

ACEC/NCDOT BRIDGE SUBCOMMITTEE



Teams Teleconference
May 3, 2021
10:30 am

MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Meeting Kick-off – Came to order @ 10:32 am

ATTENDEES

Brian Hanks – NCDOT Structures Management Unit
David Stutts – NCDOT Structures Management Unit
Kevin Fischer – NCDOT Structures Management Unit
Tierre Peterson – NCDOT Structures Management Unit
Hoang Dieu – NCDOT Structures Management Unit
Gichuru Muchane – NCDOT Structures Management Unit
Jennifer McRoy – WRA
Sam Al-Jamal – ICE
Jason Doughty – Modjeski & Masters
Jake Sherman – WSP
Nicole Brown – Alfred Benesch (not present)
Bradley Bell – Michael Baker

- 2) Review of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - a) Minutes were reviewed and approved on a motion by Gichuru Muchane and second by Tierre Peterson
- 3) Bridge Design Workshop Series
 - a) Jason Doughty gave an overview of the next Bridge Workshop scheduled for May 26th at noon. Cost will be \$10. Presentation will be virtual with Microsoft Teams. Jennie will coordinate the details with Meredith from ACEC. Presentation will be an overview of the AASHTO Guide Specifications for the Service Life Design of Highway Bridges. This will be a comprehensive discussion covering both steel and concrete structures. One PDH provided.
 - b) Master list of future potential topics was sent out to committee members.

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4) Training Opportunities (Virtual)

- a) Jennie shared the email from Ray Clark with PCI concerning the possible PCI Bridge Design Seminar this Fall. PCI is hoping to provide an in-person seminar, but it may not be viable with the COVID restrictions. Possibly a hybrid of in-person and virtual. They are still in the planning process and will inform the committee when they reach a decision.
- b) David shared information regarding the 2021 ACEC/NCDOT Transportation Conference. The planning committee has broken up into subcommittees to select presentations. They are having early talks about keynote speakers. Registration opens in August with the conference October 21-22. Format will most likely be a hybrid of in-person and virtual presentations. Committee is still deciding if Raleigh Convention Center is viable with less in-person attendance.
- c) Open Bridge training opportunities: Kevin stated that an info session open to all firms on LSA to talk about the implementation plan for Open Bridge is being discussed. This will be more of an information session rather than a training session in Open Bridge. SMU is encouraging PEFs to use in-house resources for training. Development is working on updating cell libraries, fonts, etc. with the intent to start using Open Bridge July 1, 2021. The use will be on a case-by-case basis to start with SMU encouraging firms that use Open Roads seed files to develop structure plans in Open Bridge. Structures Open Bridge Workspace is now available to PEFs on the structures website on CONNECT to download, therefore SMU is encouraging firms to get familiar with the workspace.

5) Anticipated PEF Opportunities

- a) LSC agreement still moving along with starting up projects through scoping and getting task orders for various projects on all levels. Everything to FY23 has been able to move forward. David will be working on sending out letters to firms to state they can move forward. Most of PEF opportunities coming from bridge program. PMU is also assigning projects, as well as, Divisions working with SMU to assign.

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- b) Move forward list- One blanket statement made for any bridge project through FY24 to move forward. If project falls outside of FY24 window, you can look on the list of other projects and if it is there, you can move forward. Toward end of this FY, FY 24 will move forward.
 - c) Because of the cash balance shortfall and budget crunch, projects are opening and SMU is asking for PE cost projections. This is a conservative estimate of expenditures for each month up to letting. SMU is asking for PEF to submit with monthly invoice and project status report, which includes a table showing each month until let and anticipated or actual expenditure. There is no penalty for over/under estimations. If there is a change, SMU would like PEFs to include it in next month's table and notify SMU of the update. SMU will enter tables into department software to track projects and is asking firms to help with this development of tracking projects by keeping expenses simple with conservative numbers and not too in-depth.
- 6) Technical Discussion
- a) Manual Revisions:
 - i) FIB Standards have been presented to PCI for comments. When PCI gives comments back, SMU will have an internal review and then release standards.
 - ii) Link Slab – finalizing policy based on Brian Hanks' comments.
 - iii) Geotech unit has developed foundation tables to release soon. Information in the tables is provided by Geotech and is intended to provide more info for prestressed piles, drilled shafts, and concrete piles. The intent is to reduce some of the risk to contractors for pile order lengths. A policy memo will be provided on how to use the table when developing bridge plans. All info shown on individual bent and end bent sheets will be removed and summarized in table. This will eliminate the number of notes needed. Final Bill of Material will still need to be shown without change.

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- iv) Noise Wall Standards – David asked about the maximum noise wall height and how to calculate the need for noise walls. Noise wall committee is doing 5-year review of the noise wall policy. One of the topics being discussed under this review is the structural limitations on height. For walls on a bridge, the intent is to maintain 10' height. Off bridge, 25' is preferred with 30' maximum height being considered. Policy review is in the initial stages and will continue through the rest of the year until the policy is published.
- b) Research Projects:
 - i) FHWA research for rails – UNCC is still working on finite element research for the MASH criteria for the 3-bar metal rail. Initial simulations indicate that all the 3-bar rails are qualifying for TL-2.
 - ii) Corrosion Policy Research – Looking at a few more sights. Research is still ongoing.
 - iii) Integral Abutment Research- Still ongoing.
- 7) New Members/New Cycle
 - a) Next meeting will be with new committee members and new Co-chairs. Jennie and Sam will roll off the committee. New member resumes will be given to the committee from ACEC by May 10th. Voting will need to be done and selection of new members to ACEC by May 24th. Jennie will distribute the resumes of potential members when they are received and coordinate the voting process and notify the new members.
- 8) Next Meeting: August 2, 2021