

**Missouri Department of Transportation (NW and KC
Districts) & American Council of Engineering Companies of
Missouri Liaison Committee
- MINUTES -
November 27, 2017**

The Missouri Department of Transportation (Northwest and Kansas City Districts) and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Missouri held their quarterly meeting on November 27, 2017 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm at the MoDOT Kansas City District Office in Kansas City. The following individuals were present:

MoDOT Representatives:

Brian Kidwell
Chris Redline
Susan Barry
Martin Liles
Troy Slagle
Mark Fisher
Mark Sommerhauser
Matt Killion
Allan Ludiker
Debbie Huffman
Richard Shipley
Shelie Daniel
Jeff Hardy
Juan Yin
Jodie Puhr

ACEC/MO Representatives:

Michael Carroll, Current Chair
Gretchen Ivy
Troy Eisenbraun
Bill Barker
Stephen Wells
Ozzy Bravo
Matt McQuality

The agenda included the following key topics:

Introductions

- Transition of ACEC Liaison Committee Members

MoDOT Discussion Items

- MoDOT District and HQ Updates
 - Project Readiness (Shovel Ready Projects)
 - TIGER and INFRA Grant Submittals
 - Staffing Challenges
- Federal Infrastructure Updates

Project Opportunities

- Future Consultant Contracts
- On-Call Services
- Cost Share Opportunities

- Construction Inspection Services

ACEC/MO Discussion Items

- Project Pursuit Readiness
- 2018 TEAM Conference
- Mercury Alliance Update
- 21st Century Transportation Task Force
- Legislative and Governor's Office Outreach

Next Meeting Date and Location

MoDOT Discussion Items:

- Susan Barry has been selected as a new Assistant District Engineer – Operations in the KC District.
- Chris Redline will continue as an Assistant District Engineer – Projects in the KC District.
- Griffin Smith has been selected as District Planner.
- MoDOT is aware they have very few shovel-ready projects if there is an increase in funding. This is being discussed, but at this time they do not anticipate a large push to get plans on the shelf.
- MoDOT recently submitted for \$194M in INFRA Grant funding to the USDOT. Projects included I-270, I-44/US 65 interchange improvements, I-70 Rocheport MO River Bridge, I-70 & I-44 Incident Management and various improvements along I-70. Previously submitted for funding of Merchants Bridge Rehabilitation.
- MoDOT is struggling to keep 3-5 year employees due to salary and better opportunities at cities, counties and federal agencies. ACECMO members mentioned they will discuss with state legislators that MoDOT salaries need to be increased to maintain good staff. Experienced PM level staff are extremely important to MoDOT and to the success of consultant projects. Salary increase would be offset by large expense MoDOT currently has with constant hiring and training of new staff.
- KC District mentioned they will have a package of 10 projects coming out to consultants over the next month. There will be one solicitation for these projects and an informational meeting will be held to discuss all projects. (MoDOT provided draft list of projects the following day). These projects will help fill the 2019/2020 spending that was removed when the Broadway Bridge rehabilitation was reduced by \$50M.
- Broadway Bridge Environmental Documentation solicitation will be out to consultants in the next month.
- Broadway Bridge rehabilitation contract will be let in March 2018. Mark Fisher is MoDOT PM. During the rehabilitation, only NB lanes will be open. No SB lanes will be open during construction.
- MoDOT to commit \$100M in matching funds for new Broadway Bridge. KCMO is requesting \$40M in STP funding and will still need additional \$60M

- for total estimated construction cost of \$200M.
- MoDOT Area Engineers can provide information on various cost-share projects within their districts. MoDOT is not currently participating in any economical development cost shares.
 - MoDOT KC District may have an MOU next year for construction inspection at asphalt plants. MoDOT has lost many construction inspectors and may need assistance with construction inspection next year.

ACEC/MO Discussion Items

- ACECMO members asked if MoDOT could provide a list of potential upcoming projects to consultants. Earlier planning for these projects would allow consultants to be more selective and would allow more time for innovation. It would likely reduce the number of submittals for a given project. MoDOT said their PM's are spending a lot of time on consultant solicitations too and they will discuss internally what they can do to improve the process and provide better information to consultants. Jeff Hardy, District Design Engineer, provided a draft list of upcoming projects in the KC District.
- 2018 TEAM conference was discussed. The primary theme of the conference will be "The Heritage of Transportation Engineering". An excellent response was received for presentations in the breakout sessions and should be a very informative conference. A good mix of MoDOT and consultant presentations. MoDOT plans to send several people from each district.
- Gretchen Ivy provided an update on the 21st Century Transportation Task Force. The Task Force has one remaining public meeting in December, in Columbia, MO. A final report will be completed by end of the year. The Task Force is looking at a 3-part investment package to address the state's transportation needs:
 1. Immediate investment of a 6 to 10 cent gas tax to address significant funding issues.
 2. Develop a long-term sustainable funding revenue. (road user fees, sales tax, etc.)
 3. Legislation to improve safety of roads. (texting, seatbelts, etc.)

Next Meeting and Location

- Next meeting will be held in March 2018.