

Minutes
ACEC/KDOT Liaison Committee Meeting
Eisenhower State Office Bldg, Topeka, KS
February 14, 2018

Attendees:

KDOT: Catherine Patrick, Ron Seitz, Chris Herrick, Larry Thompson, Scott King, Mark Hoppe, Steve Bass, David Nagy, Sue Eiseman, Brent Terstriep

FHWA: Richard Backlund, Rusty Simerl

KTA: David Jacobson

ACEC: Cameron McGown, Mandy Anderson, Adam Stodola, John Riggins, Chuck Bartlett, James Tobaben

Agenda & Minutes

1. Approval of Agenda
 - Approval motioned, seconded, and approved

2. Approval of last meeting's minutes
 - Noted correction needed to last meeting's minutes: David Jacobson – KTA update should be revised to note “...three more projects will be completed by the end of 2017.”
 - Motion to approve with corrections noted, seconded, and approved

3. Action Item Review
 - KDOT asked about status of investigating insurance carriers that will cover inspection services. Reported that this had been investigated by several member firms and found that several carriers will cover these services.
 - KDOT noted that they are still receiving proposals with “observer” language rather than inspector. KDOT will not accept proposals with observer in personnel titles or work description.
 - KDOT asked that ACEC emphasize this again to member firms.

4. Status of KDOT Funding – Chris Herrick, Catherine Patrick
 - KDOT issued \$200M in bonds for FY 2018 and 2019 as was authorized last legislative session. Have not sold the last \$200M installment as of this date. These funds are to be focused on preserving the existing system.
 - Expect to have approximately \$320M per year in FY 2018 and 2019 for preservation. Noted that KDOT needs approximately \$380M per year to maintain the system in a state of good repair.

- Beginning in FY 2020, without additional state revenue, available funding will reduce to approximately \$250M
- Without additional state revenue, by July 2019, KDOT will have to “return” Federal dollars allocated for KS as they will be unable to make the full match. Need approximately \$150M additional state dollars to make the full Federal match.
- One positive is that state tax revenues have been coming in higher than projections. May result in approximately \$25M coming back to KDOT. May transfer school bus transportation costs away from KDOT which may return another \$100M back to KDOT.
- SB 285 – Joint Legislative Transportation Task Force
 - Recently passed the full Senate and headed for the House
 - Believe it is likely to pass and Gov. Colyer is supportive
 - Must complete work by January 2019
 - Focused on evaluating leftover T-WORKS projects, funding options, a new priority projects
 - Likely to include some form of local consultations
 - KDOT and KTA will likely be ex-officio members and will provide data and other assistance
 - This is similar in process to the CTP in the 2000s in that it is more driven by the legislature than by KDOT
 - KDOT is supportive of the creation of this task force

5. FHWA Update – Richard Backlund

- Paul Trombino has withdrawn himself from consideration to become Administrator of FHWA. Brandy Hendrickson is serving as the acting administrator. She will be providing the FHWA update at the KS Transportation Conference in April.
- FHWA continues working and reimbursing KDOT despite continuing resolutions. CRs do affect FTA.
- New 1R policy is in place developed through KDOT, FHWA partnership.
- Working with KDOT to develop a bridge preservation program and anticipate approval next month.
- KDOT set to deliver a draft asset management plan and performance measures to FHWA in April. Will be used to help prioritize preservation projects.
- Some changes in personnel at FHWA KS and two open positions
- New Federal Infrastructure Plan
 - Provided a 4-page summary of the guidance from the White House (attached)
 - Focused on spurring private investment in infrastructure

- \$100B incentive program
- \$50B for investment in rural infrastructure, \$10B of which will be distributed through “performance grants” – This is the most likely source of new Fed revenue that could come to KS
- Streamlining permitting is another priority. Will assign one Federal agency to oversee all Fed approvals and permits
- Funding is expected to be additive to current Federal funding authorized through the FAST Act
- Speculate that if this remains in its current form, approximately \$500M new Federal dollars could come to KS. Note that this is for all infrastructure (water, power, etc.) not just for transportation.
- Workforce development in the construction trades is another point of emphasis

