



ACEC – Missouri: MoDOT STL District Liaison Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 12, 2022

MoDOT St. Louis Headquarters

1590 Woodlake Drive, Chesterfield, Missouri

Conference Room 325 and Teams Video Conference

The Meeting was Called to Order by Chairman Buddy Desai at 2:03 p.m. Attendees were:

MoDOT Attendees:

Tom Blair, District Engineer
Tom Evers, Assistant District Engineer
Jeff Bohler, District Design Engineer
Mike Castro, District Construction Manager
Cindy Simmons, District Planning Manager
Jeff Cremer, Central Office Design

ACEC/MO Liaison Committee Attendees:

Buddy Desai, Chair, Hg Consult
Linda Moen, EKF Moen
Mike Erdtmann, GBA
Howard Gotschall, Hanson
J.C. Murray, AECOM
Todd Welz, Quigg Engineering
Lisa Kramer, Prairie Engineers
Jonathan Loos, Horner and Shifrin
Scott Smith, Lochmueller Group

1. **Introductions:** Since everyone knew each other, formal introductions were deemed not necessary. It was noted by Chairman Desai that Jonathan Loos was representing Tom Lohman in his absence.
2. **MoDOT Staff Changes (Jeff Bohler):** Jeff presented the following changes in MoDOT staff since the last meeting:
 - Jenn Becker is the Design Liaison for STL and statewide Utilities. She fills the position vacated by Tim Schroeder's retirement.
 - Tim Schroeder is working part time for Central District. He is the SE District's Liaison among other duties.
 - Roy Shoemaker is the LPA Team leader. He filled the position vacated by Cindy Simmons when she became Planning Manager.
 - Brandi Baldwin is the State Construction Engineer. She filled the position vacated when Dave Alvers' retirement.
 - Debbie Huffman is the KC District Design Engineer. She filled the position vacated when Jeff Hardy was promoted to Assistant District Engineer.
 - Justin Wolf is the I-55 Design-Build Project Director and Frank Vance is the Deputy Director.
3. **Tom Blair Update:** Tom led off by thanking everyone who attended the Regional Transportation Update event held on Tuesday, Nov. 22nd at the Maryland Heights Community Center. Various MoDOT leaders shared the latest information on projects, operations, career opportunities and how to do business with MoDOT. Tom also mentioned the DBE mixer which was held immediately after the Regional Transportation Update. Tom noted that due to the large attendance at the DBE mixer, MoDOT may have to keep the event in the same room in subsequent years. Tom also addressed the following topics:



- **Unfunded Needs Meeting Recap:** The public was invited to a meeting to discuss the draft updated High Priority Unfunded Needs list for transportation in the St. Louis region. The meeting was held Wednesday, Dec. 8th, from 4 - 6 p.m. at the Forest Park Visitor Center. The draft project-specific lists include \$4.5 billion of road and bridge projects in three tiers. Tier one includes \$543 million with projects MoDOT could accomplish in the time of the current five-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Tier two is worth \$2.1 billion including projects beyond the current STIP timeframe with broader estimates. Tier three includes \$2.2 billion of projects that are also beyond the current STIP timeframe with broader estimates. In addition, MoDOT staff identified \$1 billion in multimodal needs.
- **Commissioners Meeting Recap:** Tom discussed the annual report containing the Citizens Guide to Transportation at the last Commissioners Meeting held on October 5th. At the next Commissioner's Meeting, a draft guide related to public policy (in conjunction with the National Safety Council) for safer transportation will be discussed and ultimately released for statewide use.

Tom fielded two questions from Linda Moen after his updates.

Question: Is it correct that 30% of the design-build projects underway are complete and only 2% of those completed projects are reflected in the current STP?

Answer: Those estimates are pretty much in line with MoDOT's numbers.

Question: Is MoDOT watching and proactively updating their program estimates?

Answer: These numbers are challenging to forecast, however, at a minimum MoDOT is proactively staying ahead on projects with major scope changes.

4. **Tom Evers Update:** Tom led off by letting everyone know that the unfunded needs document is still under review in which it will contain 2050 projections. Tom also addressed the following topics:

- **Missouri AGC Conference Recap:** Increases in unit prices and inflation are eating up funding vs. new projects. There is a great concern from contractors about their capacity and how it relates to system improvements. Therefore, contractors are requesting that MoDOT provides more flexibility with schedules and potentially spacing projects out a little more.
- **Design-Build Projects Update:**
 - **I-55 Corridor Improvements** includes the cities of Pevely, Herculaneum, Festus, and Crystal City. The purpose of this project is to address traffic and safety concerns along the I-55 corridor and account for future development and growth patterns in the region. An industry meeting and DBE networking event was held on Dec. 1 the same time the RFQ was issued. SOQs are due February 23, 2023.
 - Safety Improvements 2.0 includes \$40 million worth of improvements similar to the format of the first safety improvements design-build project. The Counties and specific locations within this project have not been decided as of yet. Advertisement for this project is tentatively scheduled for Quarter 2 of 2023.



