

**MoDOT Central & Northeast District / ACEC Missouri  
Liaison Committee Zoom Meeting**



**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, August 25, 2020  
1:00-3:00 PM**



**Attending from MoDOT:**

Randy Aulbur  
James Beattie  
Randall Glaser  
Keith Killen  
Jerad Noland  
Jim Smith  
Jason Vanderfelt  
Kenny Voss  
Machelle Watkins

**Attending from ACEC-Missouri**

Tricia Bohler, Civil Design, Inc.  
Dave Diestelkamp, ABNA (*going off*)  
Darrell Eilers, EFK Moen  
Mike Herleth, B&M (*going off*)  
Michele Keal, Alfred Benesch  
Aaron McVicker, McClure  
Michael Purol, PSBA  
Jay Rakers, CMT, committee chair  
Jeff Smith, HNTB  
Ryan Thomas (*for Rick Bennett*), Wood  
Bruce Wylie, ACEC-MO President  
Dawn Hill, ACEC-MO Staff

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**1. COVID-19 Update and Impacts on the STIP**

Available MoDOT revenue continues to be hit hard. Through the end of June 2020, the fiscal year was down \$40 million in available funds. As a result, some choices were made that include delaying \$60 million in projects, leaving some MoDOT staffing openings “open” on purpose, and using the shared work program at MoDOT, which has saved between \$12 and \$15 million.

MoDOT is still on track to work full time again in September. However, they are still working remotely, if possible, through the end of 2020, except for construction staff. Area engineers and their teams are reporting more often however to their area sheds and buildings. MoDOT’s office personnel have reported seeing good results inside the virtual environment.

Since the close of last fiscal year, some nice trends have started taking place. The month of July saw revenues up 10% from what they were projected to be. Even though gas revenues continued to be down \$8 million, the increases in car purchases and drivers license fees outgained the \$8 million loss.

MoDOT is slowly moving forward with some contracts as they remain cautiously optimistic. However, all scoping projects are currently on hold; the focus instead is on program budget-ready projects.

MoDOT is also staffing up for winter maintenance and are still looking at the letting schedule on a month-by-month basis based on the latest revenue projections being updated monthly.

## **2. District Updates / Leadership and Key Initiatives**

Nothing to report. MoDOT is looking forward to getting back to normal and delivering the STIP.

## **3. MoDOT Leadership Updates / Key Initiatives**

Dave Ahlvers is continuing his bi-weekly call with members of the various industry groups discussing COVID-19. Dave Simmons is a part of this as well.

There was another round of PPP loans – 75 to 80% of loans from consultants were approved. ACEC Missouri continues to push for protection.

ACEC is working nationally to push for new funding in advance of the election. ACEC-MO is working with national to see how this might play out. A reminder to look at the ACEC-MO website and emails for updates.

## **4. Update on District Priorities for Consultant Design – Bridge & Roadway & Scoping**

### **Northeast District**

- The Route 79 Viaduct was posted on August 17 and is due September 11 – several consultants have shown interest.
- One MOU with ADA will be coming.
- Other MOUs set to go out in April/May were delayed until people are back full time. Slowly these might be sent out throughout the Fall.
- Main priorities - taking care of the system projects.
- Route 47/61 – concept design was completed. Final design will likely be done in-house; but is still to be determined. The Hannibal area design team would be the ones to design it.
- Route 19/70 – resurfacing with Jacobs continues to move forward in its final design.
- Possibly a small bridges project will be packaged together later in the year.
- Generally, other MOU's will be prioritized and looked at more once the Fall season hits.
- 20-year retirees that continue to come in will slow MoDOT's capabilities.
- The District is beginning to recognize that FY22 projects will be tough to meet schedules.
- Farm Bridge Project – D/B solicitation coming this Fall. Look at MoDOT's D/B website.

### **Central District**

- FY22 will be affected – concurrence with NE District.
- The District has 4 squads. A couple of good designers started and left however over the past several months. It continues to be a challenge to keep younger staff.
- Currently new designers out of school are not learning microstation/geopak as well since they are working virtually. It is a problem with the young engineers and consultants agree. Virtually working is not kind to learning software programs and design tools. People in new positions are lacking in mentoring as well, even some veterans who have been swiftly moved into project management roles.
- To tackle some of the challenges of working virtually, Central district is having staffing meetings once/week, as well as each individual squad.

- Route 54 with 27 intersections is on board for a May letting.
- I-70/63 Update – project still on hold. No update.
- I-70/54 Update – project still on hold. No update.
- ADA yearly projects are ongoing internally.
- Mid MO ADA D/B solicitation will be sometime next year – hopefully first quarter. Look at MoDOT’s D/B website.
- Bridges in FY22 – bridge office recently stated they were short on projects staying in-house.
- No MOUs are coming up – the 4 squads are handling these well, at least for the next few months.
- Rocheport Bridge – D/B proceeding sometime next year. Look at MoDOT’s D/B website.

**5. Update on District Priorities for Consultant Design – Major Projects**

Pure scoping projects are on hold. MoDOT is delivering and focusing on taking-care-of-the-system projects for the most part.

Cost-share projects in the future – program is still active but currently is not being discussed for the next round right now.

**6. Update on Upcoming Design/Build Projects**

Bruce Wylie’s summary of Dave Simmons D/B report:

- A reminder that MoDOT’s D/B website is an all-inclusive source for available D/B project information. <https://www.modot.org/design-build-information>
- I-70/Cave Springs to Fairgrounds – currently, Project Advertisement is slated for November 2, 2020; December 7, 2020 is the date for the industry meeting and RFQ Release; an SOQ shortlist is set for January 18, 2021; and an RFP release is scheduled for February 5, 2021.
- Farm Bridge Program – NE/NW districts – 41 bridges - providing a schedule soon (before the end of September).
- Bootheel Bridge Bundle – Team selected.
- US Buck O'Neill I-69 in KC – just shortlisted 5 teams in mid-August for proposals.
- Otherwise, MoDOT highly recommends looking at the D/B website for fairness to all firms.

**7. Status of Major Projects Currently Underway**

Nothing to report.

**8. Other Discussion Items**

MoDOT is starting to identify projects that might be at risk due to schedules. MoDOT is attempting to balance the letting schedules as best as they can. Every month brings new information as far as revenues, etc., so it is a challenge. Some projects have been moved out of this fiscal year. With the uncertainty of revenue, some projects may continue to move back. Although, since July’s revenue

was higher than expected, MoDOT is watching and cautiously trying to deliver \$850 M for the rest of this fiscal year through July 2021.

There is currently \$50M for next fiscal year for consultants. Again, this has to be monitored month/month with the uncertainties that exist in our current climate. MoDOT is cautiously delivering as much as they can.

If revenues continue to see this 10% + increase each month after the pandemic, MoDOT may look to consultants even more to deliver their program.

Currently, there is \$200 million worth of projects that cannot be delivered this fiscal year due to the pandemic.

MoDOT hopes to have \$1.3 billion in FY22 and will know more in a few months. Note that a large piece of this \$1.3 billion would be I-270 D/B and some of the other D/B projects.

FY21 right now is approximately \$900-950M, with close to \$300 million of this being D/B (about 1/3 of the budget). Federal grants are helping.

**9. Next Meeting Date & Location (ACEC/MO office).**

To be determined.