



ACEC – Missouri: MoDOT STL District Liaison Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

MoDOT St. Louis Headquarters

1590 Woodlake Drive, Chesterfield, Missouri

Conference Room 325 and Teams Video Conference

ACEC
Missouri

The Meeting was Called to Order by Chairman Buddy Desai at 2:00 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
Tom Lohman, Horner and Shifrin
Scott Smith, Lochmueller Group

1. **Introductions:** Quick introductions were given for all in the room and on the Teams call.
2. **MoDOT Staff Changes (Jeff Bohler):** Jeff presented the following changes in MoDOT staff since the last meeting:
 - Lee Hillner has returned as a part-time employee supporting St Louis with Project Management tasks.
 - Tabitha Locke is the new North Area Engineer. She replaced Aaron Hugenberg who took the position of the NE Bridge Engineer.
 - Dave Bauer is the new North Area Resident Engineer. He replaced Niall Jansson who is new Construction Liaison replacing Randy Hitt who retired last fall.
 - Sara Kleinschmidt is the new Assistant State Construction and Materials Engineer. She replaced Jay Bestgen who retired last fall. Her position as Policy and Innovations Engineer is currently advertised.
 - Stacey Reese is the new District Engineer in the SW District.
3. **Tom Blair Update:** Tom Evers began the update while Tom Blair was getting spotty cell phone reception and mentioned the following topics:
 - Terry Ecker replaced Bob Brinkmann as the new Commission Chair.
 - All state employees recently received an 8.7% pay increase to account for cost of living.
 - This has helped stabilize the current MoDOT team.
 - MoDOT's turnover rate has improved, however, they are still not gaining employees
 - St. Louis District has 565 employees, which is 120 low, specifically in the areas of maintenance and construction.

Tom Blair finished the segment with the following topics:

- MoDOT recently had an industry meeting with contractors to gauge challenges and trends that have been driving prices up.
 - Specifically discussed contractor's ability to help complete MoDOT's ADA Transition Plan by 2027.
 - St. Louis District has 15 to 20 corridors still to complete, totaling about 80 miles
 - A handful of contractors indicated the ability to take on long ADA corridor jobs, but several contractors voiced the longer corridors make it difficult for them to compete and indicated smaller ADA projects could allow more contractors to bid.
 - MoDOT is specifically seeing higher bids on ADA jobs compared to other jobs.
- MoDOT recently attended the Statewide Planning Partners Meeting
 - LPA's are not using their share of fund appropriation
 - This has a negative effect on future funds coming back
 - 2 years ago, MoDOT received \$120M back, last year only \$60M
 - Consultants and the engineering community should look for ways to help LPA's utilize funds available.

4. Tom Evers Update: Tom shifted to his original agenda items and addressed the following topics:

- Submitted all STIP projects for the annual update
 - STIP will be approved at the May Commission meeting
 - Last year's program ended up 130% of the planned STIP
 - MoDOT Lettings are still averaging 25% over the construction estimate on bids
 - There will not be a lot of new projects on this STIP
 - Due in part to higher bids on existing STIP lettings
 - MoDOT hopes fewer Lettings will bring more contractor competition
 - Attempts to ease time restrictions, as indicated by the construction industry, has not helped lower bids.
 - MoDOT may consider peak hour traffic construction periods
 - MoDOT is still rejecting some bids, about one per month, but depends on a number of factors
 - Linda mentioned contractors have been vocal about rejections and are trying to change Legislation to allow viewing of engineer's estimate.
 - There was discussion about which estimate is ultimately used to compare overages. MoDOT Central Office takes engineer's estimates from consultants to do their own takeoffs and uses a final estimate.

5. Consultant Update (Jeff Cremer): Jeff addressed the following topics:

- LPA on-call utilization needs improvement
 - A recent review of on-call usage over a significant period of time showed only two different consultants were used.
- LPA on-call list was released a couple of weeks ago; MoDOT on-call list to be released in next day or two.
- Tom Lohman asked about using supplementals to cover additional fixed fee
 - MoDOT's policy is not to increase contract maximum to cover overhead rate increases or fixed fee.
 - A gray area has surfaced when anticipating fixed fee in the original contract for future supplemental totals.
 - Jeff mentioned MoDOT is looking for more guidance on this to provide to consultants.

- MoDOT is hiring outside consultants to help with review of overhead rate adjustment to speed up the approval process.
 - Jeff wants to significantly reduce the time to get overhead rates approved.

6. St. Louis Design Update (Jeff Bohler)

- Consultant Outlook – Alvin will be soliciting for consultant design on the EB64 Vandeventer Bridge replacement project this May. It is not currently on the 6-month outlook. \$20M construction estimate.
- Project Scheduling Update. Statewide team to develop reporting for projects status. Separate team for developing the MS project templates. MoDOT will provide consultants with licenses to request a schedule be created by Central Office and will ask consultants to update project schedules for major milestones.
- Streetlight Data. MoDOT has licenses available for temporary use by consultants. They provide mobility metrics; traffic counts, distances, origins, destinations, etc.
<https://www.streetlightdata.com/transportation-metrics/>

7. Major Projects Update (Mike Castro): Mike presented the following project updates:

I-70 Design Build. Millstone Weber. \$51 million. Completion date June 28, 2024. 30% complete.