6. Bureau of Local Projects Update – Mike Stringer absent – No Report

7. Contracts – David Nagy

- Q1 prequalifications currently under review.
- KDOT noted that there were a lot of issues with quality of these submittals.
- KDOT will be sending instructions and other information to firms that need to resubmit information – reference the “Blue Book” for guidance
- KDOT does not believe that firms are taking this seriously and are not putting in the effort to thoughtfully prepare the 1050 forms.
- KDOT takes this very seriously and pours over these submittals
- Consultants need to tailor descriptions to the work category and make sure information is current and accurate.
- KDOT looking to develop a new electronic system for consultant prequalification. Looking to ACEC to have 1 or 2 members participate in the development of this new system. Reviewing how this is done in other states. Leaning towards a model like what is used in Indiana.
- Upcoming solicitations – KDOT asking consultants to pay attention to what is being requested in LOIs and prepare responses that are tailored to that solicitation.
- Ron Seitz noted that he had received some comments from consultants about the lack of advanced notice of upcoming project solicitations. Given the state of the program, KDOT does not maintain a list of projects headed for solicitation and that without a long-term, multi-year plan, solicitations are likely to continue with little advanced notice. Likely to change when KDOT begins to have larger projects again.

8. Bureau of Road Design Update – Scott King

- Staffing continues to be an issue for KDOT. Still have 4-5 EA positions to fill as well as a Road Squad Leader. Additional retirements in the near future.
- Still have some projects and are starting to see some new projects
 - Bridge replacement projects
 - Wichita North Junction
- Likely to make decisions in May after the legislative session on additional projects to move forward.
- Continuing to work with FHWA on 3R program
- 3-D Deliverables for lettings
 - Asking for proposed surface models at PS&E
 - Will be working squad leaders to ensure this happens
 - Will be messaging with KCA what is to be provided to contractors
 - Expect this to happen on all projects
 - Expect to receive more competitive bids by providing this information – 5%-7% savings potential
- Safety
 - MASH implementation phase underway
 - Developed policy with FHWA
 - Pressing manufacturers to provide MASH products
 - Asking consultants to incorporate MASH products into projects
- 1R
 - Not a lot of advanced warning on these projects
 - Likely will have more in the spring after 1R tours
 - May need some additional help from consultants

9. Update from Consultants – Cameron McGown

- Asked about KDOT's reaction to the op/ed regarding the need to fund other essential state services, such as transportation, to which ACEC signed
 - KDOT reaction was positive
 - Agrees that funding is needed for other state services, not only for education
- Asked KDOT to share any insights on Gov. Colyer's vision for transportation or new direction being provided to KDOT from the Governor's office
 - KDOT is optimistic
 - Colyer allowed them to bond their remaining authorized bonding which will greatly aid preservation efforts in the next fiscal year
 - Seems to be greater interest in transparency and more support for discussing the future of transportation in KS – local consults, task force, etc.

10. Bureau of Structures and Geotechnical Services Update – Mark Hoppe

- Similar to Road Design, staff challenges continue
 - Recently hired a new engineer into the bureau
 - Ron Shurtz recently retired
 - Paul Kulseth is leaving KDOT to go work for KU
- New Bridge Manual is coming
- Seeing an increase in emergency projects with continued deterioration of key bridges
- Signing/Sealing required on all Geotech reports
- Continuing to work with FHWA on 1R program
- Special Haul Vehicles projects 2-3 months from completion
- Anticipate upcoming solicitations for inspections of sign structures

11. Legislative Update – Heidner absent - No report

12. KTA Update – David Jacobson

- Open Road Tolling Plaza at the East Terminal near Bonner Springs is how open
 - Has been a learning curve for drivers and seeing an increase in violations which costs KTA to track down for payment
- Video enforcement in place at several locations along the turnpike
- Open Road Tolling Plaza beginning construction at East Topeka
- Traffic
 - Passenger traffic is down slightly, but commercial traffic is up almost 5%
 - Seeing an increase in electronic toll collections – ETC reached 60% for the first time in January 2018
 - Expect to see a greater transition to ETC as additional ORT plazas become operational
- Since last meeting, have let 4-5 projects and are getting very good, aggressive bids from contractors

13. KDOT/ACEC Partnering Conference Summary – Mandy Anderson

- Scheduled for October 3rd, but may consider moving to October 4th or 5th
- Will be kicking off planning effort in the next few weeks
- Adam Stodola joined the planning committee
- Need to begin thinking of topics/presentations for the conference

14. Adjournment – Ron Seitz

Action Items

- Cameron McGown – Reemphasize with member firms KDOT’s position on use of “inspector” vs. “observer” in proposals
- Cameron McGown – Work with ACEC leadership to determine representatives to assist with prequalification system development

Attachments

- Highlights-Infrastructure – “Building a Stronger America”