

Minutes

ACEC/KDOT liaison Committee Meeting

WSP Office, 225 N Market St., Wichita, KS

May 24, 2023, 11:00am – 2:00pm

Attendees:

KDOT: Greg Schieber, Jeff Sims, Scott King, & Tony Menke

KTA: Glen Scott

FHWA: Richard Jurey

ACEC: Christopher Harker, Corey Imhoff, Jacob Borchers, Kyle Guenther, Mark Johnston, Scott Heidner

- Safety Discussion
 - Meet out front in case of fire.
 - Use bathroom for shelter (132 code) in case of severe weather.
 - Summer travels – perform recommended car maintenance, tire pressure check, air condition check, wind shield check; action plan while on the road during severe weather.
- Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to approve agenda and accepted.
- Approval of last meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve meeting minutes and accepted.
- Status of KDOT Funding & Update
 - Coming out of Legislative Session positive. Leaves KDOT funding alone and has little impact to KDOT.
 - Approximately \$5 Million of additional funding to be transferred from Highway Fund to RR Fund. Results in total funding for RR of \$10 Million annually.
 - Construction Pipeline will come out in July. Preliminary project list has been identified and is in final review process.
 - Fall Local Consults meeting dates are out waiting for widespread announcement by Sec. Reed.
 - All local consult meeting will be in October.
 - Eight (8) separate dates/sites
 - D1 – October 3rd (9 am to 12 pm)
 - D2 – October 11th (9 am to 12 pm)
 - D3 – October 10th (9 am to 12 pm)
 - D4 – October 12th (9 am to 12 pm)
 - D5 – October 5th (9 am to 12 pm)
 - D6 – October 4th (9 am to 12 pm)
 - Wichita – October 18th (9 am to 12 pm)
 - Kansas City – October 17th (9 am to 12 pm)

- KDOT to prepare/man education/ informational booths for local agencies and owners to discuss grants and funding pool opportunities.
 - 2023 Cost share program to be announced soon.
 - Announcement on Secretary coming soon.
 - Interim title can only be carried for 6 months. Interim Secretary Reed announced on 12/25/22 so 6-month term extends to 6/25/23.
 - Existing Interim titles for multiple KDOT staff to be addressed following decision on Secretary of Transportation (thus likely in July-August timeframe).
 - Pete Van Sickle left last week. Colby Farlow Interim Director of Program Project Management.
 - KDOT evaluating project delivery process to determine areas of inefficiency and opportunities for improvement.
 - Primary focus currently with ROW phase. KDOT ROW continues to be understaffed.
 - PMC to be engaged as one means of addressing project delivery needs.
 - KDOT will be shifting targeted projects out due to delays in ROW tasks.
 - Infrastructure Hub funded with \$200 Million. Local will apply for \$50 million local match over next 4 years. Goal is to spread the work throughout Kansas.
 - Announcement on Local Project funding high risk local roads expected soon.
 - FY 24 - FY 26 \$1 Billion per year in lettings.
 - Identifying schedule issues early. Consultants be more proactive to make sure communication is open and were helping out KDOT Design Leaders. KDOT PMs are managing 40 to 60 design projects each, so consultants be more proactive
- Bureau of Local Projects Update
 - National PW week.
 - Announcement on Local Project funding high risk rural roads (HRRR) expected soon.
 - Inquire further about changes/new opportunities with bridge inspection frequencies for FC/UW/PH. FHWA approval of risk-based approach (reference new CFR language) to occur in June 2023. Consultants will be asked to coordinate with local agencies.
- FHWA Update
 - BIL Grant Funding technical
 - Headquarters level technical assessments change. Headquarters only forward on high merit to divisions for review. DON'T know how many applications were submitted for grants because of this.
 - 4 raise programs forwarded on.
 - Grants Programs and Processes Position filled by Carmen Bakarich.
 - Big learning process for learning the requirements.
 - Primary discussion focused on \$7.5 Billion (nationwide) identified as likely for "redistribution" from the Federal Formula Distribution funds.
 - Problem with adding projects to the pipeline.
 - Max dollars are already attached to pipeline projects.
 - Construction and consulting delays.
 - Authority to use funds may not be accessible.
 - Capacity issues (primarily with constructors) limited DOTs ability to let/allocate funding.
 - KDOT may have as much as \$127 Million in FY'23 Formula Funds not obligated. KDOT (per Schieber) believes \$50-\$60 million may be able to be allocated for preventative/1R projects in July/August.
 - Modification to evaluation process for federal grant applications has occurred.
 - Merit filters (ex. ability to deliver – funding, staff, resources) used in initial

