

**Missouri Department of Transportation (HQ) / ACEC Missouri
Liaison Committee Meeting**



**Tuesday, November 19, 2024
9:00-11:00 AM**

**ACEC
Missouri**

**Location: Missouri Department of Transportation,
1511 Missouri Boulevard (Parrish Room), Jefferson City, MO 65101**

MINUTES

1. Introductions

MoDOT Attendees:

Jeffrey Cremer
Bryan Hartnagel
Eric Schroeter
Kenny Voss

ACEC/MO Attendees:

Mike Banashek, Horner & Shifrin
Dan DeArmond, WSP
Buddy Desai, Hg Consult
Dave Diestelkamp, ABNA
Kevin Fuller, CMT
Rob Krewson, Benesch
Chris Linneman, EFK Moen
Anne Schroer, TREKK
Nicole Hood, TransSystems
Morgan Mundell, ACEC/MO President

2. Update on Commission Search for Director.

- a. Eric Schroeter discussed Ed Hassinger being announced as the new Director. MoDOT is still working to fill Ed's previous position as Chief Engineer, and Jay Wunderlich's position. Jay will retire on January 1.

3. Legislative Items:

- a. General Election Results and Impacts to MoDOT.
 - i. MoDOT has a meeting on December 11th with the Governor transition team.
- b. 2025 Legislative Priorities.
 - i. MoDOT waiting to see what the Governor and legislature's priorities for 2025 may be.
 - ii. MoDOT is focusing on messaging the Safer document and finding ways to promote and educate about safety to younger users.
 - iii. Pre-filing for legislation opens on December 1

4. Project Scheduling Tool Implementation.

- a. Jeff Cremer gave an update. All current STIP projects have now been added to the Project database. Rollout of the use of Project will start with the St. Louis District very soon. Jeff Bohler and Alvin Nieves-Rosario have been the main users in St. Louis and will be a resource for other Districts. The ACEC user survey resulted in 144 potential license needs, which MoDOT expects to be able to accommodate. Trainings will be available in St. Louis for consultants soon. The current plan is for the consultants to update the schedule in Project, but the MoDOT PM's will be the ones to approve and "publish" the schedule updates. MoDOT will add new projects into the system each year when the STIP is updated.

5. Lump Sum Contracts Pilot.
 - a. The I-70 Design-Bid-Build project from Rocheport to Booneville is the first new lump sum design services project in recent years. The agreement has been signed, no concerns were mentioned from the negotiation process, and it is too early to report on anything beyond that. Both MoDOT and ACEC will continue to look for opportunities to use lump sum in future projects.
 - b. LPA projects were brought up as a good possible opportunity. ACEC members will look for ideal project opportunities to pilot this on the LPA side. Ideal projects will be ones with a solidly defined scope and ones located in Local Agencies that are receptive to a lump sum contracting method.
6. Updates on I-70 and I-44.
 - a. Industry (consultant and contractor) meeting tomorrow in Jefferson City. Will discuss schedule for projects > \$25M in the STIP. More information expected at that meeting, but a short summary provided by Eric.
 - b. I-70: Project #1 has 7+ miles of paving underway. Project #2 contractor was selected at the last commission meeting. Project #3 held an industry meeting last week.
 - c. I-44: The draft Purpose and Need from the environmental work on the 2 projects covering the state are near complete. Large flooding at the Big Piney River occurred recently which shut down the interstate, making this a high priority need to resolve in the Central District. The SW District section has some projects further along and will likely be the first to get underway.
7. Gov. Parson's rescission of the state order for M/WBE contracts – what does this mean for current and future contracts with MoDOT?
 - a. This does not directly affect traditional MoDOT contracts, but MoDOT is watching how this impacts other state agency work.
8. Kentucky DBE Lawsuit.
 - a. The group discussed at length the recent injunction in place that requires DBE goals to be removed from any project where the two original lawsuit plaintiffs intend to place bids on. This resulted in IDOT having to remove 20+ projects from their recent letting because there was not enough time to properly implement a change to remove DBE goals so late in the DBE process. MoDOT has not been notified by the plaintiffs of them bidding on MoDOT projects yet. The November letting was not affected. MoDOT stressed that they are continuing to follow the current DBE rules and have no plans to change until ordered otherwise. Both ACEC and MoDOT agree that some policies promoting the use of small businesses are beneficial and would like to see something put in place if the DBE program is impacted.
9. Consultant Reviews.
 - a. MoDOT has not been preparing formal consultant reviews using their standard form as often lately, mostly due to workload and resourcing. ACEC reiterated that more than anything else, the consultants want to make sure that if MoDOT does have any issues/concerns with a consultant's work, that the consultant is made aware so they can properly address. MoDOT understands this and will continue to look for ways to provide meaningful feedback.
 - b. MoDOT noted that they have received internal notes that quality issues are present on recent ROW plans, and that the ROW plan checklist should resolve those quality issues.
10. MoDOT approach to consultant construction inspection – seems to be growing need. What would MoDOT like to see from consultants?
 - a. This is an area of heavy need. The St. Louis District will be coming out with a project needing 9,000 hours of construction inspection work. The KC District pilot project, which allowed for construction inspection services to be used across a variety of projects was a

