



AGENDA

ACEC-Missouri

MoDOT Kansas City District Liaison Committee Meeting

Monday, May 20, 2024

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Virtual & KC District Office Boardroom

MoDOT KC District Representatives

Chris Redline, District Engineer
Jeff Hardy, Assistant District Engineer
Matt Killion, Assistant District Engineer
Debbie Huffman, District Design Eng.
Juan Yin, District Planning Manager
Rich Shipley, District Const. Eng.
Ericka Ross, District Traffic Engineer
Sean Domingo, District Resident Engineer
Jill Bruss, Area Engineer
Jodie Puhr, Project Manager
Allan Ludiker, Project Manager
Ben McCabe, Project Manager
Heather Barrows, Project Manager

Mark Sommerhauser, Project Manager
Christopher West, Project Manager
Karlee Covington, Project Manager
Jackie White, Project Manager
Ryan Hale, Senior Engineer

ACEC-MO Liaison Committee Members

- ✓ Linda Rottinghaus, Chair, Affinis
- ✓ Brian Kidwell, Garver
- ✓ Ben Asnicar, Burns & McDonnell
- ✓ Heidi Eilers, HNTB Corporation
- ✓ Cory Imhoff, HDR, Inc.
- ✓ Michelle Kratzer, TranSystems

1. Introductions (5 min)

2. District Engineer – District Updates (10 min)

- Draft STIP (a record) out for review, about \$2B/yr, lots of general revenue
 - i. KC area STIP budget \$562M (a lot of it is Allan's I-70 job); primary concern with this magnitude of workload is contractors remaining competitive and getting the work done.
- Legislature is done for this session, lots of bills waiting for Governor's signature
 - i. 65&B included for \$4.7M (unfunded)
 - ii. 49/58 (\$20M)
 - iii. Low Volume roads \$100M statewide, \$8M for KC District; every district will receive some of that
 - iv. Unnamed ramp in Lone Jack \$1.8M (not a ramp, not in Lone Jack)
 - v. \$35M to the port
 - vi. \$53M for PEL up north
 - vii. Passed 46 bills, 18 were budget bills

- viii. Put in 3.2% pay raise for state employees
 - ix. State has backed off on requirement to spend within a fiscal year
 - x. Most of these will have to be reappropriated (many for next two years) as it has to be money spent, not just appropriated; reappropriated the \$28.3M for 670 Lid
- MoDOT KC has 15 interns; 4 are kids of former/current MoDOT employees
 - Senator Graves has an earmark for 291 in Liberty area, Flint Lock to 104th (a piece of the unfunded needs job, really short section)
 - Traffic Management presentation to MARC recently; going to be very important to keep an eye on companion corridors – don't want lots of parallel routes under construction at the same time. This will get more difficult as a lot of money is being spent all over the place. Very light so far this year aside from some bridge rehabs. Already discussing World Cup impacts.

3. District Engineer – Project Updates (10 min)

- A few projects out for solicitation now; may be another coming out soon. Sound study on I-49 job may be released as MOU after alignment is set
- A couple bridge jobs out, a safety job, a sign truss inspection
- Question from ACEC: Anything consultants can do to help with World Cup?
 - i. MoDOT is plugged into the team; they are involved in all conversations about when which things will shut down.
 - ii. Availability of busses will be major bottleneck.
- Future Staffing Issues for MoDOT: Half of Rich's counterparts and their staff (Construction Inspections) will be gone by July 2026.
- Any challenges that rise to the top for MoDOT KC?
 - i. Environmental staff and (outside MoDOT) SHPO
 - ii. Railroads are getting worse; delays on reviews, general responsiveness, not allowing track time (Buck gets to work 4 hrs per week over tracks), also have to build in time because railroad wants to see final plans before they review anything; multimodal staff is learning the ropes after Larry's retirement; most reviews for RRs are not done by RR anymore, they are done by consultants; if you happen to be one of the RR's consultants, work to minimize review time and don't be unnecessarily difficult; MoDOT sees these consultants as ONE consultant.
 - 1. RR difficulty begins with MoDOT getting permits up front
 - 2. RR difficulty continues with Contractors getting work permit
 - iii. Utilities are still an issue but if you can't get environmental and RR approvals, you can't start to move utilities

