

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

The **Transportation Estimators Association (TEA)** is a professional organization comprised of State Departments of Transportation estimators from across the U.S. and Canada. Since its founding in 1998, TEA has been dedicated to advancing innovation and excellence in transportation cost estimating. Over the years, the emphasis on accurate early cost estimates, risk analysis, and lifecycle cost evaluation has grown significantly across many states.

The TEA Annual Conference provides a unique forum for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and professional development. Attendees gain access to:

- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with estimators from other states who use diverse techniques and tools, from advanced software to traditional spreadsheets.
- **Best Practices & Emerging Trends:** Learn proven strategies and innovative approaches to cost estimating in challenging economic climates.
- **Technical Sessions & Expert Panels:** Hear from FHWA specialists, economists, contractors, and state representatives on topics such as:
  - Planning and developing estimates
  - Buy America/Build America compliance
  - Probabilistic risk-based estimating
  - Latest tools, methodologies, and vendor demonstrations
- **Leadership Opportunities:** Members can volunteer or be nominated to serve on TEA's governing board, influencing the future of cost estimating practices.

TEA's objectives include:

- Facilitating communication among State DOTs, consultants, and contractors.
- Improving and publishing best practices for cost estimating (cost-based, historical-based, and parametric).
- Researching and refining estimating techniques and tools.
- Sharing experiences through quarterly virtual meetings, the annual in-person conference, and TEA's website: <https://www.transportationestimators.org>.

Attendees will bring back valuable insights, tools, and strategies to enhance their state's estimating processes, improve accuracy, and support informed decision-making within our organization.