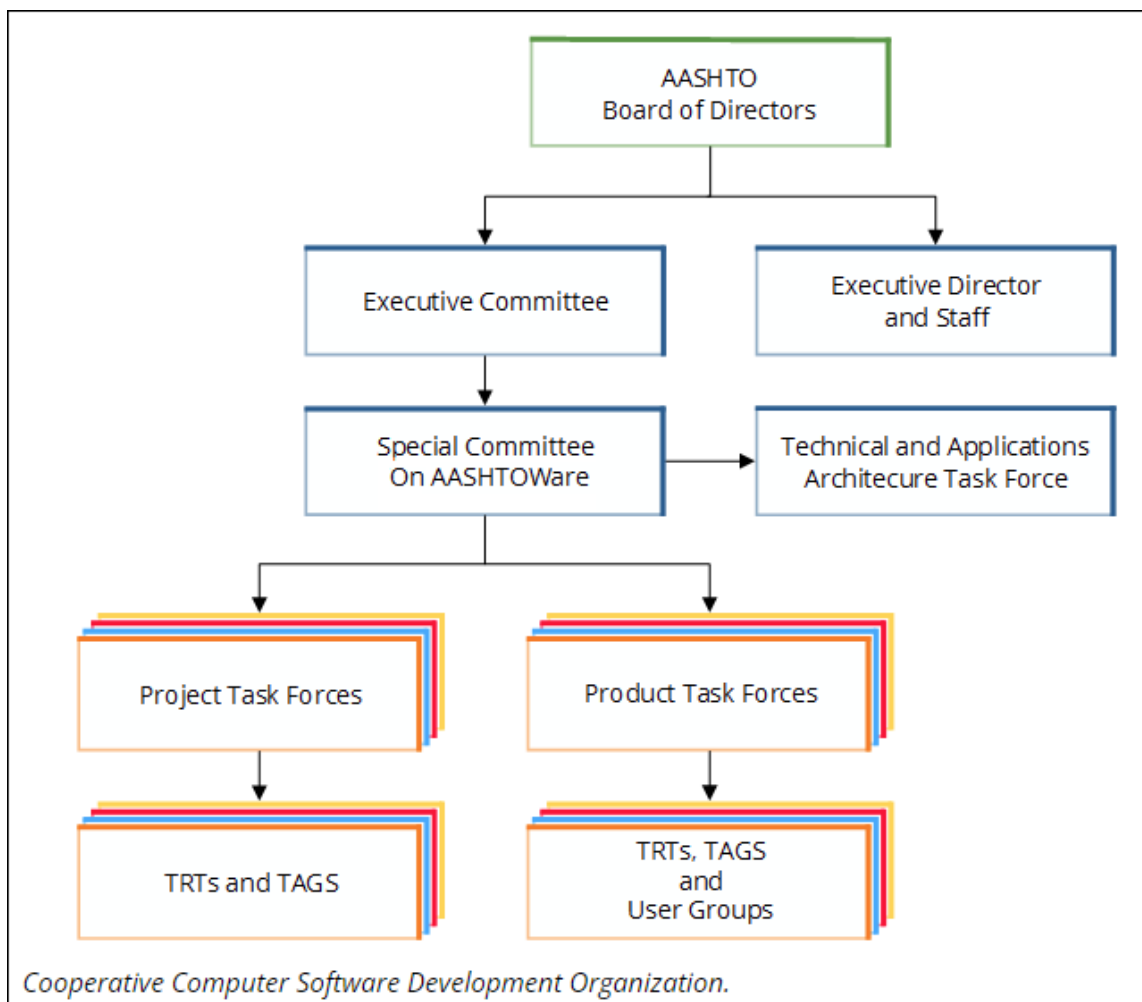


Introduction for New Attendees

Welcome to the **Rating And Design Bridge Users Group** (RADBUG). Members of this group represent their respective agencies in the guidance and support of AASHTOWare BrDR products. Feedback from the Users Group is implemented by the BrDR Task Force, which dictates the product roadmap and manages project development. The Users Group input is collected during the annual RADBUG meeting via presentations, discussion forums, and ultimately – enhancement voting. The voting process can seem murky to new attendees, so there is also a brief explanation of the process provided below.

