



## Meeting Minutes

Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality (GPTQ)

Consultant Relations Committee (CRC)

September 21, 2021

Hybrid – OGC Rm 402, 403 & 404 & Microsoft Teams

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### I. Unfinished Business

#### A. Georgia PE Stamp on GDOT Plans

1. PE stamp rule is waiting on the Governor to sign; GDOT is will implement when signed
2. The current code says that an engineer needs to sign each sheet in a plan set
3. To avoid that, GDOT has incorporated a signature sheet into the plan set
4. Erosion control plan signature requirement will stay as is

#### B. Erosion Control Plans Quality Issues

1. September 1<sup>st</sup> Forum Topic
  - a. Dan McDuff gave an update on the information presented
  - b. 365 deficiency letter analyses presented
  - c. PowerPoint presentation and information made available to attendees
  - d. Next phase is development of a summary of the information and will be discussed in their next Engineering Services Subcommittee meeting
2. Hiral noted that this is a major issue right now with GDOT and EPD
3. Frank Flanders noted that final construction limits should be removed from phases other than final to help with some of the typical comments that are being received. The direction going forward will be to use staging limits instead of final limits to avoid many comments from EPD.
4. Chris Marsengill suggested that as CRC and Forum attendees we are aware of the comments, and so we need to send this to the staff of the member firms, and present lessons learned to others to avoid the same issues going forward
5. Hiral said that EPD is trying to implement PE stamps and signatures to enforce the need for quality control, but that GDOT is pushing back on that

#### C. OpenRoads transition

1. Any new project starting should be in OpenRoads
2. Select Series 2 – GDOT is coordinating with Bentley to make sure the SS2 server is running for existing projects. Bentley said they are no longer supporting the software. If Windows patches cause InRoads to no longer work, Bentley will not offer support. Chris reiterated the need to transition to OpenRoads sooner rather than later if at all possible.
3. A level setting tool update is being pushed out through ROADS today
4. GDOT is currently putting together an instructional document as the need arises.

#### D. New formatting for Meeting Minutes for CRC Subcommittees

1. A summary should be provided at the top of the meeting minutes, and those items should be what you want to speak about in the CRC meeting

2. Items to be covered are last meeting date, next meeting date and focus items
3. Meeting minutes are posted on ACEC Georgia's website for members to review additional information
- E. Design Variance/Design Exception Guide update
  1. Design Policy is preparing a guidance document to help designers prepare DVs and DEs to avoid iterations of reviews by explaining what needs to be considered and included in the report
  2. The guidance document will be divided into chapters with a chapter per issue
  3. Goal is to have a draft of the document by the end of 2022
  4. Jody Braswell asked if Design Memos can be included in the document also
  5. Chris Rudd said that would be considered a Design Deviation and that he suggests using the design variance template for those documents; this should be covered in the Design Policy Manual instead

## II. New Business

- A. GDOT updates
  6. Nick Fields is the new State Utility Engineer
  7. CBA is looking for an Office Head
  8. OES is trying to hire Assistant Office Head to replace Gail D'Avino who has retired
- B. Transportation Summit Planning
  1. Chris Marsengill asked to have an open discussion requesting suggestions for topics for November's Transportation Summit
  2. Hiral said that the goal is to find meaningful technical sessions that are helpful to everyone; deadline for topic suggestions is first week of October
  3. Some topic suggestions were
    - a. OpenRoads
    - b. Bridge Typical Section Development
    - c. New Roundabout Guide
    - d. Procurement
    - e. Traffic Operations
    - f. Local government interest to increase attendance
      - (1) How to apply for GDOT funding on projects
      - (2) Becoming LAP certified by Procurement, etc.
    - g. ROW Acquisition
    - h. Sam Harris' presentation on Safety program
    - i. DBE program emphasis
    - j. Area class selections for projects for local RFQs

- k. CMGC and other new project delivery tools
- C. GDOT Construction Standards and Details Book
  - 1. Rollout for ROADS went out today including the cover sheet note that references the book and data field for the applicable calendar year
  - 2. The book will be published annually in July and will be implemented for projects letting in the following January, so the first round of applicable projects will be those in the January 2022 letting
  - 3. A session will be given at the Summit about this in detail
  - 4. Erosion control plans will still include standards and details

### III. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Bridge & Structures – *Donn Digamon & Greg Grant*
  - 1. Met August 4, 2021 and next meeting is October 6, 2021
  - 2. Top focus items were prestressed shop drawings and modifying standard beam sheets to make them less intensive to review
  - 3. Discussed design policy and design details
  - 4. Implementation of OpenBridge – looking for pilot project
  - 5. Post tensioning also discussed
  - 6. Section 32 guidance to be added to PPG
  - 7. There is a Teams group to promote collaboration and transparency. If someone needs to be added, they should contact Donn
  - 8. Three active task forces are making good progress on documents which will be reviewed by the committee soon
- B. Construction Engineering & Inspection – *Jeremy Scott & Joe Cowan*
  - 1. Met September 13, 2021 and next meeting is planned for mid-November
  - 2. QPL list – need to join with Materials subcommittee to discuss innovative products and new technologies to put on list
  - 3. Working with technical colleges on the need for volunteers in committees; need CBI representation for STEM Workforce Task Force
  - 4. Began discussing CEI health and safety issues on projects; recommending OSHA safety course for transportation projects for this
  - 5. Discussed required equipment on projects
  - 6. Will be updating Site Manager to AASHTOWare by the end of the year
  - 7. GDOT has pilot program using tablets needed for field staff on construction sites
- C. Engineering Services – *Erik Rohde & Dan McDuff*
  - 1. Met August 14, 2021 and next meeting is October 8, 2021

