

Minutes

ACEC/KDOT Liaison Committee Meeting

KDOT, 700 SW Harrison St., Topeka, KS

March 8, 2023, 11:00am – 2:00pm

Attendees:

KDOT: Bob Henthorne, Brent Terstriep, Clay Adams, Debbie Tanking, Greg Schieber, Jason Van Nice, Jeff Sims, Kevin Palic, Marcia Turner, Mike Moriarty, Scott King, Stephen Bass

KTA: David Jacobson

FHWA: Richard Backlund, Richard Jurey

ACEC: Brett Wood, Christopher Harker, Dave Kocour, Jacob Borchers, Kyle Guenther, Mark Johnston, Scott Heidner

1. Safety Discussion
 - a. Scott King gave safety discussion on severe weather and tornado drill locations, as well as an active shooters procedure to barricade and turn off phones.
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Changes to the Agenda
 - i. Bureau of Local Projects Update led by Scott King
 - ii. Bureau of Road Design Update led by Deb Tanking
 - iii. Bureau of Construction and Materials Update led by Jason Van Nice
3. Approval of last meeting's Minutes
 - a. Approved October 21st, 2022, Meeting Minutes
4. Status of KDOT Funding & Update
 - a. Interim titles. Couple months away from a secretary announcement. Performing a nationwide search.
 - b. Funding FY23 highest dollar amount for IKE \$1.4 billion.
 - i. US-69 and North project in Wichita driving FY23 dollar amount up.
 - c. Projected FY24 - FY 26 \$1 billion
 - d. Projected FY27 - FY 30 \$700 million
 - e. Inflation 45% more
 - i. Leveling out but don't expect to lower costs.
 - ii. Still plan to deliver on IKE Program commitments with expanded sales tax revenues. Overall program value will exceed original \$9.9B.
 - iii. \$146 million funds Federal Build
 - iv. \$135 million into highway and bridges
 - f. Local consults will happen 8 meetings and 1 virtual (1 KC, 1 Wichita, 6 Districts)
 - g. Sales tax talks at the legislators monitoring.
 - h. \$4 Modernization fund
 - i. County Administrators brought a bill to simplify, and county catch up.

- ii. Would eliminate the \$4 modernization fee. Currently accounts for \$12-13 Million annually in transportation funding.
 - iii. Bill no longer considered for this year. Likely to be revived in next legislative session.
- 5. Bureau of Local Projects Update
 - a. CCLIP Application 3-24-23
 - b. High Risk Rural applications under consideration.
 - c. Bridge Inspection portal closed. Will reopen when it is accepted by FHWA, May range.
 - d. New opportunities for Statewide FC/UW/PH bridge inspection frequencies to be available starting in June '24; Will be risk-based per new CFR language; Consultants to coordinate with local agencies.
 - e. Looking at fracture critical inspection changes, possibly in June.
- 6. FHWA Update
 - a. Headquarters full leadership slate full
 - i. New Deputy Administrator (A. Rogers)
 - ii. New Executive Director (G. Shepard)
 - b. US-69 Express Lane event was a success.
 - c. Secretary Buttigieg Visited Panasonic Plant.
 - d. Coming Soon - Discretion of Grants Specialist position; Discretionary grants opportunities increasing by \$70 Million with 40% required to go to local agencies.
 - i. 12 safe Streets for all grants, continuing to issue Raise and Connecting Communities grants.
 - e. MUTCD updates occurring. Currently addressing public comments and hope to have updated manual release in late Spring or Summer of 2023.
 - f. Buy America, Waiver for electric vehicles.
 - g. Participation with 3R and 1R project increasing; 35% more financial transactions occurred year-to-year, requiring additional staff at FHWA-KS.
 - h. FHWA Chief Engineer will provide FHWA remarks at 2023 KTEC Conference.
- 7. Contracts Update
 - a. Bringing Scott up to date on Fixed Fee discussion.
 - i. Break out new information for fair and equitable.
 - ii. Salary Bands - would need to mine data.
 - iii. Likely moving away from traditional approach of fixed fee being in a direct inverse relationship to OH rate.
 - iv. Average Loaded Rate
 - b. Contract execution and NTP
 - i. 2nd RFP Monthly Release coming out. First Round went well. Hope to have 7-10 day lead time posted in ACEC newsletter.
 - ii. Bid Express to handle procurement process.
 - 1. Earliest June or July of 2023; In Beta testing currently; Will provide "Intro Meeting" for consultants will be launched.
 - 2. KDOT will take care of expenses.
 - 3. Will not be able to submit without completed checklist.
 - 4. Will be finite with no late submittal allowed.
 - iii. Prequalification (1050) will be moved online.

