

**MoDOT Central & Northeast District / ACEC Missouri
Liaison Committee Videoconference**



MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, February 24, 2021

1:00-3:00 PM

via Zoom Meeting



Attending from MoDOT:

Randy Aulbur
Brandi Baldwin (a)
James Beattie
Steve Engelbrecht
Randall Glaser
Paula Gough (a)
Troy Hughes (a)
Kevin James (a)
Keith Killen (a)
Christopher Knapp (a)
Ryan Libbert (a)
Jerad Noland
Dave Simmons (a)
James Smith
Jason Vanderfeltz (a)
Kenny Voss
Machelle Watkins
Melissa Wilbers (a)

Attending from ACEC-Missouri

Rick Bennett, Wood
Tricia Bohler, Civil Design Inc.
Darrell Eilers, EFK Moen
Michele Keal, Alfred Benesch
Aaron McVicker, McClure
Michael Purol, PSBA
Jay Rakers, CMT (Committee chair)
Jeff Smith, HNTB
Ronnie Williams, Burns and McDonnell
Morgan Mundell, ACEC/MO President/CEO
Dawn Hill, ACEC/MO Staff
Vicki LaRose, Civil Design, Inc. (Board chair)
Numerous ACEC/MO members via Zoom

(a) Absent

Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions

Committee chair began introductions over Zoom. He thanked MoDOT and ACEC/MO committee members and those listening in from across the state.

2. Review of August 2020 Meeting Minutes

Approved by committee members

3. MoDOT District Updates (staffing, major projects, funding)

MoDOT State Funding addressed by Watkins

- 5-year Financial Forecast – MoDOT Financial Services staff presents a 5-year vision of the financial forecast to the Commission every January, including a projection of funding expected to be received over the upcoming 5 years. It includes proposed expenditures, allocations to the statewide transportation improvement program, and operating budget. This past January, even

as the financial forecast was presented, MoDOT's Financial Services staff acknowledged that the COVID Relief Act, would delay understanding the complete financial forecast.

- By February 2021, MoDOT's Financial Services Staff determined that **\$235 Million could be added to the 5-year financial forecast** due to the COVID Relief Act.
- 2021 Governor's Cost-Share and Asset Deficit Programs – The Governor took action to provide Cares Act dollars that the state had received, putting \$48 Million toward transportation.
 - **\$38 Million to the Governor's cost-share program**
 - **\$10 Million to an asset deficit program for maintenance and operations of low volume roads** that have the greatest deviation of condition from the statewide goal. It is not funding that goes to every district but those that have that greatest need in terms of low volume minor road conditions.
- Amendment 3 Bonding – Most significantly, is the addition of Amendment 3 bonding in 2023 and 2026, that is part of the recently presented 5-year financial forecast. Rates are really good right now, so MoDOT is forecasting Amendment 3 funds thru bonding.
 - This would inject an **additional \$500 Million in 2023.**
 - This would inject an **additional \$500 Million in 2026.**
 - MoDOT obviously will not take action to seek out those bonds until those years; therefore if something changes significantly, MoDOT would opt not to move forward with it.
- **In total, the abovementioned funding sources would inject \$1.1 Billion dollars** over the 5 years of the statewide transportation improvement program.

This is significant and as mentioned, there are some strings attached to some of the funding but there is also an asset management deficit program associated with the STIP that provides approximately 10 Million annually for several years associated with the low volume minor roads.

- For many years, MoDOT has been maintaining an asset management program, where each district looks at their system that they maintain. For roadways and bridges, MoDOT considers the condition they are currently in, when their last treatment was done, when they expect the next treatment, about how long that treatment is expected to last, and what that might cost. All of this is projected over a 10-year period to determine what MoDOT estimates it will cost just to maintain the system at the condition level that it is today. This includes major and minor roads and bridges.
 - **Within the 2021-2026, 5-year financial forecast, without this injection of \$1.1 Billion Dollars, MoDOT will find themselves in a position where we can no longer "maintain".** Some of this will be for asset management and some will be available beyond asset management.

Central District Projects addressed by Watkins, Engelbrecht, and Beattie

- Rocheport Bridge project is moving forward. SOQ's are being evaluated and the project will be awarded by the end of Summer. MoDOT is excited about it and all the new partnerships that it has produced.
- The ADA Design build project is moving forward. Owner-consultant is TWS. Team goal is to have this awarded by the end of the year.

- CD is looking at their pavement cycles, overlays and keeping up with bridges that are moving from good to poor condition.
- At this point CD is looking at asset management as they prepare projects for the STIP.
- CD Roadway projects are currently scheduled to be completed in-house.
- CD Bridge projects are currently being reviewed. Some will be in-house and some will go to consultants. Final list coming soon.
- CD ADA projects are being finalized for 2021. Likely some on-call assignments coming.

Machelle ended the Central District funding and projects discussion by saying they have been working with partners to update the unfunded needs list. Each district does this with their planning partners. It has been a couple of years since they have updated their unfunded needs list. Quite a few Tier 1 projects were able to be delivered. For Central District there was just one, Rocheport, but it was a big one. Machelle says they are excited they can update that list. The list helps the public visualize what projects could be delivered if additional funding in transportation is provided at the state or federal level. They expect to have the list to the public sometime in March 2021.

