

MoDOT Central & Northeast District / ACEC Missouri  
Liaison Committee Zoom Meeting



**MEETING MINUTES**  
Wednesday, October 26, 2022



**Attending from MoDOT:**

Steve Engelbrecht  
Randall Glaser  
Jerad Noland  
Jason Vanderfelt  
Kenny Voss  
Machelle Watkins

**Attending from ACEC-Missouri**

Tricia Bohler, Civil Design, Inc.  
Buddy Desai, Hg Consult (*ACEC-MO Board Chair*)  
Mike Herleth, B&M (*for Ronnie Williams*)  
John Klein, Horner & Shifrin, Inc.  
Jeff Rensing, Oates Associates (*Cmte. Chair*)  
Rod Sachtleben, GBA, Inc.  
John Zimmermann, TranSystems  
Dawn Hill, ACEC-MO Staff

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**1. MoDOT Leadership Updates / Central Office Staffing Changes**

The Department is currently updating their high priority unfunded needs list. There have been several projects that were able to move forward with the last 5-year construction program, the connector in Columbia and the Route 63 segment just south of Route 50 are just a couple of examples in the Central District. This allows other projects to move in or possibly up in the unfunded needs list. They are working with their five planning partners in the District to identify their high priority needs. The list will be compiled into an overall District list that will be completed in December 2022. The comment period for this list will run from November 11<sup>th</sup> to December 9<sup>th</sup>.

The MoDOT On-Call solicitation is currently advertised and SOIs are due November 15<sup>th</sup>. The Department is planning to award these at the beginning of 2023, and they will go into effect on July 1, 2023. They have restructured the on-call solicitation process and it will be similar to the LPA process where each approved / selected consultant is available to work across the state.

**2. MoDOT District Updates / Staffing Changes / Major Project / Planning Updates**

The MoDOT State Construction and Materials Engineer and the Assistant State Construction and Materials Engineer are both vacant. They are in the process of filling the Construction and Materials Engineer. The position should be filled by mid-November. Then they will continue to fill the remaining positions.

MoDOT staffing needs continue. In the NE District, they anticipate substantial changes in the design division due to retirements. They will have advertisements for construction, design and technicians. For the Central District, one of the biggest challenges is the survey crew. They are down to two people and are having problems attracting new talent to fill these positions.

### **3. RFQ Solicitations and Scope / Fee / NTP**

#### **Design**

Consultant responses to solicitations are down. In some cases, they are only getting two responses. At a minimum, they would like to have three responses. In some cases, they are extending deadlines to encourage more submittals.

The Department anticipates the construction inspection solicitations will increase due to internal staffing needs. Outsourcing these services in the rural areas is more difficult due to the proximity of the project.

The cost overruns experienced on the construction projects are not impacting the design program. For now, the Department plans on continuing with the program with no modifications to the design schedules.

MoDOT explained the on-call process. It will be similar to the LPA process, where the District will be able to select from a larger list of consultants to meet their demands. The Central District stated that they have utilized the on-call consultants more than ever to help deliver the program. Both Districts feel the process creates more flexibility for them moving forward. The on-call fee cap was also discussed. The Districts and Central Office would like to see the cap increased. The Department is currently looking at the data to justify an increased contract limit.

The time it takes to process agreements and invoices has increased. The Department is aware and is working to reduce the processing time with financial services.

#### **Construction**

MoDOT is still experiencing impacts due to inflation, about 15% based on the October letting. The impacts vary regionally with St. Louis and the Northwest Districts experiencing less competition which is resulting in higher bids. Asphalt prices continue to be high which is contributing to the increased cost. The number of calls on the construction projects was better this month averaging 3.8 per project versus less than 3 per project earlier in the year. The type and size of the project impacts this number greatly, with the larger projects and asphalt projects experiencing the fewest bidders. Also, contract schedules with tighter timelines have also impacted the number of bidders with many contractors already busy. The Department is working with contractors to extend schedules to create more efficiency and utilize crews more effectively.

### **4. STIP and Unfunded Needs Status**

For NE District major projects already solicited:

- Hannibal Expressway,
- Environmental Reevaluation for Route 54,
- Lincoln County Route 47 Widening,
- Lincoln County K & B Interchange

NE District possible upcoming solicitations:

- Potential pavement improvements in preparation for an upcoming Corps of Engineers project
- Primarily focused on on-call usage for the next 6-month period

For Central District, the six-month outlook is posted online and is up to date.

- Washington 47 at grade railroad near Cadet
- Reevaluation of the Route 63 EIS near Osage County
- Rocheport Bridge
- Route 63 and I-70
- Utilizing more on-calls for various projects and to help establish scope and estimates for planning

#### Central Office

The Department typically adds a half-year of funds to the end of the STIP cycle as it is updated every six months. Due to inflation impacts to the construction cost, they anticipate these additional programmed funds will be absorbed in the existing projects currently on the STIP and do not anticipate many, if any, new projects being added in the next six months. Essentially, MoDOT is not delaying any projects that are currently on the STIP, but may be reducing the number of projects being added to the STIP.

#### 5. **Future Design / Build Projects**

No new DB projects currently. MoDOT has a dedicated DB website that has the current updates: <https://www.modot.org/design-build-information>.

#### 6. **MoDOT MicroStation ORD Implementation and Consultant Training Updates**

The transition to ORD has started and MoDOT is offering training opportunities. Those that have attended the ORD training, have reported that it has been very helpful to the transition process. MoDOT recently sent out several training dates at different locations throughout the state. There is a survey and road ORD training available. MoDOT and ACEC has sent out the information to the consultant industry.

#### 7. **Consultant Deliverables – Quality / Areas of Improvement**

In general, everything has been going well with the consultant quality. Any Individual issues are usually addressed with the consultant at that time.

#### 8. **Next Meeting Date & Location**

The next meeting has been scheduled for April 19, 2023, from 12:00-2:00 PM and will be held in-person at the MoDOT Central District Office in Jefferson City. A hybrid option will be available.