- screening.
 - Only applications that meet initial merit criteria are forwarded to State FHWA Divisions.
 - State Divisions do not have the ability to know all applications filed.
 - Debriefs can be scheduled if not selected to determine which areas of application were the determining factor.
 - Coordination with owner agency need to be upfront or it will be flagged in the grant process that it hasn't been done.
 - NEPA is a key to have going in an application for grants.
 - KDOT positioned good to use state funds in debt ceiling issues on federal level.
- **Contracts**
 - Construction Inspection projects continue to come out.
 - Bid express coming out expected July - Link will be provided to learn more about services. On-call services still by email.
 - Scott to follow up on training availability. YouTube video
 - KDOT developing tracking system for invoices from submittal to payment.
 - Scott enlisted the PMC for help. May also be used for contracts.
 - KPIs will be tracked for process steps to area of improvement.
 - Dashboard development for internal and external tracking/viewing to be developed. The idea is to allow consultants/contractors to view where document is/what step in the review and approval process. To be considered for invoices, proposals and 1050 prequalification.
 - FY 2028/2029 bridge mid-July
 - Not bundled but handled by KDOT PM. May be releases in several phase between July and August.
 - Wanting to get surveys this fall.
 - 2 or 3 of the projects will be handled by in house bridge and consultant road.
 - KDOT (Scott to ask Mark) to push out list so consultants can decide what to pursue.
 - Fixed fee working group update.
 - No update this quarter.
 - Hoping get discussion ramped up.
 - New table be based on loaded hourly rate. With complex or difficult project additives to hourly rate.
 - Could be several months away. Based on current focuses within KDOT.
 - Contract execution and NTP
 - Document NTP vs executed agreements shortened up.
 - Follow up via email or phone on change orders and funding the projects up.
 - To increase the chance of a reply we should be emailing the KDOT contracts section mailbox #DesignContracts, not just Marcia's email which is usually full
- **Bureau of Road Design Update**
 - Workspace / Digital Delivery future directions.
 - 10.10.02 (Hotfix)
 - Targeting release by mid-June, but there's a lot of irons in the fire.
 - Legacy non-annotative linestyles were inadvertently reintroduced into Element Templates

- CADconform should detect and correct the linestyles.
 - Typically, “us_” linestyles are legacy non-annotative linestyles.
 - Linestyles that start with and underbar “_” and have more descriptive names are the updated linestyles that support annotative scaling.
 - 10.12.01
 - Targeting release by mid-July
 - Very different from prior iterations of the workspace
 - Huge foundational resource standardization effort
 - Not expecting 10.10 projects to be able to migrate project data forward.
 - Project Software Environment
 - Please coordinate with your KDOT PMs to comply with the software environment of the project.
 - Just because 10.10 workspace is available does not guarantee you are able to use it on your project.
 - Seeing a lot of incompatible schema files coming in to internal KDOT staff that are unable to use them.
 - Coordinating Section Manager position interviewed next couple weeks.
 - PMC used for railroad coordination.
 - In-Staff working on railroad crossing program.
- Update from Consultant
 - Partner Groups and Subcommittees - Timeline to start.
 - 3D modeling; Not much movement. Mike Dilner to reach out to Brett Wood.
 - Tony Menke to send email to Scott Heidner about CEI inspection services issues and lessons learned.
 - Construction (4 groups) Need to get with KDOT leads and meeting to follow.
 - Project level decision making
 - Project administration
 - Specifications
 - Project alt delivery - redo selection process. How to determine how a project selected for alt. and then scored with education outreach. No timeline in place. Late this year may be accelerated. Following a Colorado model.
 - Fixed Fee timeline update - updated earlier.
 - Alternative Delivery Manual and overall KDOT objectives for Alt Delivery discussed. KDOT (Raja G.) currently in development of process and best practices manual for KDOT. Will include information on how projects selected for Alt. Delivery, selection process, and delivery process.
 - KDOT also exploring and educational/industry stakeholder meeting to roll-out process and expectations (likely in late Fall of 2023).
 - Bid Express Tool – updated earlier.
 - Dates for local consult meetings – updated earlier.
 - Program concerns with construction pricing
 - Not concerned on being able to deliver what KDOT is wanting to deliver.
 - Able to handle inflations with preservation and maintenance programs.
 - Looking at outer year of program with respect to inflation estimated was \$500 million actual \$630 million. Does KDOT need to scale program based off inflation.
 - Looking at letting and construction projects and being strategic with lettings.

