

Minutes
ACEC/KDOT Liaison Committee Meeting
Bartlett & West, Topeka, KS
Feb 15, 2022

Attendees:

KDOT: Tod Salfrank, Calvin Reed, Chris Herrick, Bob Henthorne, Scott King, Steve Bass, Greg Shieber, Tony Menke, Mike Moriarty, Clay Adams, Brent Terstriep

FHWA:

KTA:

ACEC: Scott Heidner, Jake Borchers, Matt Spencer, Jim Tobaben, Brian Armstrong, Mark Johnston, Brett Wood

1. Safety Discussion; Calvin Reed gave safety discussion.
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Agenda approved.
 - b. New members were introduced
 - i. KDOT – Tod Salfrank, Marcia Turner
 - ii. ACEC – Mark Johnston, Jake Borchers
3. Approval of last meetings Minutes: Approved October 13, 2021, Meeting Minutes with noted corrections.
4. Division of Engineering and Design Changes (Calvin Reed)
 - a. Lindsay Douglas has left KDOT
 - b. Maggie Doll is leaving KDOT – last day Feb 18, 2022
 - c. Secretary Lorenz & Burt Morey are being cautious about hiring new Deputy Secretaries to replace Maggie Doll and Lindsay Douglas; duties are being shared between Calvin & Burt
 - d. Calvin has been appointed to a new position – Sr. Director reporting to the Secretary. He will remain in his current position for the time being and will reassess as needed
 - e. KDOT will send out an updated Org Chart soon
 - i. IT & Fiscal/Asset management have been moved and will report to Calvin
 - ii. Planning and Aviation will now report to Burt
 - f. KDOT is finding it difficult to hire operations and inspection staff
 - g. Part of the Governor’s proposed budget includes a 5% salary increase for all state employees
5. Status of KDOT Funding & Update (Calvin Reed)
 - a. All indicators are up from Fiscal Year (FY) 2021
 - b. As of Jan 31, revenue was 22% higher than (FY) 2021
 - c. Secretary Lorenz and other KDOT staff have been speaking at committee meetings; their message is being received well
 - d. Scott Heidner
 - i. Proposed budget includes ending all extraordinary budget transfers from KDOT
 - ii. Revenue has been above budget every month
 - iii. Several bills are currently in the works to end the State Food Tax; the hope is the final bill will “keep KDOT whole”

6. Bureau of Local Project (Tod Salfrank)
 - a. Nelda Buckley has left KDOT; now serving as Local Field Liaison for LTAP
 - b. Colby Farlow has left Local Projects and is now in Program/Project Management
 - c. Dawn Hueske will be assisting in overseeing the road squad
 - d. Currently advertising to backfill Nelda's position and an EC1 within the Bridge Team
 - e. Local Projects Construction Engineering Inspection RFQ is on the streets and is due in April
 - i. Current contracts end at the end of 2022
 - ii. The RFQ is formatted similar to years past
 - f. KDOT is working with local communities and Kansas Association of Counties on what does the local system look like in 20 years; how do we spend smart and establish priorities
 - i. Tod expects local communities will need help from consultants to develop their plans
7. Contracts (Brian Armstrong)
 - a. Fixed Fee Working Group Update (Brian Armstrong)
 - i. ACEC has a DRAFT response to the latest proposal from KDOT; ACEC Board is currently reviewing
 - ii. Proposal calls for
 1. Fixed Fee to be based on loaded rates, not just Overhead rates
 2. Risk and complexity components
 3. Updated contract value ranges
 - iii. Calvin Reed
 1. Once the new matrix is approved it will be distributed and uniformly applied to contracts
 2. KDOTs intent is to identify risk/complexity factors during the proposal phase when the RFQ is solicited
 3. KDOT has sent a memo regarding how fixed fee is invoiced; available on KDOT website
 - b. Contract Execution and NTP (Calvin Reed)
 - i. FHWA has told KDOT the PMC is not allowed to be involved in financial matters, contracts or invoices
 - ii. PMC is still helping KDOT solicit RFQs and working with KDOT on the workflow and interface
 - iii. Marcia Turner is the new Contracts Engineer
 - iv. Advertised position to backfill Asst. Contracts Engineer position; hope to have position filled within 3-4 weeks
 - v. Leah Hubbard is assisting in the contracts section in the interim
 - vi. Contracts Section should be up to 4-5 people in a couple months
8. Bureau of Road Design Update (Scott King)
 - a. CADD Group has information available on the KDOT website; includes workspace info and "how-to" videos
 - b. All in-house projects are designed with ORD and include 3D deliverables, requirements for consultant projects are determined during the scoping phase
 - c. Goal for 2022 is to pick an in-house project and utilize full 3D Design (Road and Bridge); also looking for a consultant project
 - d. No major staffing updates