1. Testing beginning. To make sure it works. Open in a couple of months.
 - c. Looking to add 1 additional person in the next month to help support.
 - d. Kristi Reichert back helping remotely part time work.
 - e. Make sure there are no math errors. Allowed to make up to \$5 changes otherwise it needs to be sent back to consultant.
 - i. What are the errors?
 1. Simple multiplications errors
 2. Penny rounding error makes sure you catch it.
 3. Overhead rates. Use the current based off accepted audit rate.
 4. Fixed fee matrix isn't applied correctly.
 5. Calling vendor, a subconsultant. Not providing necessary support Exhibits for subconsultants.
 - f. ACEC Newsletter Good feedback on the early notification of RFPs.
8. Bureau of Road Design Update
- a. New pavement design employees (2).
 - b. PBPD tool this fall. Intended to be used on low volume projects.
 - c. Training employees.
 - d. Jeff Sims new Lawrence manager. Possible re org in Lawrence.
 - e. Still looking to hire Coordinating engineer; PMC to start helping in short-term.
 - f. 3D design training ongoing. Training isn't going as fast as hoped.
 - i. KDOT still using 10.08 in house.
 - ii. OpenRoads 10.10 being released to KDOT soon with 10.11 issued soon as well.
 - g. KDOT will be upgrading to Windows 11 soon.
 - h. Digital Deliveries are continuing. Models are being submitted but need to find a balance. Not currently signing model as the contract document. KDOT recommended consultant PMs establish accuracy expectations in early phases of project workflow.
 - i. AASHTOWare Estimation is coming - Cost estimates submitted through there AASHTOWare no ETA. Within the next year.
 - i. Currently using in-house on 1R projects.
 - ii. ACEC offered to provide testers, which KDOT thought might be a good idea; (L. Campbell is POC for KDOT).
9. Update from Consultants
- a. RFP Timelines
 - i. Timeline inside RFP compared to project schedule are too close to the executed contract.
 1. Note with KDOT PM.
 2. Bring up at kickoff meeting and ask for updated 883.
 3. Adjustments in executed contracts.
 4. Sending out RFP's earlier.
 5. Consultants write the meeting minutes "power of the pen."
 6. Ask the question in the Q&A timeframe in the RFP.
 7. 883 is no longer used in the contracts.
 - b. Consultant Evaluation forms will be moved online. Reflected by what occurred.
 - i. Internal Process. Streamlined for PM's. SAME form as PET form. Just electronic.
 - ii. Will be used as a tool for selection in the future. Always the opportunity to debrief on selections.

