



ACEC-Missouri - MoDOT STL District Liaison Committee  
**Meeting Minutes**



**April 17, 2024 | 9:00-11:15 AM**

MoDOT St. Louis District Headquarters  
1590 Woodlake Drive, Chesterfield, MO

**Conference Room 325 and Teams Video Conference**

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**The Meeting was Called to Order** by Chip Touzinsky (attending place of committee chair Scott Smith) at 9:03 a.m. The following committee members were in attendance:

**MoDOT Attendees:**

Tom Evers, Assistant District Engineer  
Jeff Bohler, District Design Engineer  
Cindy Simmons, District Planning Manager  
Jeff Cremer, Central Office Design  
Mike Castro, District Construction Engineer

**ACEC/MO Liaison Committee Attendees:**

Chip Touzinsky, Lochmueller Group  
Linda Moen, EFK Moen  
Mike Erdtmann, GBA  
Howard Gotschall, Hanson  
Kyle Levenhagen, AECOM  
Todd Welz, Quigg Engineering  
Kandi Spraggs, WSP  
Joel Weinhold, UES (Geotechnology)  
Amy Touchette-Brown, CDG

**Meeting Summary**

**1. Introductions:**

- To begin the meeting, we formally introduced ourselves.

**2. MoDOT staff changes since last meeting (Jeff Bohler):**

- Mike Blattner is the new St Charles Project Manager. He replaced Chris Kelly who moved to the I-70 East project team.
  - Mikes Position as District Utility Engineer is currently being filled.
- A new utility position of District Utility Manager was filled by David Brunjes. David was previously a District Utility Coordinator. This position is new to the SL District and will help manage the utility workload with the growing program and utility permit requirements.
- Scott Melton is SL's District Safety and Health Manager replacing Joe Moore more who went to work in Central Office.
- Danica Taylor is the Assistant State Design Engineer replacing Kenny Voss when he moved up.
- Ryan Martin replaced Danica as the Estimate and Review Engineer

**3. Tom Blair Update (Tom Evers on behalf of Tom Blair):**

- From the political perspective – don't let our teams get distracted by the legislative noise.
- Keep our advocacy efforts up and help promote stability for MoDOT.
- Lots of great projects happening and "It's a great time to be a transportation engineer!"

- Linda reminded to communicate to our staff about the need to vote in the primary to support our ACEC endorsed candidate for governor – Mike Kehoe.

#### **4. Tom Evers Update:**

- Workzone Awareness Week
  - 5k this coming Saturday (4/20)
  - Last year there were 35 workzone related crashes with fatalities
  - Most workzone related accidents tagged as “distracted”
  - BUPD!
- General Staffing
  - St. Louis District is in a positive staffing trend providing more stability
  - Recruiting is still difficult
    - MoDOT looking at other engineering disciplines to fill roles (mechanical, industrial, electrical), not just civil engineers
  - Would love to have a “Bridge East” group in STL. Flexibility on location has been helpful in recruiting
- Improve I-70
  - Project 1 awarded to Millstone-Weber. MoDOT saw significant added value, and they are looking forward to see added value for Project 2.
  - Project 2 RFP in July, likely awarded in November. ~ \$460M Gen Rev, \$175M in STIP funds.
- STIP Update
  - Draft STIP goes to commission in May
  - Still catching up from inflation with some projects being added to the STIP, but not much moving from the Unfunded Needs to the STIP
    - Last year 60 projects were added to the STIP, this year’s draft has 300 added projects, but no big projects from the Unfunded Needs
  - Overall bids have been moving more closely to the estimates, however, STL bids have been 9-10% over estimates.
  - MoDOT is emphasizing watching out for scope creep in added improvements to projects
    - Justification is needed to add scope
- Jeff Bohler, Shaun Tooley, Cindy Simmons working with East-West Gateway on a STL Regional Arterial Design Guide “Blueprint for Arterials”
  - Desire to create some consistency in options to be used for arterial corridors
  - Will include long term asset management
  - Looking to be done internally by end of June
  - Might be something to be used across the state after review of the STL pilot