- e. Actively looking to hire in road design and pavement design – still looking to backfill Nat’s position (Assistant Pavement Engineer)
 - f. Discussion regarding the use of ORD
 - i. Brett Wood noted his firm is learning as well as KDOT is and is working with Mike Dillner when issues arise
 - ii. Steve Bass noted KDOT is seeing internally it is taking longer to develop plans due to the learning curve
 - iii. Steve Bass noted consultants should work with their PM and Mike Dillner to establish the appropriate level of accuracy at the beginning of the project
 - iv. Calvin Reed noted the need to do “Lessons Learned” and noted KDOT is looking to revive the CADD User Group
 - 1. Jake Borchers noted NDOT has utilized weekly or bi-weekly working group meetings including NDOT staff and consultants working with ORD to collaborate and work through issues together
 - g. KDOT is working with Lochner and Stantec to update the KDOT Workspace
 - h. Scott King noted brownbag lunches are good opportunities for consultants to come in and speak with KDOT staff
 - i. Ben Ware and Mike Dillner are leading the KDOT effort regarding ORD
 - j. Steve Bass
 - i. Consultants need to be reviewing the manuals to milestones and should be proactive in communication with KDOT regarding deliverables
 - ii. Maintaining schedules is key
 - k. New IKE Design Projects
 - i. Most will be KDOT led
 - ii. RFQ expected to start in the Late Spring/Early Summer
 - iii. Most projects will include a Discovery Phase
 - iv. KDOT is close to releasing more information regarding the projects
9. Bureau of Structures & Geotechnical Services Update (Bob Henthorne)
- a. Consultants working on FY2023 bridges need to make sure to hit dates
 - b. FY2023 includes \$31M in repair, \$18M in culvert work
 - c. FY2025 includes \$16M in re-decks and culverts
 - d. FY2026 projects have been identified
 - e. FY2027 & 2028 includes \$100M; about 20 standalone bridge replacements
 - f. Geology
 - i. gINT has been discontinued
 - ii. Moving geology to new 3D software to interface with ORD; Polk-Quincy project is being used a pilot
 - iii. Department is fully staffed
 - g. Bridge Department is down 2 staff
 - h. Bridge Inspection is down 2 staff
10. Bureau of Planning Update (Mike Moriarty)
- a. 2021 traffic volumes are about 3.5% under 2019; 2020 was 13% under 2019
 - b. KDOT is standing up a Transportation Electrification Program
 - i. Will be under the Planning Department
 - ii. Position is open for Electrification Manager

- iii. Working on a statewide plan for EV Charging
 - iv. BILL includes \$8M/year for charging
 - c. Carla Anderson is returning to KDOT as State Highway Safety Engineer
- 11. KDOT Field Update (Brent Terstriep/Brian Armstrong)
 - a. Brent Terstriep
 - i. Lots of inspectors are needed; KDOT is putting out lots of RFQ for consultant help
 - ii. Advertising for an ET position for the District
 - iii. Shortage of available inspectors is concerning
 - b. Tony Menke
 - i. Getting more concerned based on conversations with consultants
 - ii. KDOT is looking at options due to shortage of inspectors available
 - 1. May require less inspection
 - 2. May provide additional certification opportunities
 - 3. More flexibility with bundling projects
 - c. Clay Adams stated KDOT is looking at embedded positions within Districts & Areas; expect an RFQ soon
 - d. Brent stated KDOT is looking at a potential RFQ that would guarantee work for an inspector for a given date range; KDOT would have the freedom to use them on multiple projects
 - e. Mark Johnston noted that if KDOT can provide as much advanced info and timing of RFQ that would help consultants. Mark also requested letting everyone know who is selected.
 - f. Greg Schieber stated they have asked Districts for updated expected needs and should have that info this week. Greg intends to get this info out to consultants
 - g. Matt Spencer suggested a different approach to Bundled Projects RFQ. Instead of requiring responses for each specific project, request a "General Quals & Approach" and use it to select/assign projects
 - h. Stop Work Order (Brian Armstrong)
 - i. KDOT and ACEC are close to finalizing
 - ii. KDOT has sent to the ACEC Board; ACEC Board has approved and Mark McFarland is working with KDOT to finalize
 - i. Clay Adams
 - i. KDOT need for inspectors is currently high and will double next year
 - ii. What are consultants doing to grow CI staff? Suggested recruiting from high schools
 - iii. KDOT cannot meet this need internally
 - iv. Discussion from consultants
 - 1. Trying to grow, difficult to hire
 - 2. Traditionally have pulled staff from other areas to meet needs. Now all states are busy and there are no staff to pull in
 - 3. Perhaps recruit from manufacturing companies
 - 4. Hiring staff from other local consultants or KDOT staff does not solve the problem
 - v. Scott Heidner noted ACEC is disseminating information to its members; they are aware of the current and upcoming needs
- 12. Bureau of Construction & Materials Update (Tony Menke)
 - a. KDOT is trying to get ahead of things
 - b. Moving to AASHTOWare; begins May 16, CMS will be turned off April 29

- c. Two staff openings; working to re-vamp advertisements
- d. Laura Kowach is handling all CIT
- e. Greg Schieber
 - i. KDOT seeing 15% increase in prices
 - ii. Currently planning to maintain the full program of projects
 - iii. There has been no improvement in the supply chain
 - iv. KDOT is having similar conversations with Contractors regarding their concerns

13. 2022 Partnering Conference (Brett Wood)

- a. Alison will be sending out meeting invites for a kickoff meeting
- b. Planning for in-person meeting held October 20
- c. Planning Committee Members
 - i. KDOT – Steve Bass, Shawn Schwenson,
 - ii. FHWA – Richard Jurey
 - iii. ACEC – Brett Wood, Dave Kocour, Jake Borchers
- d. Reach out to committee members with ideas for speakers/topics

14. Update From Consultants (Brian Armstrong)

- a. Advanced Notice of RFQ
 - i. Brian showed example website from TxDOT
 - ii. Matt discussed examples from Florida DOT
 - iii. Scott King noted the Contracts section is working on a website to house RFQ info; Calvin said it is very close
 - iv. Bob Henthorne noted they have a priority bridge project list that KDOT will distribute
 - v. Scott King stated big/complex projects from the IKE program will go to consultants. KDOT is discussing internally if the IKE Project List will include an order/priority information when the list is published
 - vi. Calvin stated the website will be used to distribute information and will be informational on the process

15. Next meeting is scheduled for May 18 at GBA office in Lenexa. Tod Salfrank noted that is the week of the Kansas County Highway Association Conference

16. Adjournment