- iii. Default score is a 3 out of 5. If you're doing your job, you get a 3.
 - iv. PMC should be acting as KDOT for those evaluations. This will go through Kris Norton.
 - c. 3D Working Group
 - i. Who is creating this group? Consultant led? Mixed use between KDOT and Consultants.
 - ii. Mike Dilner the contact to integrate the group.
 - iii. ACEC to provide a couple reps.
 - iv. Debbie Tanking to get with mike and coordinate with Brett Wood (GBA).
 - d. KDOT R/W Backlog
 - i. Would it be good for ACEC to form a task group to help streamline. Scott to chat with Chad see if task group would help.
 - ii. Wave R/W requests overloaded group. Addressing issue with embedded position and PMC.
 - iii. ACEC Contact Ben Burton SMH.
10. Bureau of Structures & Geotechnical Services Update
- a. \$45 million in set aside projects. Coordinating with KDOT DEs currently and expect to finalize project list in next month.
 - b. FY 28 Bridge Replacements shared with Bureau of Road Design. Mark Hurt working on In-house verse outsourced apportionment. Late May/Early June.
 - c. Three bridge hits have occurred. 1 in KC, 1 in Wichita, 1 out West.
 - i. Kansas City Mill Street Over I-70 and I-670. Damaged north exterior girder which was bent approximately 30" out of plumb. Internal stiffeners also damage in exterior bay. First interior girder experienced web deformation. Bearings at west pier impacted. Coordinating with Flame On to see if both girders can be heat-straightened. If not, it may go to consultant.
 - d. Bridge Inspection - Electronic Bridge Inspection - Moved up from January to October
 - i. Real Time communication with District.
 - ii. No more scan copies.
 - e. Working to hire 4 EA's 1 PCE and 4 ET's
 - f. Bob Moving on from KDOT. Last day May 17th. Moving to PEC.
11. KTA Update
- a. Preconstruction meeting for bridge raising K-99 bridges. US-166 bridge raising FY 24.
 - b. Traffic Update below COVID numbers. Was seeing gains. Then higher gas prices hit. Positive gains beginning again.
 - c. 69% of toll receipts are electronic KTAG compatible with most Florida tolls. Central Florida tolls still not integrated. Continuing to work with other tolls to get them integrated (Close with Colorado, Georgia, California).
 - d. Cashless Toll - target goal is 70% - July 24 to go full cash less. Completed 2 of 4 civil projects. Last two on going now.
 - e. Set of construction packages to take down toll booths after going live.
 - f. If KTA was federalized. Several impacts of bringing federal funds.
 - i. One issue - the service areas that include food and gas might not be allowed.
 - g. In new building in Topeka.
12. Bureau of Planning Update
- a. Traffic Volume up 4.5% from last year.

- b. Local Consults statewide tour mid-September and October
 - i. 1 per district and 1 for each metro. Topeka/ Manhattan, Salina, Hays, Iola/Pittsburg, Pratt, Garden City
 - ii. 1 virtual for statewide
- c. Hiring Planning Positions – Was able to hire 2 planners and are posting a 3rd.
- d. Hiring engineering is a struggle.
 - i. Alan Spicier Retiring in December.
- e. No program announcements.
- f. Multimodal group split off into its own group took functions of what Mike Floberg was working. Electrification part of group

13. KDOT Field Update

- a. KDOT needs more inspectors - hire your own train your own. Don't take employees from one another. Current internal KDOT resources only able to staff half of projected construction projects.
 - i. Recent salary adjustment (entry and mid-level) may help begin to help with hiring and retention, but no improvements yet.
- b. District 5 Engineer Nick Squires. Duane Flug under Nick Squires. Mike Longshaw metro engineer in Wichita.
- c. Study Plans make sure you know what's going on.
- d. 2024 1R tour should be coming out and working on 402's FY24.
- e. New products to address centerline rumble strip challenges on 1R projects (ex. VRAM – void reducing asphalt membrane).
- f. KCA/KDOT Partnering Conference was a success.
- g. Tony compiling inspection needs and moving forward; expect several additional bundles of projects this year.

14. Bureau of Construction Materials Update

- a. Idea of have a partnering committee for inspection related issues. KDOT asked ACEC to consider feasibility of standing up a new sub-committee with KDOT/consultant participants. Committee would address on-going issues specific to field services.
- b. Staffing update –
 - i. New field construction engineer.
 - ii. Hire to attorney to help Heather Hall
- c. RFP's monthly cycle for inspection. Bigger batches instead of individual 20-25.
- d. RFP for as needed to expand pool of On-call inspectors.

15. KDOT / ACEC Partnering Conference

- a. 2022 Partnering Conference Recap October 20th, 2022 in Topeka, KS
 - i. Networking instead of speaker was a great idea.
- b. 2023 Partnering Conference - Townsite in Topeka. Main level October 26th, 2023.
 - i. Committee
 - 1. KDOT Mike Moriarty, Jeff Sims, Shawn Schwensen
 - 2. FHWA Richard Jurey
 - 3. Consultants Dave Kocour, Jeff Cooper GBA. Robin Arthur HNTB, Jacob Borchers WSP
 - a. Will need a replacement for Dave per his retirement below.

16. Next Meeting: WSP Offices - Wichita

- a. May 24th, 2023
- b. Dave Kocur (HG) is retiring. Cory Imhoff HNTB will be replacing Dave on the Liaison Committee and will serve out the rest of Dave's term.

17. Adjournment