



Meeting Notes
ACEC-Missouri - MoDOT STL District Liaison Committee
February 19 | 9:00-11:00 AM
Teams Video Conference

MoDOT Representatives:

Tom Blair, District Engineer
Tom Evers, Assistant District Engineer
Nicole Kreisel, District R/W Manager
Jeff Bohler, District Design Engineer
Mike Castro, District Construction Engineer
Cindy Simmons, District Planning Manager
Jeff Cremer, Central Office Design

ACEC/MO Liaison Committee Members:

Dan DeArmond, WSP
Amy Touchette-Brown, BFW
Joel Weinhold, UES
J.C. Murray, AECOM
Matt Johnson, TranSystems
Jason Schreckenber, CDI
Kelly Schaefer, Lochmueller Group
Todd Welz, Quigg Engineering
Brett Brooks, EDSI
Bob Gilbert, Bartlett & West

Agenda Topics

1. Introductions (5 min)

- Icebreaker: If you could only do one winter activity for the rest of your life, what would it be?

2. MoDOT Staff Changes since last meeting (Jeff Bohler, 5 min)

- Erin Smith is new Regional Counsel for SL replacing Jason Saey
- Eric Schroeter is the new Deputy Director
- Mark Croarkin is the new Assistant Chief Engineer
- 3 DEs are now open, NE, KC and SE.
- Alex Schroeder from the TP division is the new RR Administrator replacing Troy Hughes who retired. Logan Rogers works under Alex.
- Kenny's position is advertised – State Design Engineer will be announced ~March
- Linda Horn and Marie Elliot are retiring from Community Relations with new positions to be filled

3. Tom Blair Time (10 min)

- Staffing still greatest concern; request for 300 additional positions submitted to legislature
- Maintenance & operations doing better filling positions; SL Design is fully staffed, Construction still struggling to fill inspector positions.

4. Tom Evers Update (10 min)

- District awarded \$140M in projects, \$12% below program estimate
- Bids statewide are 3.5% below estimate
- Have seen good competition in bids, including new contractors
- District is in home stretch of ADA transition with 60% of projects completely closed out, 20% in construction, 20% still to be awarded; have received no leeway from FHWA on schedule
- Annual STIP update in prep for 2026-30 program with one year of new projects being added; prior two years were mainly inflation adjustments; first three years for District was at about \$1B

5. Consultant Update (Jeff Cremer, 10 min)

- 6-month outlook planned to be released prior to TEAM Conference
- Reminder that it is each consultant's responsibility to stay up to date on annual quals requirements AND annual financial prequal; also check to make sure data is up to date and accurate (here: <https://www.modot.org/consultant-prequalification-list>)
- MoDOT is updating list of open contracts and refining database that calculates backlog by firm; if individual firms want to see or discuss their backlog, please contact Jeff Cremer
- Final draft of consultant contract template is nearly ready for review/comment with plan to finalize in March 2025; changes in insurance, will have a risk matrix and language to help secure insurance coverage
- Project scheduling tool (Microsoft Project) rolling out soon along with EPG policy change regarding consistently updating schedule; working on getting licenses rolled out to consultants in STL District in next 3-4 months; aiming for proactive management versus reactive; goal is to provide other departments (ROW, railroad, environmental) a picture of project path and workload so everyone is up to speed; may enable better public communication in the future

6. SL Design Update (Jeff Bohler, 10 min)

- New program from STL Construction Forum for certification of survey techs – currently recruiting
- 6 month outlook mentioned above; updates in March and October is overall goal; reminder for consultants to reach out to project managers to discuss specific projects
- Increased interest lately on RFQs, with some projects drawing 12+ letters of interest
- On-call contract usage is down; difficult to scope for the \$200K budget; maintenance and specialty projects are still good candidates; some PMs continue to use them
- Based on the new STIP and need to update the Unfunded Priorities lists – need for some corridor studies emerging

7. ACEC Updates and Discussion (ACEC Members, 10 min)

- Engineers Day at the capitol, over 100 attendees; joint effort with APWA, NSPE
- TEAM Conference in mid-March; sold out early
- ACEC Annual Meeting in early March in KC this year; Ed Hassinger speaking
- MFTI and ACEC tracking many bills and lobbying for transportation priorities
 - Engineering Tax credits for STEM education
 - Licensure bill – addition of interior designers
 - Prop A – minimum wage bill, sick leave conditions changing and set to start in May
 - Design-Build legislation is sunseting in 2026; trying to eliminate sunset – some cities, counties and water/wastewater entities make good use of design-build
- Tracking of federal funding freezes and other impacts: ACEC and other organizations are tracking actions and advocating to prioritize infrastructure and its funding mechanisms; some projects have been put on hold, but limited specific cases.
- MoDOT Work Zone awareness run is April 19 – sign up here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MO/Chesterfield/WorkzoneAwareness5K>

8. Other/ Next Meeting

- Tuesday, May 13th