2. EPD comments being compiled into a spreadsheet and the information will be tracked and key comments and trends will be identified and presented in the Transportation Forum in September.
  3. Discussed AASHTOWare report that is similar to the 411 type of report making it available to all users to add to concept report
  4. Training to be rolled out soon for earthwork calculation and common engineering mistakes and errors in cost estimates. Trial runs will be done with GDOT staff only before rolling out to consultants.
- D. Environmental – *Eric Duff & Jonathan Cox*
1. NEPA
    - a. Met September 2, 2021
    - b. Elliot Robertson is new GDOT co-chair
    - c. Discussed updated OES org chart and presented PowerPoint
    - d. OES has new remnant parcel process that is in development
    - e. Revision turnaround time from FHWA
    - f. New early coordination guidance has been issued
  2. Air & Noise
    - a. Met August 26, 2021
    - b. Focused on training for scoping projects, specifically bridge projects
  3. Ecology
    - a. Met in July and next meeting is September 30, 2021
    - b. Fish passage discussions
    - c. SBV training module to be rolled out soon
  4. Archeology
    - a. Next meeting September 23, 2021
    - b. Focus topics
      - (1) Archeology short report and other template updates
      - (2) Environmental procedures updates
      - (3) Recording cemeteries outside of survey area
      - (4) Delineation of historic features and surface scatters
      - (5) Triggers for reevaluation memos
  5. History
    - a. Kristie Pearson with New South Associates is the new consultant co-chair
    - b. Next meeting is October 20, 2021
- E. Innovative Delivery – *Andrew Hoenig & Saurabh Bhattacharya*
1. Met August 13, 2021 and next meeting is October 21, 2021

2. GDOT's Office of Innovative Delivery has been renamed the Office of Alternative Delivery and is focused on technology driven solutions
  3. Office of Express Lanes developed to oversee toll-financed projects with Tim Matthews leading
  4. Stephen Lively has retired and Andrew Hoenig has taken over as the P3 Construction Program Manager and will serve a dual role in his current position as the Design-Build Program Manager until this position is filled
  5. CMGC roles and procedures are being developed
    - a. Developing rules and procedures for procurement and execution by the end of 2021
    - b. Best practice discussions are in progress with other DOTs and industry experts
    - c. Pilot projects may be considered
  6. OAD annual evaluations
    - a. Typically consider designer/contractor design-build team as one entity currently, but OAD is looking to split this into two separate evaluations
    - b. New process will also allow feedback from designer and contractor
- F. Land Surveying & Mapping – ***Benny Walden & Jeff Simmons***
1. Met August 26, 2021 and next meeting is in late October
  2. Primary focus is survey law transition to international foot
    - a. Suggested language input for it
    - b. Met with SAMSOG to review/discuss the proposed language
    - c. Will submit to legislature for the next session
  3. Informal discussion with 3D modeling subcommittee regarding the information being passed to the contractor
    - a. Potential duplicated effort where survey is being conducted more than once: by surveyor for design and then contractor for construction
    - b. Training or info sessions may result from these efforts
- G. Materials – ***Patrick Allen & Kenneth Fluker***
1. Met July 15, 2021 and next meeting is October 14, 2021
  2. The pavement design manual is in development
  3. BFI template revision is in progress
  4. Microsoft Teams Groups
    - a. Pavement design group created
    - b. Geotech group will follow
    - c. Goal is to create a network of resources for OMAT and consultants

