



ACEC-Missouri - MoDOT STL District Liaison Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2024 | 9:00-11:15 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 Chairman Scott Smith at 9:05 a.m. The following committee members were in attendance:

MoDOT Attendees:

Tom Blair, District Design Engineer
Tom Evers, Assistant District Engineer
Nicole Kreisel, District Right of Way Manager
Jeff Cremer, Central Office Design

ACEC/MO Liaison Committee Attendees:

Scott J. Smith, Lochmueller Group, Chair
Linda Moen, EFK Moen
Mike Erdtmann, GBA
Howard Gotschall, Hanson
Kyle Levenhagen, AECOM
Todd Welz, Quigg Engineering
Kandi Spraggs, WSP
Joel Weinhold, UES (Geotechnology)

Meeting Summary

1. Introductions:

- To begin the meeting, we formally introduced ourselves.

2. MoDOT staff changes since last meeting (Tom Evers):

- Nicole Kreisel is the new Right of Way (ROW) Manager; She previously worked on LPA projects
- The new Assistant ROW Manager is Chris Fowler
- Chris Kelly is the new I-70 East Deputy Director working with Kim Trainor
- Kenny Voss is the new State Design Engineer (Assistant State Design Engineer vacant for now)
- Lance Taylor is the Transportation Planning Director in Jefferson City
- Natalie Roark retired as State Maintenance Director

3. Tom Blair Update:

- Missouri has record investment money both for MODOT and Local Agencies
- The Governor's State of the State Address will be on January 24th
- Governor Parson appointed two new Commissioners as Bob Brinkmann and Brian Treece rolled off the Commission
 - Daniel Hegeman
 - From St. Joseph and is co-owner of Hegeman Farm, Inc.
 - Served in Missouri Senate and House of Representatives
 - Francis Slay

- St. Louis Mayor for 16 years
 - Executive Director for the St. Louis Regional Crime Commission
 - Member of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Directors Testimony for Budget
 - Talks on Safety - Buckle Up Phone Down Challenge
 - Hands Free Law passed and has been a law since March 2023
- Fiscal year 2025 Budget
 - Still lawsuit and no decision until it goes through MO Supreme Court
 - MoDOT will continue to submit budget on an annual basis until decision is made
 - \$8.3 billion in budget which is a 5% increase from 2024 due to increased money from fuel tax
- Requesting to reappropriate more money to invest in MoDOT employees
 - Partial market adjustment in pay for employees was completed, but need to finish the adjustment
 - Saw a decrease in employee turnover
 - Still need to add staff as 1.8 billion hours worked last year is still short from that in 2017
 - Asked for 350 additional positions across the state
 - 100 would focus on project delivery including construction
- MoDOT Statewide Bridge Program completed
 - Focus on 250 Bridges in MO
 - 4,200 projects in the past 10 years
 - \$11 billion completed at 5% less cost
- STIP 2024-2028 last year is now at \$14 billion
- General Revenue Investments
 - \$100 million investment in rural roads this year
 - Resurfacing 1800 lane miles this year
 - \$50 million for Railroad Crossings
 - Eliminate or physically protect crossings - Priority
- MoDOT St. Louis celebrated 270 North project completion
- Inflation has contracts running 20% higher across the state, but overall projects are much closer to what was budgeted for this year
- MoDOT Annual Report is available online and shows how much funds go to each local agency

4. Tom Evers Update:

- General Staffing
 - St. Louis District is better but still not up to standard.
 - 16 new employees started January 2nd.
 - Roughly allotted 700 employees, but still under by 70 employees
 - Design team is close to fully staffed
 - Construction materials is better than last year and down only 17 people

