

Chairman Widener; members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Lane Beougher, and I am the Program Services Manager in the State Architect's Office. For the last three months, I have also been serving as Interim State Architect at the request of Director Blair.

I joined the State Architect's Office five years ago and manage the services that support the statewide construction program, including our contract documents, forms, publications, websites; and oversee the local administration approval and qualifications based selection processes.

Over a decade ago, the State Architect's Office began exploring options to replace its capital improvements project tracking system, known as CIPTS, built on the minicomputer platform we once used to run our computer aided drafting system. This outdated non-relational database was used to track projects administered by our office only, did not provide enterprise-wide functionality, and had been in use since 1986. About the same time, the state decided to procure enterprise resource planning, or ERP, software that would replace existing systems in five critical areas including Central Accounting, Human Resources and Payroll, Procurement, Fixed Asset Management, and Capital Improvements.

PeopleSoft was selected to be the vendor for the state's ERP, named the Ohio Administrative Knowledge System, or OAKS. State Architect's Office staff analyzed the PeopleSoft product and determined that while it was the right software for the overall ERP, it was not able to meet the specialized technical requirements of the state's capital improvements program.

A request for proposals was issued by the Office of Information Technology for construction project management software and Skire Incorporated was selected. The Office of Information Technology awarded Skire a contract for their Unifier product, which is built on a modern relational database. Beginning in the spring of 2007, State Architect's Office sponsored design, configuration, and testing of Unifier to incorporate the State of Ohio's design and construction business processes.

DAS and Skire worked collaboratively on this tool intended for use by all state agencies and institutions of higher education. The OAKS CI development team included Kent State University, The Ohio State University, the departments of Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, Natural Resources, and of course, the State Architect's Office. I was very pleased to serve on the OAKS CI core team, and our electronic design specialist, Angie Carder, and I participated as subject matter experts throughout the implementation process. I now serve on the three-member OAKS CI change management committee.

Today, OAKS CI is a fully functional project and program management system used by the entire project team from concept to closeout and follows the processes outlined in *The SAO Manual*, our primary guidance document, developed to support the Higher Education Certification program.

OAKS CI is a comprehensive tool to track every aspect of individual projects and each business unit's capital improvements program. It provides a collaborative environment throughout the life cycle of capital projects, available for use by all state agencies and state supported colleges and universities.

As it is configured today, OAKS CI includes 62 interrelated business processes, supported by six user-specific training courses. It offers fully staffed administration and support assisting over 1,400 users on 220 projects managing \$175 million of released capital funds. A study conducted by the State Architect's Office estimated the annual savings in printing and mailing costs by state agencies and universities to be approximately \$2.2 million.

OAKS CI features include the ability to interface with the OAKS Financial Module to create and modify Purchase Orders, Vouchers, and SAO Fee Billing. Our implementation of Unifier also has the ability to interface with university financial systems, provide EDGE reporting for capital projects and vendors, and a robust User Defined Reporting utility for ad hoc reporting functionality.

The OAKS CI user community includes Building Owners, Project Managers, Construction Managers, Architects, Engineers, Consultants, Prime Contractors, the Attorney General's Office, and the State Architect's Office or local contracting authority.

Due to the electronic management of projects offered by this software, paper file folders become electronic as paper is hard to share, easy to lose and difficult to search. Packing and shipping is replaced by the "Send" and "Upload" buttons, making transmission faster and at no additional cost. Documents can be searched, unless they are scanned, and ink signatures become electronic approvals.

Although OAKS CI does allow electronic management of documents, due to legal constraints, certain documents require pen and ink such as Agreements, Amendments, Contracts, Field Work Orders, and Change Orders. While OAKS CI is not completely paper-less; it does offer paper-light management.

Nevertheless, benefits of OAKS-CI are tremendous. Collaboration has never been easier as shared documents do not need postage, work can be late but never lost, calculations within certain documents and business processes are automated for users, and the tool offers secure access from any personal computer connected to the Internet. The software is hosted on multi-tier hardware platform owned and operated by the state of Ohio, in a virtualized server environment, forming a secure private cloud computing application available through the internet, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This electronic access does not replace existing collaboration methods including meetings, e-mail, and phone calls. OAKS CI has useful new tools too such as a document manager, a basic e-mail program built into OAKS-CI called uMail, shared business processes, and many other features.

The Director of Administrative Services may, under temporary law in the capital appropriations bill, authorize certain state agencies to locally administer capital projects up to \$1.5 million in value. Early in 2010, the State Architect issued a letter to those agencies notifying them that, beginning July 1, 2010, conditions of local administration authorization include a requirement to use OAKS CI on the authorized projects.

A few institutions of higher education are also using OAKS CI. Kent State University is fully functional, Miami University is running a small pilot, Cleveland State was planning implementation this spring, and the State Architect's Office is administering projects for numerous campuses, including Central State

University, Ohio University, Northeastern Universities College of Medicine, Belmont Technical College, Columbus State Community College, and North Central State College.

A typical organizational rollout takes three to six months, review of the organization's workflow and organizational requirements, pilot projects are encouraged, and organizations may provide their own trainers and project administrators. OAKS CI is available to any state supported college or university, and currently has no charge to use. The implementation team is prioritizing rollouts based on expressed interest and the ability of an organization to provide resources for the implementation process.

OAKS CI is also involved in the current implementation of the OAKS Business Intelligence or OAKS BI project, which utilizes COGNOS reporting tools. We have specified requirements for 29 reports to be delivered by the OAKS BI contractor. We will be able to configure our own COGNOS reports after the project is complete. These reports can pull data from both OAKS CI and OAKS FIN, consolidated in a single report that offers significantly more functionality than Unifer's user-defined reporting tools.

The change order reports our office provided at Senator Widener's request took a great deal of time to augment and format after harvesting the data. Once the COGNOS reporting tools are implemented, these reports will be available in real time within a matter of minutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on this vital program, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted by

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