- Keep your eyes out for this because it will become a conversation to have with your legislators. It will be a tool as we consult with those on a national level when they look at reauthorization or a potential stimulus package. It is an important document that gives an idea of what projects are likely to move forward if there is additional funding.

Northeast District Projects addressed by Noland

- The situation in the NE is like that of the CD.
- MoDOT continues to take care of system projects and this will be the NE primary focus for the next STIP cycle.
- As far as significant projects,
 - FY 2023 – Route 19 over I-70 interchange project at New Florence.
 - FY 2023 – Hannibal Viaduct replacement, which is a major bridge at preliminary design.
 - FY 2024 – Another stretch of I-70 resurfacing
 - FY 2024 – Design of the Route 47/61 interchange with City of Troy. MoDOT is designing this project in-house, both roadway and bridge.
- Other than those projects, NE will be focusing on taking care of their assets.
 - Attempting to catch up on minor road resurfacings.
 - Bridge conditions are holding their own. Starting to stabilize on the ones falling from fair.
 - The Farm Design Build project is scheduled to be selected this Summer.
 - Between summers 2021 & 2022 we will see a lot of small bridges in the Northeast and Northwest Districts completed with this project.
- Northeast district will continue to look for consultant help on ADA projects. They are using a consultant for the Hannibal Viaduct Project and the Route 19 Interchange. Based on unfunded needs list, they may look to consultants for some concept designs and will look at on-calls for some work.

4. ACEC/MO Updates – President & CEO Morgan Mundell

Introduced to the committee. Two items were discussed by Morgan.

- Missourians for Transportation Investment group will hold a virtual lobby day on March 2, 2021. Briefings given on all bills regarding gas taxes. Senate Bill 262 gives a 15-cent increase in motor fuel tax with a rebate option like the South Carolina model.
- Reminder that the MoDOT Team Conference is March 17-19.

5. Transportation Funding Update – Legislative Side

This subject was discussed up in Section 3. The big news is that MoDOT is pursuing \$500 Million dollars in bonding for 2023 & 2026 as mentioned previously.

6. COVID-19 Updates / Impacts to MoDOT and Consultants

Jay Rakers mentioned that for consultants and specifically for his employer, CMT, they are continuing a small workforce in the office, careful with numbers and following CDC guidelines and will continue to do this thru at least June 30, 2021.

Randall Glaser mentioned that MoDOT had some growing pains early on. He asked how consultants handled it? How did you handle the computer assets, how did you bridge from work to home? Are there any lessons learned?

- Jay Rakers mentioned that the younger the engineer or technician, the more of a challenge it has been to give them the proper training. Training will have to catch up once the “new normal” begins. Tricia Bohler mentioned that specifically for CDI, the use of Microsoft Teams was implemented right before the COVID shut down. The chat, meetings and screen sharing features have allowed easy coordination with staff. Jay echoed Tricia’s comments. Part of the teaching is looking over the shoulder of your younger staff. Microsoft Teams allowed us to have that over the shoulder teaching ability.

Randall mentioned that MoDOT crews are starting to move around again on the design side.

Kenny Voss noted that bridge and maintenance crews were restrictive up until last month. Now crews are less restrictive, but their assignments still need to be approved by the executive team. Bridge Inspections, Geotech and environmental work are starting to get out again too.

Aaron McVicker asked if bridge inspections were back on the 24-month schedule since MoDOT has fallen behind on outsourcing that work. Kenny Voss does not know the answer, but knows that conversations are being had internally regarding how behind the bridge inspections are.

Jay Rakers asked when MoDOT district offices might return to the office? Mabelle says that there has not been a return date established and expects to work from home for quite some time. MoDOT is looking closely at what the state as a whole is doing and working in close coordination with the governor’s office. They have found that for those able to work remotely it has worked really well. MoDOT has a large number of field staff that report daily to their facilities. The largest portion of MoDOT’s employees have continued to do that because that is what the job requires.

7. EPG Updates: Design – Bridge – LPA

Jay asks if there any significant change or update on the Engineering Policy Guide. He mentions that the EPG continues to get more user friendly every year. Jay thanked MoDOT for the ability to look at things in a quick and all-inclusive manner. It is valuable to the consultants.

Kenny Voss noted one significant change in an updated public involvement article to include virtual public involvement requirements. MoDOT did that in conjunction with Federal Highways. There are quite a few updates to the public involvement section. The article is more streamlined and includes a chart that lays out what type of public involvement you need for certain types of projects. In addition, thresholds for the need for a public hearing has been modified.

8. 2021 Potential Consultant Projects Update and On-Call Update
 - Central – discussed in Section 3
 - Northeast – discussed in Section 3 and additions below

For NE, Jared Noland notes that they will utilize on-call consultants before they do solicitation. With a project like I-70 and the High Hill overpass, the district is contemplating doing a conceptual study. This would go out for solicitation to consultants. The Hannibal Expressway is listed on the agenda. Jared mentioned that he does not know where this project falls on the unfunded needs list. The affected communities will need to get organized in what they want to do. Thru the legislature one of the representatives is trying to get a \$500,000 study.

9. Other Topics
None

10. Next Meeting Date & Location (ACEC/MO office or Virtual).
The meeting concluded at approximately 1:45pm. Dawn Hill will send out meeting minutes and the next date/location soon.
-