#### **5. Jeff Cremer Update:**

- Still hearing that it is taking too long to get from consultant selection to contract – statewide issue

- Some (not majority) PM's across the state think hiring consultants is not worth doing because it takes too long.
- It's a tool in the box they can't use
- Currently it's taking 6-10 months to get under contract
  - Jeff would like to see 30 to 60 days on average
- Is extra scope causing delays?
- Discussions around setting a "hard" scoping date in submittal process that all parties can be accountable to.
- Kenny and Danica are putting an emphasis on identifying the issues
- o MoDOT has been getting billed for labor AND equipment costs on certain tasks (i.e. from surveyors on mobile/aerial LiDAR)
  - Capital equipment costs should be included in our OH rate, and in turn the labor rate
  - MoDOT doesn't want to pay for equipment recouping and will be putting requirements out in the EPG
  - Equipment rental is different than trying to recoup equipment costs that should be in your OH. Rental and actual project related expenses will be reimbursed.
- o Traction being gained on the topic of Lump Sum contracting for MoDOT
  - Jeff is championing the research and expansion of LS use
  - A pilot program is coming of hopefully 3-4 projects with defined scope, potentially for LPA
  - Consultants think we can focus on engineering, less on admin, which would create some innovation. Should be similar to how MoDOT sees value in DB (set scope, get it done).
  - MoDOT will have to show data that it works and they aren't paying 10% more just to get jobs done for 11% less.
- o Jeff checking on anticipated consultant needs and will update in June/July
  - Will try to provide a 1 year outlook
  - Kenny and Danica looking to have a plan to resource and deliver the next 3 years of the STIP
- o Beginning process of rolling out Project Scheduling
  - Consultants with FY26 projects will be expected to use
  - Working on understanding licensing needs
  - Training videos and material will be provided
  - Project teams to update schedules every 30 days
  - There probably won't be multiple licenses handed out to 1 consultant; possibly 1 for each office for bigger firms. There will not be a license for every PM.
  - MoDOT will strategize with ACEC and the Advisory Committee on an overview or demo of the tool

## 6. STL Design Update (Jeff Bohler):

- o When coldmilling butt joints, only traverse joints should be paid for as modified cold milling. Longitudinal tapered milling such as along a concrete lane, shall be paid for with the standard coldmilling pay items, such as 3" or less.

- TTB locations need to be called out on the quantity sheets and the plan sheets. Just showing the total on the 2B sheet makes it hard for contractors to know specific lengths and locations in the plans.
- Survey Pin Discussion –By statute, it is illegal to remove an existing, recorded property pin, but it seems MoDOT has not always replaced them when disturbed by construction activities, or when the R/W line changes. Typically, MoDOT includes compensation to the property owner to have the pins replaced when aware of them, but there are cases where they are being removed and not replaced. Something to be aware of and consider going forward.

## **7. Major Project Update (Mike Castro):**

- I-55 DB w/ KCI
  - North section is complete, south section is underway
  - Having to redesign one of the bridges in the middle over UP railroad; steel girders were not salvageable
  - Going to push back the schedule into liquidated damages with completion set for fall of 2025
- Bridge replacement of 270 over Conway and Ladue
  - Permanently reduced NB lane during construction
  - SB lanes narrowed to keep same number of lanes
  - Completion scheduled for November 2025
- I-70 Design-Build in St. Charles
  - 80% complete and going well
  - Traffic switch on Veterans planned in May
  - Schedule for completion in November 2024
- Riverview Chain of Rocks Bridge Replacement overall going well
  - Preparing for traffic switch in May
  - Completion planned for December 2026

## **8. ACEC Updates/Next Meeting:**

- ACECMO PAC golf tournament on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- ACEC Midwest States Conference on June 12-14 in Kansas City
- Next meeting TBD at MoDOT's St. Louis District Offices