

**MoDOT Central & Northeast District / ACEC Missouri
Liaison Committee Meeting**



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

MoDOT Central District Office, Jefferson City



Attending from MoDOT:

Jeff Cremer
Steve Engelbrecht
Randall Glaser
Ryan Libbert
Jerad Noland
James Smith
Jason Vanderfeltz

Attending from ACEC-Missouri

Toshia Drebes, Klingner
Mike Erdtmann, GBA, Cmte. Chair
Bob Gilbert, B&W, Board Chair
Bruce Green, B&W (*for Todd Kempker*)
Dennis Heckman, CDI
Kevin Heffern, B&M
John Klein, H&S
Joe Sturgeon, HNTB (*for Travis Pfeiffer*)
Chip Touzinsky, Lochmueller (*for Tyson King*)

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. MoDOT Leadership Updates / Central Office Staffing Changes**
 - Director McKenna resigned. MoDOT is coming up with a plan moving forward. Has been great for MoDOT and funding.
 - Gidget Koestner hired back as Standards Engineer, in charge of EPG.
 - Terry Parker new Chief Counsel.
 - Mia Peters is retiring from CD at the end of the month. Doing interviews to fill spots.
 - Randall Glaser, Design Liaison is retiring.
 - Nicole Hood retired. John Nelson new State Highway Safety & Traffic Engineer.
 - CD is pretty well staffed up in Design, only 2 in survey.
 - NE doing pretty well in survey; Geotech staff low.
- 3. MoDOT District Updates / Staffing Changes / Major Project / Planning Updates (Central / Northeast)**
 - I-70 Updates – A few related projects listed below. Improve I-70 details coming from Kopinsky.
 - NE District Upcoming projects.
 - I-70 overlay will be Let this fall to keep it drivable.
 - 3 overpasses along I-70 will be solicited to supplement Improve I-70.
 - US-36 – Monroe City to west of Hannibal (at the Rocket truck stop) to Shelbina, durability issues/pavement deteriorating – eating funds that weren't in the plan.
 - Emergency projects - Warren Co. Route U slide, bridge in Adair Co.
 - Lincoln County future interchange over B & E – should be posted today, planned to do in house but not enough staff. Survey and some conceptual work completed in-house.
 - CD District Upcoming Projects.
 - A lot of big projects, including the DB and DBB.
 - Bridge hit up in Columbia getting emergency repair.
 - A lot of work is going on along 54 either under design or construction.

- Adding lanes on 54 coming into Jefferson City from north, B&W starting design.
- East side of Boone A/C, October Letting.
- Earmark for the West side of A/C; currently doing traffic study – will go out for design.
- 63 around Westphalia, still working on; going to public meeting, will require VE study.
- Congestion issues at Route 5 and 54 that they'll start looking at.
- 50 west has no movement.
- 54 at Old Bass realignment being designed in-house.
- Climbing lanes, interchange work and sight distance work along I-44.
- ADA solicitations will continue to come out.
- I-44 Corridor Updates.
 - Forward 44 is the name of the NEPA Study being conducted – details on Study info sheet. Preston Kremer leading for MoDOT. STIP projects coming – Pavement reconstruction and 2 interchanges ID'd at Route V and 8. The last public meeting is tonight, and the comment period is through 8/21. All info broken out on STIP page.

4. RFQ Solicitations Trends / On-Call Solicitation & Overall Consultant Usage

- MOU/On-Call Trends.
 - ADA projects will continue to come out through MOU but must be small.
 - CD using MOU for traffic studies and some conceptual/scoping.
 - Some small simple bridges can be done with MOU.
 - Can't get much done for \$200k cap. If MoDOT can't do survey and Geotech, that eats up a lot. Still doing what they can through MOU.
 - Jeff has not seen MOU work decrease. CO Bridge probably biggest users.
 - MoDOT likes to use longer list for On-Call so they can try new consultants.
- Solicitation Trends.
 - CD getting 4 or 5 on some fairly big solicitations.
 - MoDOT trying to have PMs looking more than 1 year out so they can get a solicitation out 2-3 years ahead of time. The MoDOT goal is to get solicitations out when supposed to, so that schedules can be decent.
 - PMs were realizing with project scheduler that some projects weren't started soon enough.
- General On-Call updates – usages versus solicitations.
 - MoDOT using it where they can. Seeing value from expanded list. Using firms they haven't before.
 - From an administrative view, Cremer feels it's gotten a little too big, but definitely want it expanded from where it was before.
 - Next MOU solicitation will go out in next 18 months. Getting website updated now with most recent ads.
 - Continued Discussion / Updates on MOU limits and splitting projects into phases (design vs. construction) to expand limits.
 - Jeff Cremer said this is not going to happen.
 - Raising cap is a non-starter right now at the Commission.
 - Pilot program in KC for inspection has been a big success; a lot of good feedback; looking to expand this next year and will move to more of this model (hire firm for X hours and use as needed), and will only use solicitation on larger inspection jobs

5. Construction Letting Trends

- Inflation and Current Cost Trends.
 - Overall, Asphalt index going down, MoDOT is covering inflation.
 - Inflation leveling out or going slightly down in NE District.
 - Limited asphalt companies and asphalt work in certain areas north of U.S. 36.
- Construction Schedules.