- Two fairly big safety improvement projects: 48 and J from 58-49; looking to do corridor safety improvements rather than spot improvements; 58 roundabout just let.
- Internal MoDOT meeting this week on ADA; almost all have been consulted out, may need some R/W help. 2027 ADA Transition Plan wrapping up soon (MoDOT wide, FHWA-mandated timeline)

4. STIP/Unfunded Needs Updates (15 min)

- STIP is available for draft comments now; external website has link to Draft STIP as top item
- To Commission on July 10th
- Unfunded Needs:
 - i. Next public meetings will happen in August; Mark putting final touches on this year's list now; on agenda at MARC TTPC tomorrow; will be released to public prior to August meetings
 - ii. MARC list is closed and they are reviewing for funding now
 - iii. MARC and MoDOT are working to get LPA money spent faster; **if you (consultants) are working on BRO or LPA project, you might push your client to get it done to help MoDOT avoid leaving money on the table when the August distribution comes.** Trying to spend 120% of what they get so within 5 years, it's spent down to where they need it. Jobs are supposed to be done within 3-4 years of when they are funded. MoDOT still trying to button up a 12-year-old KCMO job (federal funds are long gone). **New jobs, do your due diligence to keep everything on schedule and get everything done.**
 - iv. Mentioned that apparent bottlenecks on LPA/BRO projects in other districts is sometimes MoDOT. Plug for consultants to help (on-call).
 - v. All R/W was passed to consultant. Often, main bottle neck is MDNR. They are down to one person doing SHPO. CE2 recently took 18 months to get through MDNR. MoDOT was recently told that environmental slowdowns will get worse before they get better. MoDOT tried to fund a position at MDNR and that fell through.

5. Upcoming Consultant Projects (6 Mo. Outlook, Alt. Delivery, On-call, etc.) (10 min)

- For the most part, if it's in the STIP, MoDOT has put things on the Upcoming Needs list.
- It may not show all of the upcoming **construction inspection needs**. They last time selected consultants for **pilot run of 5,000 hours and a list of potential**

projects then scored/selected three different consultants and set NTE costs, they are now working on projects. One working on three projects and likely able to work on more. **May do the same thing but with 5 or more consultants next year.** Jeff Cremer is considering this as the ongoing path forward for construction inspection. Next solicitation likely coming in August/September.

- **Debbie is doing the same sort of pilot on the design side (emergency and small items) to get things done quickly.** This just got started. Contract is executed.
- MoDOT has rejected a number of projects this year due to high construction prices so competition is an ongoing concern. Seems to be capacity for asphalt companies this construction season but it will be tight next year. Recently saw a new name on bridge JOC last week. Saw another new name on 65 in Saline County. No new major companies. Ames is working in KC area but not bidding on MoDOT projects.

6. Consultant Performance Feedback (10 min)

- No immediate concerns. MoDOT is so busy that consultants seem to be doing what they've been asked to do.
- **QA/QC from consultants is absolutely essential because MoDOT isn't able to review as thoroughly as they historically were. True for standard MoDOT projects AND on LPA jobs. Need consultants to make sure everything, traffic control included, meets MoDOT standards.**
- 99 Miscellaneous Numbers (contingencies) have to go towards a realistic pay item; why are you using it rather than a standard bid item; needs to have realistic pay item and job specs
- With environmental understaffed, **submit RESs on-time. Have conversation with PMs or Debbie and see if you can submit for RES before preliminary plans are perfect.**
- Right of way is also taking a long time. **Preferred alternatives may need to consider walls more often to minimize right of way takes.**
- **Traffic Control and Transportation Management:** The page and a half executive summary should be taken to your public involvement specialist to make sure impacts of traffic control plans can be quickly understood by the public.
- Feedback to MoDOT:
 - i. KC District does well with thorough consultant debriefs.

7. Next Meeting (TBD w/ New Committee Chair)

- Bob Gilbert will choose next chair.

- Meetings are typically October (right after unfunded needs list is updated) and May (right after STIP draft released)