



## MINUTES

### **ACEC-Missouri**

### **MoDOT Northwest District Liaison Committee Meeting**

Monday, February 6, 2023

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Virtual & NW District Office Boardroom

#### MoDOT NW District Representatives

Marty Liles, District Engineer  
\*Troy Slagle, Assistant District Engineer  
\*Shannon Kusilek, District Design Eng.  
Austin Hibler, District Const. Engineer  
Michael Marriott, Area Engineer  
Tonya Lohman, Maint & Traffic Eng.  
\*Joyce Reynolds, Project Manager  
\*Richard Orr, Project Manager  
\*Brian Rosenthal, Project Manager

#### ACEC-MO Liaison Committee Members

\*Anne Schroer, Chair, GBA  
\*Brian Kidwell, Garver  
\*Julie Sarson, Burns & McDonnell  
\*Linda Rottinghaus, Affinis  
\*Matt Spencer, Hg Consult  
\*Ozzy Bravo, Parsons

1. Attendees marked with an asterisk above.
2. ACEC MO Update/ MoDOT HQ Liaison Committee Updates (Anne)  
Anne shares updates from HQ meeting – I-70 and I-44 projects. Consultants are busy. Changing contract language for safety requirements for consultants in field, like survey.
3. District Engineer Comments (Troy/Shannon)
  - MoDOT has been understaffed. Troy said they've been put in a situation with leadership putting up floodgates to keep people from walking out the door. Plan was funded by shortfall of employees making up the difference. This means we have to hold back 19 positions in maintenance and 6 in design services. So hold back 25 positions out of 196. Hard to keep up with turnover; currently 60 employees down.
  - Bulk of difference between 25 and 60 employees is in maintenance. If we get a big snowstorm, we would be stressed but fortunately we have not seen that. Hopefully we won't.
  - Troy said they just put out a big advertisement to try to fill the gap to get up to the 25 number. Will see what kind of applicants they get – require CDL – some of them sign on and don't make it past the second day of the three-day training.
  - There is turnover statewide – 72 in January. It seems to be a little better – one month was 100 - but not a lot.
  - Anne asks if there is anything consultants can do. Rick says they've tried to contract out maintenance, but the bids were so high they'll probably not try that again. Struggling with signs and striping; first time they haven't gotten all their roads striped. Overtime was cut off last year, so they weren't able to get everything striped. There was a push to get to contract striping, was

supposed to be let in February but the bids were all too high. Rejected, no more striping contracts this year. KC District may have same problem.

- Brian K. asks if since numbers are down, can OT be used. Troy said that they're starting those conversations now. Matt asks how high the striping bids were; Shannon said cost-wise \$1.6M came in at \$2.4M.
- Troy said that work zone safety continues to be a focus. If you are out on one of our roadways, you need to have a protective vehicle. Don't want people to get complacent. It's been a push and caused a lot of internal conversation – how to do things and go about them safely. Some of this will be required in consultant contracts also, like geotechnical and survey services. Brian R. pointed out that the EPG has already been updated and the contract says that consultants need to follow the EPG.