- Construction Inspection RFPs
 - Leverage the On-call verses RFP. Yes and no. KDOT objective is to provide an equal opportunity for CI RFPs and if no responses On-call would be used.
 - Anticipated start dates or late starts, aren't being held. Starts dates won't be tightened up.
 - District V has an embedded construction staff from March to November. Similarly embedded construction staff may happen with District VI. Next year there will be embedded position in all districts.
 - Embedded staff are utilized for 40 hours a week for full season, with KDOT District responsible for shift to various project needs.
 - Challenges of staffing night work projects were discussed. KDOT experiencing reduced interest these projects and is also facing challenges with leveraging internal staff. Strategies for enticing interest discussed. Rate adjustments discussed and KDOT is conceptually supportive, but not sure will solve problem without other considerations. Lump sum contracting mechanism presented as option and will be considered by KDOT.
 - Release of KDOT drainage manual (new version) discussed. Focus of discussion was on internet based release, update alerts, archiving process and legal concerns (if designers need to demonstrate they met "standard of care" as prescribed in archived document).
 - KDOT will explore archiving options and provide further update. KDOT confirmed that this release procedure is how they intend to address other future manuals.
 - Consultant are experiencing new grad and intern competitiveness.
- Bureau of Structures & Geotechnical Services Update
 - Mark Hurt New Bureau Chief
 - FY 2028/2029 Coming out in July.
 - KDOT internally exploring options for new State Bridge Engineer Position.
 - Send specific question to Mark and Scott for next meeting.
 - KTA Update
 - Communities/Partners that may impact KTA make sure they are contacted early.
 - KTA is committed to keeping federal money off KTA system. Thus, if projects (ex. interchange upgrades) intersect with KTA system the request is to contractually document that federal money is not used for ramps or other project items that would undermine independence of KTA.
 - Growth of 1.5%; not back to pre-covid.
 - Early design efforts on I-70 focused on R/W preservation.
 - Working with Jeff Sims. Kristi Erickson has been coordinating with Jeff and KDOT.
 - Cashless tolling 2 contracts complete and 2 in progress
 - Equipment installation continuing through fall with switch to occur in January 2024
 - Signing contract expected this fall.
 - Planning effort with removal of toll booths beginning.
 - Travel plaza restaurants may be closed as remodel continues besides Lawrence and Belle Plain.
 - EZ GO gas stations transitioning to Loves's.
 - Bridge raising program along interstate entering new phase. ROI on remaining projects lower due to intersecting routes and complexities associated. KTA will continue to advance

programs but may be a slower rate and may require individual projects.

- Brief discussion on challenges associated with future I-35 vertical clearance project at Arkansas River/BNSF/K-15 junction (southeast quadrant of Wichita).

- Bureau of Planning Update
 - Skipped for next time.
 - Reach out to Mike directly.
 - Primary discussion item focused on LIDAR data collection. About 80% completed and hope to be fully completed by end of July 2023. Chris Herrick leading effort KDOT.
 - LIDAR coverage for interstate and state routes.
 - Select local agencies have supplemental agreements to collect information for their jurisdictions.
 - KTA expressed interest in exploring whether they can still partner with KDOT to collect similar information for their system.
 - Per King – KDOT and KTA to explore efficiencies available regarding the State Grid Coordinate System. Asked if KTA would coordinate with Ron Feldkamp to identify how to leverage permanent stationing and ensure agencies are coordinating efficiently.

- KDOT Field Update and Bureau of Construction and Materials Update
 - KDOT need for more inspectors...how is it going and can the consulting world help?
 - Don't expect any major new CI projects.
 - Advertisement on previous no bid RFP's and smaller project expected.
 - Trying to increase communication on schedule shifts.
 - KDOT announced further plans for construction related training for internal and external construction representatives/inspectors. Asked ACEC KS to provide feedback on any additional needs for staff.
 - Back to the drawing board for help for Heather Hall.

- 2023 Partnering Conference Status
 - Kickoff meeting a couple weeks ago.
 - Townsite in Topeka. Main level October 26th, 2023.
 - Solicitation of topics of interest from ACEC for upcoming conference.
 - Exploring training opportunity at conference.

- Next meeting GBA (Lenexa) office July 26, 2023
 - Brief discussion on remote/video meetings versus in-person meetings occurred. Consensus was to move forward with in-person option, but review site locations for future meetings.
 - ACEC asked KDOT if anything is needed to assist in preparing notes for those unable to attend. KDOT did not request anything from ACEC and stated they may introduce an internal step from their side to compile notes for future agendas.

- Adjournment