessions; Vendor demonstrations, and Task Force reports such as the AASHTO Technical Committee on Cost Estimating (TCCE). Check out the latest agenda of relevant subjects for the upcoming meeting on the TEA website <https://www.transportationestimators.org>

Additional Resources Available to Estimating Professionals through the TEA:

TEA Time:

Transportation Estimators' Association, TEA Time is an open platform for DOT estimators to collaborate with each other. These virtual meetings are held quarterly and will start with a short presentation before opening up to the group for discussion. This is open to all DOT estimators including consultants, contractors, and vendors as well as anyone interested in transportation estimating.

Simply email teaboard@aaastowareproject.org for your meeting invitation.

Stop by and see what's brewing!

TEA Website:

The TEA website, which contains links to related webpages such as other Estimating Associations, is another source of information and is located at <https://www.transportationestimators.org>

The Transportation Estimators' Association is an organization of DOT estimation professionals, JUST LIKE YOU, with the goal of pursuing innovation and excellence in our field.

Come join us at the TEA Annual Meeting to learn, network, grow and contribute within the professional infrastructure estimating community!