

MINUTES  
ACEC/KDOT PARTNERING COMMITTEE  
TOPEKA, KANSAS  
AUGUST, 28, 2006

Present were Neil Rusch, Sue Darling, Rick Kreider, Ron Seitz, Dave Beach, Larry Emig, Scott Uhl, Mike Bowen, David Comstock, Jim Kowach, Mike Olson, Mike Hess, Mike Stock, Sandy Tommer, David Church, Jerry Younger, Tom Swenson, Lisa Koch, and Karla Watters.

**It was moved to add a Partnering Conference Committee Report under Other Business. It was also moved to add a discussion item about Steel Girder Erection Plans under Other Business. Item 8 “Safe Routes to School” was shifted to item 2a. With those changes it was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2006 meeting. Motion carried.**

Lisa Koch, Bureau of Traffic engineering gave a report on the “Safe Routes to School” program, including a handout. The program was created under the current highway program, SAFETEA-LU, and will run from 2005-2009. The program provides approximately \$612 million nationally, with approximately \$1 million of that allocated to Kansas annually. For more information on this program view the KDOT web site:

<http://www.ksdot.org/bureaus/burTrafficEng/sztoolbox/default.asp>

Larry Emig gave the report on the local projects committee, including a handout. Larry’s report included an update on the reorganization of the Bureau of Local Projects. The update informed us that 3 team leader positions had been filled and that Ron Seitz had been selected as Larry’s successor. The report also included information on committee activities to improve communication with local officials, the status of net fee on supplemental CE agreements, and the use of federal funds for design fees on local projects.

Larry Emig reported on the transportation revolving loan fund. Larry’s handout included statistics on projects requested, approved, and interest rates.

Jim Kowach reported on the Integrated Design Committee activities. Standard drawings are now available on the KDOT web sight, allowing people to sign up for electronic notification of all changes. The committee is working on a “Project Wise” pilot project to determine how that program might be beneficial.

Jim also reported on the development of an electronic plans working group. This group is to evaluate the future form of plan delivery. Also will include issues such as transfer of data to contractors, layering to better serve different users, and other electronic plan issues. Consider the use of PDF (or smart PDF) files in addition to paper plans. Jim Kowach will ask for 3 volunteers from KDOT and Scott Heidner will ask for 3 volunteers from the consultant side. Jim and Scott will facilitate the first meeting.

Mike Bowen gave the FHWA report. They continue to work on a consultant procedure report and a financial report, which should be done by the next meeting. Mike pointed out a concern that there is increased freight in our area, a steady number of structurally deficient bridges, and yet local units of government are doing more STP projects and less BR projects. He asked for opinions on why that me happening.

Mike Olson presented a concern of an ACEC member firm regarding the sealing of KDOT standard drawings. Input was asked for regarding the use of standard drawings in a plan set sealed by an engineer. The conscensus of the group was that the engineer in charge of the project had the responsibility to review the standard drawing and had the responsibility to determine if a standard drawing was accurate and appropriate for use on a project. The engineer could choose to modify or redraw the sheet if it was determined that the standard drawing was not appropriate. In this sense, it seemed that the sheet was therefore prepared under the direction of the engineer in charge and it was acceptable for the engineer to seal the plans.

Mike Olson presented a concern of a member firm about there being different versions of documents available on the internal KDOT intranet sight compared to the external internet sight. It appears that there may be two different versions of an erosion control manual available depending upon which web sight you go to. KDOT will look into this and get this corrected. It is their desire that there only be one version available and all links reference that version.

Mike Olson asked if there currently were any plans within KDOT to require an erection plan for steel girder bridges. KDOT is currently working on a special provision to do so. KDOT will provide a draft copy of the special provision to ACEC to disseminate, so that consultants can have time to contact insurance providers to make certain their insurance will cover this service. This issue was discovered through the open communication that happens at the design squad leaders' meeting which delegates from ACEC are allowed to attend. This is a great example of the open communication and partnering that is going on at all levels between our organizations.

Jim Kowach gave an update on the upcoming KDOT/ACEC partnering conference. Everything is coming together well, the agendas have been sent out. Working on some fine details such as gifts for speakers, etc. right now. It was discussed that we would like to be able to have the date of next year's conference listed on this year's program. ACEC is working on getting the facility reserved, but so far can only get a "maybe" for October 24, 2007. When ACEC gets something more solid Scott will e-mail the dates out to make certain there is no major conflict and the reservations will be made.

David Comstock reminded us that the purpose of this group was to benefit the entire consulting community and wanted to make certain that our meeting minutes are available to any firm that is interested. Follow up – the agendas and minutes are posted on the ACEC of Kansas web sight. The link to that sight is: <http://www.acecks.org/Partnering/KDOT/KDOT.htm>

Sue Darling informed us that KDOT is working hard to get their old projects closed out. Consultants that have outstanding issues on construction projects need to get them addressed before the project is closed out.

Rick Kreider informed us that the new construction specifications manual will be going to press soon and that it will take effect in the July 2007 letting. There is a link to a draft of that manual that Rick will provide to Scott.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.