

Forum Chair: Al Bowman – Co-Chair
Forum Coordinator: Angela Snyder

Next Forum Meeting Date: 5/5/21
Forum Reporter: Jeanne Kerney

Welcome and Introductions – Angela Snyder (PDP)

Today we will have a presentation from Andy Casey and from Michael “Sully” Sullivan. Angela introduced Andy – he gave a presentation on the Practical Design Guide. The guide was published approximately 2 weeks ago. The presentation given was also given at the February board meeting.

Practical Design – spend the appropriate amount of money to correct a problem then stop. Guide started as a task force.

- Why Practical Design – Maximize available funding while delivering transportation solutions.
- Next Step – Promoting a culture of Practical Design
 - o Training Workshops

Hiral Patel spoke briefly and asked everyone to submit questions or examples to the inbox: practicaldesignguide@dot.ga.gov

Questions:

Angela had a question about when a scope review should occur? What happens if the design change will affect schedule or design budget?

- Hiral replied earlier is better. If we can apply at concept report that’s great.
- Albert Shelby – GDOT is implementing a couple of touch points. This is a culture change – moving from if we touch it we fix it to practical design. Will look at this at concept and at constructability reviews. Need to ask the harder questions prior to PFPR – harder to change after that due to ROW. However, if we are late in the project and find a major impact will look at means needed to change schedule and modify design task orders.
- Andy talked about making a gut check earlier, acknowledged this is a culture change. There was a question about why this is a guide and not a chapter in the Design Policy Manual. Per Andy looking at the Green Book, the industry is moving in this direction.

Mark Lenters had a question on measuring success, immediate versus long-term – should there be a committee to monitor measures and determine the best practices based on long term effects. Basically, an inventory of projects that we know have produced good results and should be implemented consistently.

- Hiral replied that this is based on manpower.
- Albert Shelby stated he is tracking this with his PMC contracts. The companies are tracking results of projects designed and how they performed, and cost data. Albert compared this the 12-foot lane and 16-foot median decisions, he also reminded everyone the Districts have safety offices that track these items.

Scott Gero asked who in the Department makes the ultimate decision to deviate on a Practical Solution.

- Albert replied the Chief Engineer makes the final decision since she signs off on design variances/exceptions. Scott referred to a project with an escalation memo. Albert and Hiral confer to advise Meg. Albert acknowledged additional funds may be needed to write DV/DE’s. Scott reminded everyone this method has design scope implications. Albert stated this may change the way the Department writes the scope for design work.

Gavin Good asked a question about schedule. Implementing Practical Design requires an additional amount of time to scope and provide a practical design.

- Albert acknowledged he is working with planning regarding scoping phases. It’s better to start with a Practical Design rather than back things out at the end.

Legislative Update – Michael “Sully” Sullivan

There are 12 legislative days after next Monday. Last day is planned for March 31.

- ACEC big initiative this year is an independent and independently funded professional licensure board. This passed the House and will be considered by the Senate after cross-over day.
- HB 112 – Extends Covid-19 business protections for 2 years
- HB 511 – Constitutional amendment that requires funds raised from a tax are dedicated to the purpose they were approved for. This affects Transportation funding.
- Transportation and Logistics funding – allows the state to spend money on private freight and logistics infrastructure.
- Senate resolution on e-commerce – looking at a way to implement fees, sources of revenue \$1.5 billion
- Senate Resolution 84 – a study committee to allow Geo bonds to be used on airports.

Subcommittee Reports – Committee Co-Chairs (No reports this month)

- Greg Grant – Bridge Subcommittee –
- Joe Cowan – CEI Subcommittee –
- Dan McDuff – Engineering Services Subcommittee –
- Jonathan Cox – Environmental Subcommittee –
- Saurabh Bhattacharya – Innovative Delivery –
- Jeff Simmons – Land Surveying and Mapping Subcommittee –
- Kenneth Fluker – Materials Subcommittee –
- Harry Rice – Consultant Relations –
- Emilee Woods – Preconstruction Awards Subcommittee –
- Claudia Bilotto – Procurement Subcommittee –
- Erik Hammarlund – Program Delivery Subcommittee –
- Mickie McJunkin – Right-of-Way Subcommittee –
- Matt Thompson – Design Policy Subcommittee –
- Andrew Antweiler – Traffic Subcommittee –
- Jonathan Langley – 3D Modeling –
- Mario Macrina – Scheduling Subcommittee –

Announcements – Angela Snyder (PMP)

- April meeting is cancelled due to Spring Break
- May meeting – Albert Shelby will present on SOQ. Questions may be submitted in advance to ASnyder@PracticalDesignPartners.com
- Angela asked for subcommittee reports that cannot wait till May or June. There were not any.

These minutes were taken during the Forum meeting. Please get in touch with Jeanne Kerney if there are additions and/or revisions, Jeanne.Kerney@gmgcpm.com. Thank You.