STREAMLINING TOOLS - TOOLS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE EFFECTIVE and EFFICIENT

THE STREAMLINING TOOLKIT: HOW TO USE, ITS ORIGIN AND SPONSORS

The Streamlining Toolkit was originally developed and released to the nation's elected officials, building officials and the construction community in 2007 and is being re-issued in 2011 in this updated and expanded version. The tools covered in this kit have strengthened codes enforcement in over 500 communities across this nation by identifying and eliminating areas of regulatory overlap and inefficiency – strengthening code enforcement and reducing by between 50 and 70% the amount of time it takes to move a building through the regulatory process.

The Toolkit was created by the members of the Alliance for Building Regulatory Reform in the Digital Age, a private-public partnership to address the problem of "information overload," by providing easy to follow one-sheet summaries on successful best practices and other materials.

Each one-page sheet in the Toolkit describes a different streamlining tool or resource. The sheets contain sections on:

- "ABOUT THE TOOL"
- "BENEFITS" of the tool
- "SAVINGS TO GOVERNMENT "and "SAVINGS TO THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR"
- "ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND" on the tool
- One or more brief "EXAMPLES OF APPLICATION AND JURISDICTION CONTACTS" who are prepared to answer any questions on their use of that tool
- A closing "SUMMARY" and "FOR MORE INFORMATION" provide directions to a website where the reader can either download the complete tool or obtain more detailed information.

BACKGROUND ON THE TOOLKIT

Originally conceived at a 2007 National Streamlining Conference held in Washington, D.C., the toolkit was designed to address the fact that jurisdictions and their customers are often overwhelmed by the amount of information concerning the need for, benefits of, and steps to take to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of government regulatory programs. Each toolkit sheet contains best practices and contact information on individuals in jurisdictions prepared to share their successful streamlining experience with their colleagues across the nation.

In late 2007 a nine-sheet toolkit was prepared and nationally released by the Alliance for Building Regulatory Reform in the Digital Age in both electronic and hard copy by Alliance partners, the National Governors Association, Council of State Governments, National Association of Counties and U.S. Conference of Mayors to their member elected officials. In addition the toolkit was made available for downloading on numerous websites including the Alliance's home site: www.natlpartnerstreamline.org. Between 2007 and 2010, over 3,000 hardcopies were nationally distributed and over 25,000 copies were downloaded off of the Alliance website.

At the request of Alliance partners during the summer of 2010, this updated and expanded version of the Toolkit has been prepared to included new contact listings and information on new streamlining tools including: the ICC Guideline on Replicable Buildings, a "Guide to the Benefits of Streamlining and IT to Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery" and the benefits of Streamlining and IT to the Nation's Economic Recovery.

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

The Alliance for Building Regulatory Reform in the Digital Age was formed in the summer of 2001 by national associations representing state and local government, the construction industry and Federal agencies to promote improvements in the effectiveness and efficiency of the building regulatory process through streamlining and use of information technology.

Partners in the public-private sector Alliance include:

- American Institute of Architects
- Associated General Contractors
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- FIATECH
- National Association of Home Builders
- U.S. Conference of Mayors
- National Association of Counties
- National Governors Association
- The National Association of State Chief Information Officers
- The National Institute of Standards and Technology
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In June 2007, the Alliance accepted an invitation for Alliance partner FIATECH for secretariat services as "The FIATECH Project on Streamlining the Building and Land Use Regulatory Processes."

ALLIANCE VISION

The Alliance vision is for a future state in which the building and land use regulatory process is online, streamlined, effective and efficient. In this future state, there is no regulatory overlap or duplication and information flows digitally between the construction and building community and the regulatory community.

TOOLKIT SPONSORS

American Institute of Architects	Target Corporation	U.S. Conference of Mayors
FIATECH	Marriott Corporation	BUILDERadius
National Association of Counties	Avolve Software	Bluebeam

Marriott