



Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2024 | 9:00-11:00 AM

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

Conference Room 325 and Teams Video Conference

The Meeting was Called to Order by Kandi Spraggs at 9:00 a.m. The following committee members were in attendance:

MoDOT Attendees:

Tom Evers, Assistant District Engineer
Michelle Forneris, Assistant District Engineer
Jeff Bohler, District Design Engineer
Cindy Simmons, District Planning Manager
Jeff Cremer, Central Office Design
Nicole Kreisel, District R/W Manager
Keith Jennings, Central Office

ACEC/MO Liaison Committee Attendees:

Kandi Spraggs, WSP
Amy Touchette-Brown, CDG
Joel Weinhold, Geotechnology
J.C. Murry, AECOM
Matt Johnson, TranSystems
Jason Schreckenber, CDI
Todd Welz, Quigg Engineering
Brett Brooks, EDSI

Meeting Summary

- 1. Introductions:**
 - To begin the meeting, we formally introduced ourselves. Noted that Keith Jennings was filling in for Jeff Cremer.

- 2. MoDOT staff changes since last meeting (Jeff Bohler):**
 - Sheron Thomas is new District Utility Engineer – filled Mike Blattner’s position.
 - Lisa Kuntz is new District Traffic Engineer replacing Brian Umfleet who retired. Lisa’s previous position is currently unfilled.
 - Gidget Koestner the new Policy Engineer replacing Amy Crawford who is returning to the NE District as Area Engineer.
 - Jonathan Nelson is the new State Highway and Traffic Engineer replacing Nicole Hood who retired.
 - Stephen O’Connor (F/J Area Engineer) and Eric Krapf (SE District Design Engineer) will be retiring.

- 3. Tom Blair and Tom Evers Update (Tom Evers gave both updates):**
 - STIP approved at July meeting. Record \$14.6 billion program, \$2.8 billion for I-70.
 - Over \$800 million in earmarked projects included in STIP.
 - \$577 million has been returned by MoDOT due to innovative financing.

- New political leadership will have an impact on the future of MoDOT.
- I-44 – The \$577 million returned by MoDOT will be invested in I-44 projects. Nine total projects identified along the corridor
- \$61 million in additional funding flowing to District to complete two projects on the unfunded needs list. Likely to be asset management jobs, one in St. Louis County for \$40 million and one in Franklin County for \$20 million. Exact project limits not yet know. District currently refining estimates and scope of work. All funds obligated in current FY. Very aggressive, tight schedule. Solicitation for this work out soon.
- Unfunded Needs meeting at Sunset Hills Community Center on August 8th.
- Most new STIP projects are asset management, and no new projects are being funded due to inflation. Current bid estimates are stable and are generally in line with estimates. Anticipate new projects being programmed in next STIP cycle for outer years because of this stability.
- ADA Transition plan is ending, in 2028-30 money will be freed up to put to other projects.
- The “Blueprint for Arterials” document has been published, highlights include:
 - Can’t start too early with PI. Make public part of the solution from the beginning.
 - Document is more of a menu to choose from as opposed to using every part of it on every project.
 - MoDOT’s long standing policy in design is to impact traffic as little as possible for as little time as possible. This is a significant shift in thinking.
 - Other districts are looking at documents for inclusion as well as into EPG. Treating it as pilot currently for a few years.
 - East/West Gateway funded 80% of work for document.
 - County leaders are enthused about the new guidance (STL and St. Charles Counties)
 - Brett Brooks asked if MoDOT was doing outreach to other municipalities about documents, perhaps at APWA??
 - Send link of document to Kandi for dissemination through ACEC. (Tom E. or Jeff B.)
 - Similarities between SAFER document and new design guide.
 - STL District will be using this document.

4. Jeff Cremer Update: (Given by Keith Jennings)

- On call agreements complete for consultants.
- Microsoft Project. One on one training in each district to show consultants how to access Microsoft Project. Perhaps in August/September.
- Traction being gained on the topic of Lump Sum contracting for MoDOT
 - MoDOT/ACEC committee still gathering data from other states.
 - A pilot program will likely be a bridge project with a defined scope.

5. STL Design Update (Jeff Bohler):

- Form DE43 paragraph 16/17 updated recently and requires a little more information.

6. Major Project Update (Mike Castro):

- 3 teams shortlisted for I-70 D/B Project 2. Currently in one-on-one meetings with teams in anticipation of final submittal. \$570 million. Award scheduled for November commission meeting. Breaking ground next calendar year. Kim Trainer is Project Director and Chris Kelly deputy director. The project is taking some time from District staff. Most not fulltime, but one is.
- October and November commission meetings in STL District. October in Washington and November in downtown STL somewhere not yet communicated.
- There is either current or upcoming major work on all corridors in the District.
- District has form for work zone crashes to collect better data. Currently, the highway patrol provides this data and it isn't entirely accurate.
- Tom Evers discussed the overall amount of work and information coming to them and the difficulty in keeping on top of it all. **VERY** focused on delivering projects.

7. ACEC Updates/Next Meeting:

- Get out to vote in August primary.
- August 22nd and 23rd ACEC meeting at Margaritaville Resort. Golf outing on August 21st.
- Next meeting November 13th at MoDOT's St. Louis District Offices

8. Open Discussion:

- State has authority for 40 positions statewide, 18 of these were to fill I-70 positions.
- Construction inspection continues to be hard to fill positions. Maintenance positions, design positions are a little easier to fill. Overall level of experience has gone down overall.
- Cindy updated group on federal obligations. Locals need to get their projects obligated in time to claim August redistribution of federal money. Local program is about \$400 million total, \$200 million new and \$200 million is rolled over from previous year. STL gets about 50% of the statewide money. Missouri has in the past gotten 3% of annual redistribution or about \$200 million. Request help from consultants delivering local projects. LPA projects are only 45% complete in the District currently. Goal is to be 120% complete (additional \$20 million over the usual \$90 million).
- District had a meeting with locals on how to move projects along. District is moving to award projects based on draft TIP in April as opposed to waiting until final version. Will allow the entire FY to complete a design.
- East/West gateway working on scheduler to track LPA projects in district and see what is falling behind.