- This Spring, the first half of both the new Cave Springs and Zumbahl bridges will be completed and Traffic will be switched over to the new structures.
- Currently, both bridge decks have been poured and work to bring the approaches up to grade is ongoing
- Once traffic is shifted, the old bridges will be demolished for construction of the second half of the interchanges
- Temporary shoring for the Veterans Memorial Parkway and Cave Springs grade separation construction is in place and drainage, MSE wall, and Conspan Arch construction will follow.
- Also, construction on the NOR from Fairgrounds to 94 is anticipated to begin this summer.
- For design, we are nearing completion of the RFC packages.

I-270 Design Build

- Project still remains on schedule to be completed December of this year
- The project has three bridge locations remaining on the project
 - EB and WB 270 over New Florissant will have the bridge deck poured in the next month
 - WB 270 over New Halls Ferry is having girders set overnight this week (3/13 to 3/18)
 - The 367 bridges will start work later in the month. These bridges are small and will be constructed quickly
- Concrete entrances and shared use path work continues
- This spring the focus will be building the additional WB 270 lane from 367 to Lindbergh.
- There are only a couple more significant closures for the project:
 - Dunn Road in front of Village Square Shopping Center will be closed for 1 month start March 27th
 - WB 270 entrance ramp from Dunn Road at New Halls Ferry will be closed for a 3 month period in mid-April
 - WB 270 entrance ramp from Dunn Road at Wash/Eliz will be closed for a 1 month period mid-Summer
 - WB 270 to NB 367 ramp will be closed for a 2 month period later this summer
- Asphalt mill/fill for the outer roads and 270 will take place late spring until early fall

Riverview/I-270 \$35 million. Walsh Construction, Millstone major subcontractor. Working in coordination with IDOT Chain of Rocks. Completion date December 31 2026.

- First stage is to complete the EB 270 Bridge over River view on new alignment

- EB On Ramp from Riverview to I-270 closed and remain closed until Fall 2024 when the EB Chain of Rocks Bridge completes.
- Detour in Place Riverview to WB 270 to Lilac.
- Clearing complete, and foundation test holes for drilled new EB bridge.
- Next 3 months
 - Place fill for new EB on ramp 60,000 CY and 1 year settlement period.
 - Riverview reduced to 1 lane in each direction for drainage work
 - Begin grading in median of I-270 and placing permanent and temporary pavement.
 - Working thru a large VE that will redesign the temporary location of the EB 270 off ramp.

I-55 bridge rehabilitation project from Lindbergh to I-44. - \$63 million. KCI. Year 2.

- Completion date December 2024.
- 30-40% complete.
- Last year we completed both directions of overlay on both Virginia and Bates. We also completed overlay on Potomac and 3200 Broadway and redeck of 2nd street only In northbound direction.
- This year we will redeck 2nd St southbound direction and over lay southbound Potomac and 3200 Broadway. We will also overlay 4500 Broadway and Gasconade both directions. We will also overlay Koeln Northbound direction and new deck at River Des Peres and over Railroad northbound direction.
- All overlays include deck repairs and latex overlay.
- 2 lanes both direction gravios and ballas.

JB Bridge – \$50 million. KCI.

- Stage 1 completed last fall.
- Stage 2 to commence April 2023. All lanes on EB structure.
- Completed date December 2023.
- This winter crews have really concentrated on painting the under girders . Had decent winter to get a bit ahead of schedule.
- Joint replacement, deck repairs, polyester concrete overlay, arch painting and approach girder painting. Also, extensive repairs on Koch Road with Latex overlay.

PMC Muegge Road/364/94 – Overall Completion date of November 1, 2023. \$21 million. Gershenson Construction.

- Overall Project about 65% complete.
- Route 94 Widening is 99% complete.
- Muegge Road Interchange about 65% complete.
- Major closure upcoming for 90 days. Access to and from 364 to Muegge will be closed as we complete fill work, and paving work for the diverging diamond interchange. Targeting sometime early April.
- Most of the ramp work is complete and need to complete the Muegge Road work and ramp tie-ins.
- 94 Asphalt Paving to begin the summer.
- Project about 1% over budget

8. ACEC Update (Buddy Desai)

- HJR 37 – Initiative to have State Road Fund be subject to appropriation by the General Assembly
 - Currently in the Senate and will likely pass
- HJR 270 – could allow non-engineers working for 3 years in other states, branches of the military, a territory of the US, or any combination of such jurisdictions to get licensure
- Attempts at repealing SB262 have not made it to the floor due to floor leadership
- Areas of the State along I-44 are asking “what about us?” regarding funding for I-70

- \$20M was added as a line item for a NEPA study of I-44
- ACEC is working on gathering data from other states/agencies to the benefits of increasing the MOU cap.
- MoDOT working on a safety clause for consultants to equal MoDOT safety requirements
- Length of time to get under contract seems to be getting longer
 - Delays are not always consistent or from the same groups
 - MoDOT has noticed scoping takes longer when multiple consultants are involved

9. Other Business / Next Meeting

Next meeting will be scheduled for 6/13/23. The meeting following the June meeting will transition three ACEC members off and three new ACEC members added to the Liaison Committee.

With no additional subjects to be discussed, Chairman Desai adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.