

Minutes
ACEC/KDOT Liaison Committee Meeting
KDOT, Topeka, KS
October 21, 2022

Attendees:

KDOT: Tod Salfrank, Bob Henthorne, Scott King, Tony Menke, Clay Adams, Kevin Palic, Chris Herrick, Marcia Turner, Greg Schieber, Mike Moriarty

FHWA: Richard Jurey, Rick Backlund

ACEC: Scott Heidner, Jake Borchers, Dave Kocour, Jim Tobaben, Brian Armstrong, Brett Wood, Mark Johnston

1. Safety Discussion; Brian Armstrong gave safety discussion.
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of last meetings Minutes: Approved August 22, 2022, Meeting Minutes
4. Status of KDOT Funding & Update
 - a. None
5. Bureau of Local Project (Tod Salfrank)
 - a. Section will be fully staffed in 2 weeks
 - b. New staff
 - i. Jennifer Brindle is replacing Mike Bowser
 - ii. Kara Trotter; Programmer
 - iii. Jenny Egging; PCE1
 - iv. There will be some minor adjustments to staff assignments
 - c. The Local Infrastructure Planning Tool was presented at the Kansas Association of Counties conference
 - i. It is anticipated local governments will be requesting help from consultants on navigating the tool
 - ii. ACEC to include the recently released memo about the tool in the next ACEC newsletter
 - d. High Risk Rural Road call for projects is upcoming – anticipated local governments will be asking consultants for assistance in the application process
 - e. KDOT is working with LTAP for Grant Writing training
 - i. Consultants are encouraged to provide help with training if they have experience
 - f. KDOT confirmed the RCB Program can be used on any projects regardless of KDOT funding
6. FHWA Update (Rick Backlund)
 - a. US69 Express project is moving along well.
 - i. The financial Plan for the Express Lanes is currently under review within FHWA
 - ii. Will need a STIP/TIP amendment for funding allocation
 - b. Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant applications closed in September; announcements coming in January
 - c. There are a lot of discretionary grants available and upcoming
 - d. No change to the Buy America requirements are expected; no additional waivers or extensions
 - i. KDOT noted the updated Specification is included in all November lettings

- ii. The Pre-Qualified Material List (PQL) will be updated in November, denoting which products have been certified. A project specific certification will still be needed
 - e. Freight Plan is wrapping up soon; there has been an emphasis on Weigh Stations and their locations
 - f. FHWA Headquarters has done a lot of hiring lately to prepare for upcoming grants
- 7. Contracts (Marcia Turner)
 - a. Fixed Fee Working Group
 - i. None
 - b. Contract Execution and NTP
 - i. KDOT continues to evaluate moving to a regular RFQ cycle – most likely monthly; and is soliciting feedback from consultants
 - 1. KDOT puts out roughly 300 RFQs/year
 - 2. Information would be included in the ACEC newsletter
 - ii. ACEC Board is in favor of regular schedule for RFQ; requesting that it include some forecasting component. ACEC recognizes that this will require a level of understanding from consultants that any forecasting is subject to change.
- 8. Bureau of Road Design Update (Scott King)
 - a. Update was provided
 - b. Lawrence office is fully transitioned into the new office space
 - c. Road staff continues to be limited – Consultants need to be proactive and remain on schedule
 - d. Important for consultants to complete QC prior to submitting plans as road staff is limited
 - e. KDOT looking to hire; actively recruiting at recent Career Fairs
 - f. Steve Rockers is Asst. Bureau Chief of Alternative Delivery
 - g. Upcoming retirements in the Utilities Section
 - h. Ben Hagan is leaving the Pavement Design section in January 2023
 - i. Amy Rockers is working with HDR on developing guidelines for Performance Based Practical Design; more info coming soon
 - j. ORD
 - i. All new projects are being done in ORD; some small projects remain in legacy platforms
 - ii. KDOT anticipates releasing updated Workspace for version 10.11 in Q1 2023
 - k. AASHTO Estimating
 - i. KDOT is beginning to develop cost estimation within the AASHTO platform
 - ii. This will allow better integration with current unit prices and bid information
 - iii. KDOT will be able to update the risk/inflation profile at the project level
 - iv. Expect full implementation in 12-18 months
- 9. Update from Consultants (Brian Armstrong)
 - a. Consultants continue to struggle hiring staff
- 10. Bureau of Structures & Geotechnical Services Update (Bob Henthorne)
 - a. Update was provided
 - b. Bentley is now requiring a database reader for implementing boring logs into 3D and ORD for projects – may be cost prohibitive
 - c. Staffing
 - i. Several interviews in the coming weeks
 - ii. Anticipate providing offers to future graduates

