



St. Louis County Department of Transportation
ACEC/MO Liaison Committee Meeting



June 3, 2021
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Webex

Access codes in meeting invitation

Draft Meeting Minutes

ACEC/MO Liaison Members

- X Darrell Eilers – EFK Moen
- X Mike Erdtmann - GBA
- X Tyson King – Lochmueller Group
- X Dave Maxwell – HR Green
- X Tim Nugent - CDG
- Bob Orr
- Travis Pfeiffer - Parsons
- Frank Weatherford - TranSystems

Saint Louis County Members

- X Nathan Adams
- X Brian Gettinger
- Mathew Gruendler
- X Glenn Henninger
- X Daniel Howell
- X Joe Kulesa - Acting Deputy Director
- Russell Leach
- X Stephanie Leon-Streeter - Acting Director
- X Greg Marshall
- X Gina Montgomery
- Kori Neely
- Gregory Poppitz
- X John Shrewsbury
- X Adam Spector
- X Pamela Thebeau
- X Larry Welty

X Attended

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Overview of ACEC and purpose of Liaison committees
- 3) Director Update:
 - Meeting with public improvement committee at St. Louis County. Pedestrian safety and movement is key.
- 4) Dept. of Transportation Staff Update
 - Merged Planning and design at St. Louis County.
 - Having difficulty finding qualified candidates. (Bridge engineer position open for 3 months. Planning position open longer. No candidates applied.)
 - ACEC to help County with salary structure to promote need.
 - Consultants have difficulty finding staff. Try to hire new graduate engineers and train them.
 - Many people at County nearing retirement. Concerned with losing experience.
 - Can county increase fees on permits to help with costs? Recently increased utility permit fees. May need to reconsider other fees.

- If needed, staff augmentation by consultants could be an option. However, it is less desirable than developing the skills within the County.
 - Engineering on-call contract can be an option for County to deliver projects more efficiently. The tentative plan is to move forward with an RFQ in late 2021.
- 5) Improving consultant selection transparency
- The County is considering sharing the scoring results with consultants that submit RFQs. The consensus is sharing the scoring is good. SOQ will not be provided. However, they can be obtained if requested through sunshine law.
 - General debriefs are happening after procurement is complete and contracts are executed.
- 6) Funding / ARP funds for Transportation?
- The Department is waiting to hear if any funds will come toward Transportation. They are \$30M to \$50M short on annual maintenance with significant funding issues.
- 7) Is there a published list of County JSPs?
- No. The County will provide previously used JSPs, if they will be helpful. The county does not have manpower to manage a catalog of JSPs. However, there is a JSP checklist to discuss how to pay for items.
- 8) Consolidation of plan review comments and responses.
- To the greatest extent practical, staff are directed to compile all comments before forwarding them. Staffing and pandemic related situations have caused issues with providing a complete list of comments in a timely manner. Merging Design and Planning will help with this process. New projects going forward should go smoother due to reorganization.
 - Tracking comments and responses on a consistent form can be helpful. The County has requested any examples.
 - ProjectWise will be implemented to help with file management. May switch to MoDOT standards. The county is meeting with MoDOT soon to better understand next steps. Looking to move to ORD in the near future.
- 9) M/WBE Program Rules and Regulations
- Currently, there is a draft update of the program rules and regulations. (80 page update.) They are at the committee level with County Council. In general, the changes improve the program language and make the rules easier to follow. The plan is to incorporate the updated rules into future contracts.
 - Many federal guidelines were adopted as county rules. More significant issues with contractors following rules than consultant community. Truck hauling monitoring and prompt payment are major items of concern with construction contracts. St. Louis County rules differ from MoDOT in the way trucks are counted to achieve M/WBE goals
 - No changed yet on M/WBE prime counting toward goals. Ordinance needs to change for self-performance of prime to count toward goals. The department wants this to change and needs to work with council for it to happen.

10) M/WBE & Diversity Update / program implementation

- a) Real world use of the liquidated damages in Article XXVIII
 - We have not seen consultant liquidated damages at this point. A couple contracts have been short of goal, but not for a lack of effort. Therefore, liquidated damages have not been assessed. The County is not trying to be punitive with the requirements. The goal is for everyone to get a fair shot and to be inclusive.
 - Selection of subs must be done in a meaningful way. Not used for an as-need items. This impacts scoring of Statements of Qualifications.
 - Prompt pay is not an issue with consultants.
 - A question was raised if there is way to switch teaming partners during a project? Yes, the contract has a mechanism for substitutions or additions to team.

11) Training Opportunities *(Little movement since September meeting)*

- a) County Standards Update (from TEAM Lunch – Joe)
- b) County's transportation funding situation and current 5-year plan.
- c) Presentation by County construction staff on plan problems they are seeing in the field.
- d) Pavement Management Planning / Preservation
 - The County published a comprehensive plan for walking and biking. Hopefully, this is first step to community understanding of the County's goals and objectives. Programming future projects will follow plan. Cost is \$250M + \$200M in ADA improvements previously identified. This is above other maintenance funding needs.
 - As these projects are developed, more public involvement will be needed in future.
 - The county is attending in-person events for organizations as scheduled.

12) Other

- County will maintain a hybrid working environment for the positions that are not community facing or needed on site. They are working through equipment issues that are hindering full implementation at this time.
- Hybrid environments can help with recruiting. However, mentorship with new hires is a challenge.

13) Action Items

- ACEC – When requested assist the department with messaging of competitive salary needs to County Administration so they can retain and attract the talent needed to effectively perform their duties.
- ACEC – Provide examples of comment tracking.
- County – Provide revised M/WBE Rules and Regulations when they are available to share.