

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (SE)
and ACEC/MO 2022-23 LIAISON COMMITTEE**

**October 6, 2022
1:00 PM - SE SK District Conf Room**

MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - see attached list of invited attendees
 - icebreaker activity
2. MoDOT SE District Updates
 - Funding / Staffing
 - Delivery of current projects
 - Status of submittals (firms/RFQ?)
3. ACEC Missouri Updates
 - Missouri legislative update
 - Protect SB262
 - Discussions about I-70, I-44
 - Use of general revenue, \$4B/\$5B surplus funds, etc.
 - Any dollar not out of road fund is free dollar elsewhere
 - State of the state
4. Project Work
 - Major project updates
 - Upcoming solicitations
 - status of 6-month outlook
 - On-call Needs
 - Change in format
 - LPA program updates
 - Use of alternative delivery (D/B Package, PMC, other)
5. Consultant Deliverables
 - Performance Feedback / Areas for Improvement
6. Set date for next meeting

Missouri Department Of Transportation (SE) / ACEC MO Liaison Committee

List of Tentative Attendees

Name	Organization	Email Address
Elquin L. Auala	MoDOT	Elquin.Auala@modot.mo.gov
Pete Barry	MoDOT	Pete.Berry@modot.mo.gov
• Mike J. Brandon	MoDOT	Michael.Brandon@modot.mo.gov
• Craig Compas	MoDOT	Craig.Compas@modot.mo.gov
• Mark E. Croarkin	MoDOT	Mark.Croarkin@modot.mo.gov
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• Andrew L. Meyer	MoDOT	Andrew.Meyer@modot.mo.gov
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• Tim Pickett	MoDOT	Timothy.Pickett@modot.mo.gov
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• Jason M. Williams	MoDOT	Jason.Williams@modot.mo.gov
• David L. Wyman	MoDOT	David.Wyman@modot.mo.gov
• Matt Wilkerson	MoDOT	
• Jason Dohrmann	HR Green, Inc.	jdohrmann@hrgreen.com
• Jason Schreckenberg	Civil Design, Inc.	jSchreckenberg@civildesigninc.com
• Frank Weatherford	TranSystems Corporation	flweatherford@transystems.com
• Don Wichern	Bartlett & West	don.wichern@bartwest.com
• Jay Ellington	CDG Engineers	jellington@cdgengineers.com
• Steve Hicks	S.H. Smith & Company, Inc.	steveh@shsmithco.com
• Frank Blakemore	Garver	fpblakemore@garverusa.com
Dawn Hill	ACEC-MO	dawnhill@acecmo.org
Morgan Mundell	ACEC-MO	MorganMundell@acecmo.org

- Denotes in attendance.

1. Jason Dohrman began the meeting by completing introductions and the icebreaker activity.
2. Mark Croarkin provided the following update on the District.

Funding:

- In 2020, the District assume an additional \$20-25 million in revenues would be available beyond asset management projects for several years. A majority of this allocation has been allocated to existing projects due to inflation.
- The programmed fuel tax dollars for major bridges are taken off the top of the MoDOT budget, which reduces the District allocation of funds. MoDOT has seen as high as 35-40% increases in major bridge project costs in 2022.
- Asphalt bid prices are currently running 35-40% over engineers' estimates.
- How does MoDOT react to these overages?
 - Difficult to track market conditions because they are changing quickly. Bids vary greatly from letting to letting.
 - In 2022, projects have been awarded at 35-40% over the budgeted amount and the District expects to settle these differences at the end of the year.
- In 2020, the Southeast District helped MoDOT to reach their federal match by sending out projects amounting to \$12 million over their budget. Due to accounting changes, the reconciliation of this \$12 million was not completed in 2021 but the District has been notified that this reconciliation will take place in the coming STIP cycle.
- The District anticipates that a few projects will be pushed beyond their scheduled lettings due to these impacts to their available funding.
- The District address a significant number of unfunded need projects in 2021.
- The District is working on grant funding to supplement the gap in funding.

Staffing:

- The SE District is believed to be the most stable District in the state with its staffing.
- Design staff are now at their expected level of labor for the quantity of work that is required to be completed.
- The District expects 25-50% of design projects to be completed by consultants.
- Construction staffing remains a challenge. Design/Build projects are also a challenge with projects overlapping. Jackson and Park Hills staffing is a challenge.
- The District does see a decrease in Letters of Interest when Construction Observation services are added to the solicitations.
- The District prefers to not spend construction dollars on excessive commute times for construction staff, but that may be the only option in some cases. Travel trailers are an option. The construction observation services the District is looking for is 100% of that required to complete a project. District staff are available for questions and some support, but the expectation is that the consultant would be the resident engineer.
- Consultants should assume that DBE requirements do not apply to construction services.

Project Delivery

- Consultant project delivery has been good.
- The District team is very busy so in person meetings with consultants are difficult. Many times, staff are not available to meet due to workload commitments.
- The District does encourage consultants to reach out to discuss solicitations and projects by email or phone.
- Consultants agreed that the 6 month look ahead on projects is very useful.

3. ACEC Missouri Updates

- ACEC is looking to support legislators who took tough vote to support S.B. 262.
- ACEC continues to efforts in support of infrastructure throughout the state. ACEC met with Dean Plocher. Dean's priority is 6 lanes on I-70 across MO. He mentioned a \$5 billion surplus that could be used to help fund I-70. It is believed that this funding has been accounted for in

project budget overages due to inflation. There is a Build Grant with funding available for municipalities that does not flow through MoDOT.

- There have been less gas tax reimbursements and more gas tax revenue brought in than estimated.
- MoDOT has not seen a decrease in fuel tax revenue due to higher fuel costs. New vehicle tax revenue is higher due to higher new vehicle costs.

4. Project Work

- The Chester Bridge Design Build has four solid teams selected for proposal. No further discussion can be had since the project is in procurement.
- On call solicitation is out. Selected consultants will be par of the statewide on call list. This list lacks exclusivity, which results in more of a prequalification list than an on call list with the pass/fail approach to being added.
- LPA on call solicitation is coming out soon.
- On call is difficult to use on all projects due to the \$200k design fee cap.
- The District uses MOUs on conceptual work for specific components of in-house project.
- The District does make a conscious effort not to use the same consultants on MOUs.
- MoDOT is generally looking to a more centralized system due to loss of experience in recent years.
- The District does recognize good partnering among consultants in letters of interest for their projects.
- LPA Update
 - MO has 84 TAP projects (18 in the District)
 - MO has 145 BRO projects (14 in the District)
 - BFB and BRO programs were combined.
 - The District had 41 BRO applications. County Commissioners provided feedback that they didn't have time in their schedules to be involved in the selection process. MoDOT used 2 representatives from each the RDC, NPO and area engineers.
 - LPA projects need to stay on schedule.
- Consultant responsiveness for the District is good and the support after bid openings has been appreciated as well.
- Generally, there are no complaints from the District on consultant performance. Learning is on-going.
- Letter of Interest differentiators include pitching an idea for project solutions, how consultants can help MoDOT bring the project to letting, and call to MoDOT PM to discuss the project.
- MoDOT is generally (not always) accepting bids that are 20% or more over the estimate. If better solutions are found or a specific item is causing the increase in the bids and an alternative is possible, the contract is not awarded.
- MoDOT has recently seen the number of bidders decreasing but that is somewhat expected due to amount of work bid and summer bidding. Hoping for more bidders in the fall/winter bidding activities.
- The District is hearing from contractors that they are struggling to find fully staffed crews and poor performing projects due to higher prices have impacted their business.