- H. Planning and Environmental Linkage – ***Charles Robinson & Steve Cote***
  - 1. Met September 9, 2021 and next meeting is October 4, 2021
  - 2. Discussed having a better definition of scoping phase and developed a matrix for this
  - 3. White papers would be first deliverable and that information is under review
- I. Preconstruction Awards – ***Tim Matthews & Emilee Woods***
  - 1. Met August 31, 2021 and next meeting is October 18, 2021
  - 2. Developed shortlist for each category
  - 3. Will review shortlist submittals and pick finalists at next meeting
- J. Procurement – ***Treasury Young & Claudia Bilotto***
  - 1. Met September 1, 2021 and next meeting is October 6, 2021
  - 2. Treasury noted that the number and dollar value of contracts for this year has broken a record for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row
  - 3. Procurement is working with IT to rollout SOQ submittal process update
  - 4. Three ongoing task forces
    - a. One is focused on DBEs aimed to engage DBE firms
    - b. The second task force is focused on references and past performance task force and they are looking at how to remove surveys from RFQs and to have a form that is submitted with the SOQ responses
    - c. The third task force is looking to make changes to the RFQ template and that is still under development
  - 5. PNA content will be expanded to include more information such as draft required area classes and summary of services
  - 6. Research for environmental services and IDIQ contracts
    - a. Reviewing contracting requirements for QBS because of FHWA time limits
    - b. Final decision is anticipated to be made to keep current process in place
    - c. OES will have to adjust to the limitations involved in the IDIQ contracts
- K. Program Delivery – ***Krystal Stovall-Dixon & Erik Hammarlund***
  - 1. Met September 9, 2021 and next meeting will be in mid-October
  - 2. PM roundtable to be held late 2021 or early 2022
  - 3. Planning a high-level training for local governments and elected officials
    - a. Plan to collaborate with ARC
    - b. Willing to conduct this training with GDOT's help in developing the content
- L. Right-of-Way – ***Troy Hill & Mickie McJunkin***
  - 1. September 13, 2021 and next meeting is November 8, 2021

2. A third assistant state Right-of-Way administrator position has been filled by Kevin York
  3. Online training is available for entry-level ROW agents for free (in-house staff and consultants)
  4. ROW files going electronic in-house and will soon be available for consultants
  5. Property management delays in demolition process being streamlined
  6. Discussing consultant preclusions in Pre-Let and Post-Let design build projects and the related conflicts
  7. Shortage of ROW consultants is still an issue
  8. New GA Code allows local governments to enforce local codes in cost-to-cure process, and GDOT is meeting with local governments to discuss the potential for variances
  9. Discussing ways to prevent delays on projects and how to address those issues
  10. Reviewed new policies and procedures that the Right of Way Office has implemented to streamline the process through taking possession
- M. Roadway Design Policy – ***Frank Flanders & Matt Thompson***
1. Met September 1, 2021 and next meeting is September 22, 2021
  2. Continue to work on the Design Variance and Exception guidance document
  3. Standards and details book being published currently
    - a. A memo will define the language that needs to be added to the cover sheet
    - b. Section 105 has changed and will be a shelf special provision
    - c. Section 52 and 56 will still be required for the plans
  4. Updates to Chapter 8 in DPM to be rolled out by the end of the year
  5. Updates to Roundabout Design Guide are being correlated with Chapter 8 updates
  6. Clarifying requirement for 10-foot shoulders on high-speed roadways (>50 MPH) with curbing
- N. Traffic – ***Andrew Heath & Andrew Antweiler***
1. Met August 31, 2021 and next meeting not yet scheduled
  2. No current activity to report
- O. Training – ***Kyle Mote & Keith Strickland***
1. Met September 16, 2021 and next meeting is November 4, 2021
  2. Keith Strickland is the new consultant co-chair for this subcommittee
  3. Scheduling NHI training sessions, Bridge inspection class, superstructure design, and highway safety manual in the works
  4. Consultant led OpenRoads training still being discussed
  5. Updated Pavement Design Manual will be coming out soon and training for it is to be offered in early 2022

P. 3D Modeling – *Sam Woods & Jonathan Langley*

1. Met August 5, 2021 and next meeting is October 7, 2021
2. Subcommittee members have been added and they have split the group into three breakout groups
  - a. Guidance and documentation
  - b. File testing
  - c. Training and outreach
3. They are testing formatting of 3D models exported from OpenRoads
4. Training and outreach still in the works
5. Submitted a draft research needs statement to help develop a roadmap for implementation
6. Working with Board of Professional Engineers regarding digital signing and sealing plans

#### IV. Task Force Reports

A. Utility Coordination – *Nick Fields & Kerry Gore*

1. Met August 26, 2021 and next meeting is November 18, 2021
2. Introduced subcommittee to Nick Fields
3. Working on designer trainings
4. Utility owner training being developed with one initiative to get utility owners to use a GIS platform
5. UIA and SUE checklist provisions have been submitted to SUE providers to start a new form during the PURP and the subcommittee is tracking the progress of this
6. Updates to utility accommodation manual for escalating issues, especially during construction, and resulting delays to utility adjustments

B. Scheduling and Programming – *Bobby Hilliard & Mario Macrina*

1. Met August 5, 2021 and next meeting is not yet scheduled
2. Identified points of conflicts within each group at GDOT and discussed the breakdown of communication between GDOT and consultant PMs
3. PCRf process seems to be an issue; if there are schedule issues, there needs to be a clear process for dealing with it
4. Discussed the need for consultant training
5. Environmental escalation process being used as a go by

#### V. Closing

- A. A question was asked about process changes that each subcommittee of GDOT office is implementing, need to be sure that the schedule and impacts to it are considered.





## Meeting Minutes (continued)

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- B. The next CRC meeting will be January 18, 2022 because the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting conflicts with the Transportation Summit
- C. Meeting dates for 2022
  - 1. January 18, 2022
  - 2. March 15, 2022
  - 3. May 17, 2022
  - 4. July 19, 2022
  - 5. September 20, 2022