- iii. Peter Tobaben is the Bridge Lead for the Lawrence office
- d. Selection and announcement of FY27 Bridges is anticipated next week
- e. Will be opening RFQ for I-135 Canal Route and other bridges in the Wichita area for bridge inspection soon for the 2023 calendar year
- f. Licensure
 - i. Continue to work with KSBTP regarding licensure for military families
 - ii. USACE has committed to requiring PE license for all geotechnical work

11. KTA Update

- a. None

12. Bureau of Planning Update (Mike Moriarty & Chris Herrick)

- a. Overall yearly traffic volumes are steady with 2021
- b. Summer traffic is down slightly
- c. Monitoring traffic speed through downtown Topeka with I-70 work on-going
- d. Staffing
 - i. Building Corridor Planning and Carbon Reduction Sections
 - ii. KDOT is open to input on what the section should look like
 - iii. Corey Davis (Multimodal) and Matt Messina (Innovation) have moved out of Planning
 - iv. Vanessa Spartan – Head of Safety; located in the Lawrence office
 - v. There are 2 opening within the ITS Group
- e. KDOT has a pilot program for grants under the Safety Action Plan
- f. WSP is working on the Vulnerable Road User Assessment Study

13. KDOT Field Update (Clay Adams)

- a. Update was provided
- b. Staffing
 - i. Randy West, District Engineer (DE) in Dist 2 has retired. Brent Terstriep is the new District 2 District Engineer
 - ii. Looking to fill the District 5 DE position – announcement anticipated next week
 - iii. Don Snyder, Wichita Metro Engineer, retiring in November
 - iv. Brian Gower retiring by end of the year
 - v. Struggling to hire equipment operators. MoDOT issued a press release noting that due to the shortage of operators there may be delays in snow removal, KDOT may do the same.

14. Bureau of Construction & Materials Update (Tony Menke & Greg Schieber)

- a. An update was provided
- b. KDOT continues to be short on inspectors
- c. Anticipates using embedded consultant inspectors next year in other districts similar to District 5 did
- d. Most of the 2023 1R projects have been let; will be able to put out a forecast of inspection needs soon
- e. KDOT is looking to have a group meeting with consultant inspectors in the coming months
 - i. Discuss ongoing issues/concerns
 - ii. Provide an update on future inspection needs
 - iii. KDOT will work with ACEC to advertise
 - iv. Some states have a similar annual meeting, KDOT may look into this as an option
- f. Continued incremental progress with AASHTOWare

- g. KDOT is receiving some concerns from contractors related to timeliness of payment; contractors are not providing enough information to address the situation
- h. Staffing
 - i. Looking to backfill Kevin Palic's position
 - ii. Looking to add two EA positions
 - iii. Will be re-shaping the stormwater group
- i. KDOT is considering re-opening the as-needed inspection RFQ
 - i. Contracts were previously selected for a 5 year term – currently 3 years remaining
 - ii. Previously selected consultants would not need to re-propose; KDOT to confirm this
 - iii. Any newly selected firms would be added for the remaining 3 years
 - iv. ACEC provided no objection to the process; KDOT will verify the requirements necessary

15. 2022 Partnering Conference (Brett Wood)

- a. Conference was well attended ~280
- b. Planning Committee may look to a new venue for 2023
- c. Planning committee to investigate competing conferences for 2023 to avoid overlap
- d. 2023 Co-Chairs
 - i. KDOT – Mike Moriarty
 - ii. ACEC – Dave Kocour

16. Next meeting will be scheduled for Q1 2023

17. Adjournment