#### 4. General District/Project Updates

- Troy said that due to inflation they're \$30M over so far this year – June through December. Had four to five projects rejected, which Shannon doesn't remember happening before. Since they're already over in 2023, they're moving projects back in the STIP. Moved about \$30M out from 2025, then out from 2026. It's a trickle-down effect; They're adding no new projects. Brian K. points out that this will be hard on maintenance – you thought the work would be done but it will be under additional maintenance instead, so not in good shape.
- First interstate reconstruction in Harrison County in 2027; 7 mile stretch of I-35 near Eagleville. Build in late 60s and early 70s, overlaid with 9" of asphalt. All the asphalt is stripping out, can't go in with band aids. Did some geotechnical cores, everything under the concrete is unstable, only gravel underneath. It's not going to make it 8-10 years as planned. Don't have the money to fund this so they had been looking to push this out, needs to be done quicker than planned. Will need to run traffic head-to-head on this stretch while being updated which will deteriorate this even faster. Beefing up interstate detour routes? Troy says there is not a good one – 69 has been used occasionally but it's not a good one.
- Shannon says that STIP has gone to 7% inflation this year but they're hoping they can go back to 3% next year and start adding projects back in. Anne asks if they do scoping in-house; Shannon says that they like to. Lot of new projects added to the STIP last year from fuel tax and transportation bill but inflation pushed a lot of these back.
- Looking at doing a sign truss inspection coming up – only 60 signs on 229 and 29 in St. Joe. Will get data out in March; this is the last thing we'll be putting out for a while.
- Next year probably some bridge projects and some intersection projects.
- Anne asks about ADA projects – Shannon says pretty good. They're going through a process to determine which projects are within their ROW, on track to meet our goal. Let two projects recently. Brian R. says this has been hard to track statewide but in the district, we have a spreadsheet where we can check items off.
- Bridge replacements – NW Bridge Bundle, still on track to bid. Joyce says looking to put it out to bid in mid spring. Getting all the DB information compiled in books. A little different – Wilson is taking on all hydraulics and developing reports for each bridge; only one bridge will require ROW. MoDOT will purchase that. 14 bridges will be re-decks; others are leftover from FARM. MoDOT will apply for floodplain development permits; that's the intent. Likely fixed price,

variable scope. SOQ this spring. Getting a fair amount of contractor interest? Michael Marriott is project director. Interest from consultants so far. This is our first DB led by the district.

- Anything new on I-229? Shannon says this is finally coming to a resolution. Project kicked off in June 2018, but MoDOT let the process work itself out. Thought it would stall, but they kept pushing forward. How this will be funded? Shannon says that major bridges are funded off the top through central office. Now planned in FY28. Once we get the FONSI signed, FHWA will need to see the funding applied. Right now, Bridge Division only put \$55M in but it needs to be \$70M or so. Got approval from MPO, going to public hearing in spring.
- Anne asks about solicitation for construction inspection. This just went out last week. Hope to get a lot of submitters; there has been a lot of interest. 20 miles of roadway and 4 bridges. Ozzy asks if they're seeing interest from out of state. Most interest has been from in state. Enough interest locally. Ozzy says that IL uses consultant partners who may be interested in spreading into MO. Matt points out that most awards appear to be within in state. Ozzy and Matt agree that at some point, the consultant capacity may top out and more interest may come from out of state.
- Matt asks about RE services. Shannon says when projects are bid, they're still trying to keep things in house. Joyce describes a recent ADA project where inspection services could be added later as a supplement.
- ROW services contract coming out for big intersection project on south side of St. Joseph – condemnation, short timeline due to funding requirements. 752/59/Rte 9 intersection.
- On Calls – they thought they would be out by now. 161 firms applied, these were broken up. Roadway had the most firms – 65, each district broke these up. But different process this time – Anne thought it was better. Rick says that this time around, we're able to get a wider selection. If you get approved for a category, you're approved statewide but with a preference for district. Matt asks about pushing up cap limit. Shannon says they asked also but it is not going up. A lot less that can be done under that cap. For example, the sign truss project will end with a conceptual report that will then go to RFP.
- Going to TEAM? NW District is sending 10, including some newer designers.

#### 5. STIP/Unfunded Needs Updates

#### 6. Upcoming Consultant Projects (6 Mo. Outlook, Alt. Delivery, On-call, etc.)

#### 7. Consultant Performance Feedback

- Anne asks about length of time to get under contract. Joyce says that sometimes it takes a long time on MoDOT's end through contracting.
- Rick says that the quality has been really good, no problems. Two MoDOT retirees have been reviewing plans and providing QC.

#### 8. Next Meeting (Late Spring/Early Summer 2023) - this time they'll have the STIP identified and next round of consultant projects.