success and MoDOT may do a similar project in other districts. It was noted that this system worked better on smaller projects and larger projects still benefit from an individual RFQ dedicated to that single project.

11. LPA Program definition of Local/City/County Engineer vs. On-Call Consultant as it relates to availability to respond to RFQ's.
 - a. MoDOT stressed the intention is that a system of checks and balances needs to be in place and that they do not want to see instances of a consultant working as a City-Engineer is essentially hiring themselves for a LPA project. Ashley Buechter will be sending out clarification language soon on this item.
12. October Consultant Services 6-Month Outlook.
 - a. Jeff noted that he plans to give a larger update on the consultant services outlook at the industry meeting tomorrow.
13. MoDOT's Feedback on Expanded Statewide On-Call Contract Lists.
 - a. MoDOT noted that the next round of On-Call solicitations will go back to a smaller number of selections per category. MoDOT Districts/Divisions will calculate how many projects they anticipate needing in the next 3-year cycle and the selections will be appropriately sized for the number and types of On-Call projects anticipated.
14. MoDOT Bentley ORD User Group – ACEC Representative Inclusion.
 - a. MoDOT agreed to ACEC's request for 3 representatives to join the MoDOT ORD calls. ACEC will send MoDOT 3 names for the meeting invites.
15. Other Discussion Items.
 - a. Eric noted that Ed Hassinger is creating a new advisory council to be formed with representatives of the department's key stakeholders including key elected officials, local planning partners, the MoDOT contractor community, state and local economic development, and others critical to delivering this transportation improvements. Efforts will focus on review and fine-tuning of MoDOT's organization to strengthen its commitment to several key areas of continuous improvement critical to project delivery success and operations. These include:
 1. Safety in all operations and project management;
 2. Outreach to and coordination with state leadership and elected officials to make the STIP process as locally driven as possible with sensitivity to timely local needs as they arise;
 3. Build even closer partnership with the department's critical private sector contractor community and regional planning partners;
 4. Recruit and retain the essential and valued MoDOT workforce;
 5. Increase focus on operational needs to keep MoDOT's system maintained, useable, clean, and responsive to citizen reported upkeep; and,
 6. Innovate and use technology for the future to maximize efficiency and cost-effective delivery of programs and services.
 - b. Eric asked ACEC to provide MoDOT a list of any topics we would like the new group above to discuss.
 - c. Section 508 Compliance is an important issue for MoDOT public meetings and websites. This can/will include consultant documents that are part of public meetings or on MoDOT's website.
 - d. Jeff Cremer noted that MoDOT is moving towards using the State's "Movers" program for consultant solicitations. More information will be forthcoming. Registration is required by July 2025 to be added to the system.

- e. MoDOT's railroad group will be looking for more consultant coordination as they go through staffing changes. Larry Sheperle has retired and Logan Rogers is filling his role. Greg Leary has moved from the RR group to become a Central District PM.
16. Next Meeting – Planning for February 2025. Date to be set later, but everyone agreed that the meeting can be in-person in Jefferson City.