

MINUTES
ACEC/KDOT LIAISON COMMITTEE
MAY 8, 2020
ZOOM MEETING

Present were Ron Seitz, Mike Moriarty, Scott King, Calvin Reed, David Lutgen, Mike Stringer, Brent Terstriep, Burt Morey, Larry Thompson, Stephen Bass, Chris Herrick, Rick Backlund, David Jacobson, Rob Krewson, David Church, Shawn Turner, Howard Lubliner, Brian Armstrong, James Tobaben, Chris Bruntz, and Scott Heidner.

It was agreed to move the FHWA Update up the agenda to #3. With that change, it was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented and the minutes of the February 27, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

Backlund gave an FHWA update. They have been working to support state and local governments through the Covid-19 crisis. Funding is continuing as usual. Reauthorization of a new surface transportation plan remains a work in progress. They have made some temporary amendments to regulations to accommodate the trucking industry. They are gearing up for more discretionary grants.

Seitz asked for a review of ongoing action items.

King gave an update on standard of care and plan quality. Their group has concluded their review and Mike Stringer is now working on some updates to various documents and forms related to plan quality and designer performance. Stringer will send out those updated forms to the task team for review.

Stringer asked for comments or feedback on the updated strategic plan that had been distributed at the last meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the changes were good. Stringer will send a final, cleaned-up copy to Heidner to save and post on the website.

Seitz asked the committee for any feedback on the proposed partnering agreement distributed at the last meeting. There was none, and Heidner agreed to get Hancock to sign and then forward to Morey and Backlund to sign as well.

Seitz asked Lutgen if there was any update on the discussion last meeting related to Special Attachment No. 7. David had visited with Heather after our last meeting and they believe this form is still needed by all proposers.

Morey led a discussion on the status of KDOT funding. KDOT personnel are working from home at least through the end of May. They have enough money for the current fiscal year. The Legislature will come back for a single day later this month, and nobody knows what action they may take. KDOT hopes to announce the first IKE projects to put in the pipeline sometime very soon.

Stringer gave a Bureau of Local Projects update. They have discussed “first come, first served” in their program, issues around meeting deadlines, and they have projects that will be in the next cycle. The high-risk rural roads program recently had 13 projects programmed. City connecting link improvement programming is currently in the review process, with 81 applications received. They have a new metro engineer in Olathe.

Lutgen gave a contracts update. He has received several emails from consultants asking about prequalification for first quarter of 2020. Finalizing agreements has been a higher priority than prequalification up to this point, but it will be addressed in the future.

King gave an update on the Bureau of Road Design. All of the Road Design team members are working remotely until at least the end of May. Reviewing and signing of plans have continued. They have hired a couple people since the last meeting, one in Topeka and one in Lawrence. They are continuing work on a handful of T-Works projects, while anticipating some IKE projects getting underway soon. 1R, 3R and Bridge replacement projects continue to move forward as well.

King indicated that HDR was selected by KDOT to assist with the Performance Based Practical Design manual process and HW Lochner has been retained to help the 3D design technical committee with the work plan efforts.

Krewson gave an update from consultants. Special attachment #7 is an ongoing issue which KDOT will continue to investigate. Krewson asked KDOT to continue

their consideration of producing an official list of KDOT personnel and a list of the status of consultant contracts which could be shared with ACEC members.

Reed gave an update from the Bureau of Structures and Geotechnical Services. The ACEC/KDOT Bridge squad leader meetings have been reintroduced. They met in April. They continue to review the bridge design manual, with 2 chapters in final draft form. The FY23 bridge replacement projects have had a letter of interest sent out for a project manager consultant, and Garver has just been selected for that role, pending final contract negotiation. The FY24 bridge replacement project list is being built and has several bridges included.

Jacobson gave a KTA update. In March traffic was down 25%, in April it was down 54%, and so far in May it is down 43%. Truck traffic has not been affected as much but is also down significantly. They have a lot of employees working from home, and they have begun furloughing employees. These are mostly toll collectors and maintenance crew. They recently had restaurant employees at the East Topeka rest area test positive for Covid. Kellogg project is 87.6% complete, and they are at 16.5% completion on the Turner project.

Church gave an update on the ACEC/KDOT Annual Partnering Conference. They had their first planning meeting last week. Church and Steve Bass are co-chairs, with Jim Stanek, Calvin Reed, Scott Uhl, and Karla Waters making up the rest of the committee. The event will be October 21 in Topeka. They had much discussion about possible subjects for the event, and possible speakers as well.

Heidner gave a legislative update. Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning has announced he will not seek reelection. The Legislature will come back for just one day for Sine Die. There continue to be questions about the authority of the Legislature versus the Governor in enacting Executive Orders. All legislators will have to stand for election this year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.