- Tree clearing restrictions consistently a problem, getting construction behind.
 - MoDOT Maintenance is not really equipped for major clearing, but they are trying some on-call gen services contracts to get clearing done ahead of projects.
 - NE Maintenance won't do any clearing. CD has done some.
- PS&E Letting schedules are tied to August 1 Federal FY to make sure MoDOT receives.
- Contractor Interest, Number of Responses.
 - A lot more competitive. Getting 10 bidders on some.

6. STIP, 6-Month Outlook, and Unfunded Needs

- Trying to keep Outlook up to speed, but comes down to being an PM short, or projects popping up.
- Jeff Cremer – Goal is to list Outlook twice per year. Trying to have resource plan for first 2 years of STIP, but might not be reasonable to expect.
- CD & NE draft STIP outlook.
 - New STIP just approved. Updating unfunded needs. Some coming from I-70/I-44.
 - Starting with asset management/TCOS/System Improvements.
 - NE unfunded needs not much coming to STIP – possible a scoping study for US-63 up to Iowa later this FY.

7. DBE in Design-Build (presented by ECR)

- Updates released 4/9, effective 5/9.
- Allows for open-ended performance plans. Proposers must commit to meeting 100% of goals. MoDOT provides oversight.
- Added Distributor at 40% credit toward DBE goals.
- When a DBE firm is removed from program, work can still be counted if contract was executed before removal (sometimes after with MoDOT written consent).
- DBE Final Rule information: [DBE and ACDBE Final Rule | US Department of Transportation](#).
- Glaser – Traffic control for engineering is valid toward DBE goal. Second tier subs are kind of on the fence as allowable, which they have been allowing.
- Cremer – Hearing a lot of Traffic Control, Geotech, Surveying use for DBEs, not being utilized as much for core design services.

8. Consultant Deliverables – Quality/Areas of Improvement, Schedules, etc.

- Seeing more errors, but also sending things out with fast timelines. Some errors getting all the way to Ryan, so getting past consultant QC and MoDOT QC. Overall schedules are being met where feasible or at least doing what they can.
- MoDOT seeing teams change after LOI's – they understand key staff can change, but ask consultants are open and honest about it; let them know before they realize it.
- Scope & Fee timeframe seems to be improving. MoDOT will be tracking moving forward.
- Biggest pet peeve from MoDOT PMs is if communication is lacking.
 - An example is if comments are discussed and not addressed, or if concerns are brought up after the fact.
 - MoDOT is open to having supplemental discussion and having honest conversation before items become issues.

9. MoDOT Consultant Contract Insurance Changes – PLI, CGL and Automobile

- Realize having MoDOT listed as insured on our COI is not possible, plan on revising. Have also heard about limits causing some problems.
- Going through ACEC comments and looking to have draft revisions back to us in Fall.
- Going to allow the combination of ballooning or stacking products to meet general liability,
- Projects will start being rated with a risk and will have different insurance requirements accordingly.

10. MoDOT Project Scheduling Tool Progress and Updates – Microsoft Projects

- Not rolling out to everyone quite yet, just to projects on current STIP. Also, being done on a PM-by-PM basis.
- MoDOT finding it is a good communication tool, for public and internally.
- Will be scheduling some live trainings in St. Louis, Jefferson City, and Kansas City.
- Plan to roll out in October.
- Consultants expected to update schedule every month.

11. Other Items / Open Discussion

- Environmental needs on projects across the board are growing.
 - ROE's can delay projects months.
 - MoDOT is trying to plug gaps. Have someone on board just for SHPO.
 - SHPO has become critical path for projects.
 - Melissa Schepeler said there are issues with Right-of-Way entry for Cultural Resources environmental coordination. Some projects need cultural resources after ROW is cleared. This is adding 4-12 months to project schedules.

12. Next Meeting Date – February 2025

- Exact date in February TBD.
- We have been alternating between in person and virtual.
 - Winter is probably a good time for a virtual meeting. Tentatively virtual in February.