- 5. Consultant Update (Jeff Cremer):** Jeff led off by giving an update on the consultant invoice process. Jeff noted that MoDOT is down from 700 outstanding invoices to 200 currently. Jeff mentioned that if anyone has ideas on how to make the process more efficient that he is open to any/all suggestions. Jeff mentioned that he is working on putting in place a tracking system with a 30-day turnaround as the initial goal. Jeff also addressed the following topics:

On-Call Solicitation Update: MoDOT received 116 responses in which they are all currently under review. The prequalification lists will be produced by December 16th and finalized by January 13th. The announcement of the approved prequalified firms per each category will be released on January 16th. Jeff moved to say the Design Division develops a “Master Agreement” to be executed by the approved consultants. This agreement outlines the basic conditions of the contractual relationship and specifies the work categories. The Master Agreement is the foundation for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the district later executes with a consultant to address the need for a specific scope of services in a specific work category.

LPA On-Call Solicitation Update: Submittals are due December 15th and will be reviewed in similar fashion as the specific category MoDOT On-Call solicitations.

- 6. Major Projects Update (Mike Castro):** Mike presented the following project updates:

I-270

- Project is 65% complete.
- Project is scheduled to complete \$2m/week in 2023 in work.
- Project remains on budget and on schedule from original 2019 contract values. Few project nationally have been able to do this with many hurdles (COVID, supply chain, inflation, workforce, etc). Speaks to STL industry ability to deliver.
- This winter crews are still full speed as long as temperatures remain where they are. Lots of concrete work and bridge work taking place in December.
- Starting this Wednesday (12/14), the WB 270 exit ramp to West Florissant will close. This ramp is not coming back. Many from the public are disappointed, but the ramps were too closely spaced and by moving the spacing out, it will help with safety and mobility.
- All of the outer road has been converted for the project. The project is now working quickly to rebuild sections of outer road to have at least two lanes open. For some of the section, we only have one lane of traffic. Dunn (NOR) is one way to the west. Pershall (SOR) is one way to east. Limits are from Old Halls Ferry to Hanley/Graham.
- The largest traffic impacts for calendar year 2023 will be at 270 and New Florissant and 270 and New Halls Ferry. This will be for staged bridge work. These impacts are expected to be much less than the traffic impacts for calendar year 2021 and 2022.
- Completion December 1, 2023.

I-70 DB – Millstone Weber - \$51 million

- Issued NTP 1 March 2022
- Issued NTP 2 around end of June early July 2022
- 100% plan reviews taking place for Zumbahl and Cave Springs; 60% plans for NOR and Route 94.
- Zumbahl State 1 deck poured. Working on approach work, approach slabs, barrier wall, etc.
- Cave Springs State 1 – setting deck panels and preparing for a deck pour at some point.
- Dave Springs/VMP – excavating and shoring for Arch Structure.



- Spring 2023 shift traffic to new structure on Cave Springs and Zumbahl, demo old structures and rebuild, working on VMP/Cave Springs and ramp tie ins.
- Completion date June 28, 2024.

JB Bridge – KCI \$50 million rehabilitation

- EB bridge essentially complete. This past weekend moved EB traffic back to the EB bridge.
- This winter working on EB JB substructure repair and setting safe span for WB bridge.
- April 1 2023 switch WB traffic onto EB bridge.
- On track for December 15 2023 completion.

I-55 KCI \$63 million Bridge rehabs between Gravois to Lindbergh.

- Getting ready to open up stage 1 between Potomac and Arsenal. NB back in normal position and open another lane SB. Like this until March then go into stage 2 which put SB on NB side. Reduces NB lanes.
- Getting ready for stage 3, NB traffic on SB side between Virginia and Weber road. Throughout winter. Remove river desperes and railroad redecks. Latex over on Koeln in the Spring.
- 20% complete.
- On track for December 1 2024 completion.

7. Other Business / Next Meeting

J.C Murray reminded the committee about the Work Zone Awareness Race on April 15, 2023. As has been the format in the past, there will be a 5k run and a 1k walk. Tom Blair thanked J.C. for the update and asked each committee member to seek volunteers for the race ahead of time.

The next Committee Meeting has been tentatively scheduled for March 14, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

With no additional subjects to be discussed, Chairman Desai adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott J. Smith, P.E.