- Requesting to grow St. Louis MoDOT up 25 employees, but need approval
- STIP Awards
 - Contracts are 25% over budget in the St. Louis District
 - Small projects are coming in on target
 - Large jobs coming in 25% over program amounts
 - Need more general contractors for transportation
 - Right size the projects to make them smaller for a larger pool of contractors
 - Be sure to have those conversations with MoDOT PM's
 - St. Louis no longer has 1/3rd of the contractors located in St. Louis
 - Looking to make decisions on bundling projects to get the most out of the dollar
- Working on 2025-2029 STIP
 - Need annual estimates from firms so please respond to those requests as soon as possible
 - St. Louis Market receives 30% of State Budget Funding
 - Asset Management receives 22%
 - Safety receives 24%
 - System Improvement receives 34%
 - Last year St. Louis District did not program anything
 - This year there will be a small amount of projects
 - The only thing to fund are projects in the 5th year of STIP
 - New projects for consultant world will be more asset management type projects
 - Looking to spend more safety dollars
 - \$52 million was the last project push with Safety 2.0 (how to best spend the money for most efficient safety improvements)
- March there will be LEAN Efficiency Event in St. Louis
 - Looking at Regional Practices as a whole and how to more efficiently deliver LPA projects
 - Facilitator will be there to go through the different processes
 - Currently this will be internal discussions, but MoDOT will think about opening it up to consultants
 - Jeff Cremer is looking for using lump Sum projects for LPA projects to help increase efficiency
- Plan to shift from ADA program to more ancillary assets
- Need to determine industry impacts from large projects like I-70 and Route 47 projects

5. Jeff Cremer Update:

- Working to finish initiatives from last year
 - Running behind on the On-Call Re-Solicitation but should have decisions by end of January
 - Not every firm that's qualified will be added to the list
- Consultant needs list to be released end of January timeframe
- Currently building a system to better analyze engineering contract data

- Tool goals
 - o Better analyze contract amounts
 - o Consistency on contracts statewide
 - o List of standardized scope items for projects
- Will take most of 2024 to get through process
- Conducted peer exchange with four other states
 - o Arizona's list is public and used as a baseline
- o Trying to utilize more innovative contracting
 - Pilot project in KC for construction inspection utilizes non-project specific scope
 - o This scope is being sent to Tom Evers for more information
 - Jeff is educating himself on different contracting types to be more efficient
- o Anticipate more programmatic type projects
- o Liaison group brought up MoDOT's solicitation feedback process and asked if MoDOT would consider suggestions on ways to improve this process for consultants
 - Jeff asked for an email for what direct solicitation selection feedback looks like

6. STL Design Update (Tom Evers on Behalf of Jeff Bohler):

- o When sealing plans do not use certified signature
- o Be sure to discuss project contract development time allotted for each project and coordinate review times with MoDOT PM's throughout the life of the project
 - Long lead time on getting firms under contract
 - Need to have discussions ahead of time to set expectations
 - Getting firms under contract should take 2-4 months depending on complexity
 - There needs to be an initial meeting to establish a coordination process
- o MODOT is separating design contracts and construction inspection contracts

7. Nicole Kreisel's ROW Update:

- o Be sure employees have knowledge of what is needed on ROW plans
- o Team is looking to put together a list of common items missing from plans to be used by consultants as a checklist
- o Property descriptions need to come with the ROW plans or shortly after...projects can be delayed if not presented together

8. Major Project Update (Tom Evers):

- o 270 Wrapping up
- o Safety Program ramping up
- o I-55 Bridge Rehab in the City
 - Bridge deck issue over River Des Peres
 - Adjusted completion May 2025
- o Bridge replacement of 270 over Conway and Ladue
 - Kozeny Wagner is the contractor

- Completion scheduled for November 2025
- I-70 Design-Build in St. Charles
 - Schedule for completion in November 2024
- Riverview Chain of Rocks Bridge Replacement overall going well
- KCI awarded I-55 in Jefferson County
 - NTP 1 date was back in August 2023
 - NTP 2 date should be soon to start construction
 - Roundabout at 61/55 is first location for construction
- Improve I-70 Project 1-Kingdom City announcement in mid-February
 - \$105 million
- Improve I-70 Project 2-NE District -16-mile stretch including 64 interchange and widening
 - Industry meeting was November 14th
 - Anticipate award later this year
 - \$500-600 million construction cost
 - \$175 million just from STIP dollars

9. **ACEC Updates/Next Meeting:**

- Engineers Day at the Capitol is January 31st
- ACEC Winter Meetings and Award Banquet @ Ballpark Hilton (February 29th – March 1st)
- Next meeting Set for 9:00 a.m. April 10th at MoDOT's St. Louis District Offices