Organization Chart





What is the Users Group?

The Users Group is split into two divisions: Ratings Sub Group and Design Sub Group. The primary objective of the Users Group is to provide a forum for a unified voice to direct the course of development for the AASHTOWare BrDR software. Furthermore, the group provides cooperative technical support and encourages national acceptance of the software as a load rating and design system.

What is the BrDR Task Force?

The goal of the task force is to develop and implement a plan to develop the AASHTOWare BrDR software in such a way as to meet the needs of the AASHTO members (as represented by the Users Group). The Task Force, together with other advisory task forces, is directed by the Special Committee on AASHTOWare (SCOA). The objectives of the Task Force include the following:

- Determine appropriate life cycles for the BrDR products.
- Produce and maintain a product strategic plan (reported in the AASHTOWare Bridge Newsletter).
- Produce yearly operating plans that identify specific deliverables from the contractor, ProMiles.
- Solicit and accept input from the Users Group.
- Identify issues and opportunities on software product integration, overlap or duplication.
- Present the accomplishments achieved versus the prior year's planned activities.

Annual Meeting

The annual RADBUG meeting is held with the purpose of promoting the software through the use of training sessions; presentations by various entities on the use of the product; and forums that provide updates on the continued development of the software by the BrDR Task Force. In addition to the User Group meeting, Sub Group meetings are also held for the purpose of conducting business and electing officers. Another important function of the User Group and Sub Group meetings is to vote on software enhancements.

Enhancement Voting

Alongside the issue tracking, the list of enhancement requests is maintained on JIRA. This list is provided to the User Group no later than the start of the RADBUG meeting, but with the aim of distributing the list one month prior to the meeting. In addition to the provided list, each annual meeting hosts a forum where any ballot-holding user may present an enhancement for consideration or discussion prior to the voting process. Enhancement voting opens two weeks prior to the RADBUG meeting but typically begins immediately after the meeting closes. ***Voting is open two weeks after the close of the meeting.*** Late ballots are not counted.



Each federal, state, and local agency receives one ballot for each licensable subproduct (BrD or BrR). On the ballot each agency ranks their desired top ten *unique* enhancements for each subproduct they have licensed (duplicate nominations will be treated as blanks).

Weighting of the ballots for each enhancement listed shall be done by taking the sum of the license fee that the agency has paid for that subproduct, dividing it by 1000, and then taking the resulting number times the result of eleven minus the rank of that item on the ballot. (*Example: Agency paid \$37,500 for one subproduct and their ballot rank #2 was for enhancement 9999. That agency's points awarded to enhancement 9999 would be $(37,500/1000) \times (11-2) = 337.5$ points*). Results are collected and tallied by the President and then provided to the Chairman of the Task Force (and are also posted to the Users Group website). The Task Force directs the contractor to provide detailed estimates for the top 10 enhancements. Based upon the available budget, the Task Force will implement as many enhancements as possible into the next year's product release.

A more detailed description of the voting policy is outlined in *Article X* of the AASHTOWare Bridge Users Group Constitution.

Resources

AASHTOWare BrDR Users Group website:

<https://www.aashtowarebridge.com/bridge-rating-and-design/brdrusergroup>

AASHTOWare BrDR product website:

<https://www.aashtoware.org>

AASHTOWare Bridge Users Group Constitution:

<https://www.aashtowarebridge.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2013-RADBUG-constitution.pdf>

AASHTOWare Policies, Guidelines & Procedures (PG&P) (June 2021):

https://www.aashtoware.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Policies_Guidelines_Procedures-June-2021.pdf