Missouri Department of Transportation (NW and KC Districts) & American Council of Engineering Companies of Missouri Liaison Committee

- MINUTES -
February 24, 2017

The Missouri Department of Transportation (Northwest and Kansas City Districts) and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Missouri held their quarterly meeting on February 24, 2017 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm at the MoDOT Kansas City District Office in Kansas City. The following individuals were present:

MoDOT Representatives:                                  ACEC/MO Representatives:
Don Wichern                                               Gretchen Ivy, Current Chair
Mark Sommerhauser                                         Troy Eisenbraun
Matt Killion                                               Bill Barker
Brian Kidwell                                              Michael Carroll
Alan Ludiker                                               Stephen Wells
Debbie Huffman                                            Chip Touzinsky
Richard Shipley                                            
Shelie Daniel                                              
Jeff Hardy                                                 
Yuan Yin                                                   

The agenda (attached) included the following key topics:

1. MoDOT Discussion Items
   a. MoDOT Leadership Updates/Key Initiatives
   b. STIP Updates
   c. KC District Engineer Position Status Update
   d. Federal Infrastructure Updates

2. ACEC/MO Discussion Items
   a. Mercury Alliance Update
   b. MoDOT TEAM Conference
   c. Legislative and Governor’s Office Outreach

3. Project Opportunities
   a. Future Consultant Contracts
   b. On-Call Services
   c. Cost Share Opportunities

4. Next Meeting Date and Location

MoDOT Discussion Items

- Michael DeMers has been selected as the new MoDOT Director of Innovative Partnerships and Alternative Funding. He will oversee the department’s efforts to find new opportunities for transportation revenue generation and new ways to
leverage emerging technologies. It was not yet known if he would also assume leadership of the Road to Tomorrow program.

- Group discussed MoDOT’s key legislative initiatives for 2017. Safety is an important initiative with primary seatbelt law, texting ban and repeal of helmet law under discussion in legislature. See MoDOT’s website for information on Buckle Up, Phone Down initiative and ways to support.

- Asset management program is being used to determine each district’s funding and future project needs. The goal is to better balance needs across states and districts better. Asset management plans and asset conditions must be formalized prior to adding capacity. Director’s vision is to keep each district’s assets in as good a condition as they are in today. Rural districts are having tougher time meeting goals and there has been a rural increase in funding to address assets. This is moving some funds from urban districts to rural districts (SWIMB funds) and limits the opportunities to address congestion needs with added capacity. This most affects major bridges.

- Draft STIP underway; each district is working on project updates. Must give to Central Office in first week of March. 10% under budget for STIP awards to date. Revenues from state are still increasing the overall revenue available for program. Trying to over-program a little to be prepared to leverage opportunities for the increased revenues and have projects ready in pipeline. MoDOT is still being cautious not to over commit end of 5-year STIP.

- Cost share program is going to be different than the Missouri Moves scoring. New safety scoring element; no economic development as part of the formula. More local investment will be required; however, locals cannot use other federal funding to make their match. $25 million for ultimate program with ramp up between FY 2018 and beyond (e.g., $10 million in FY 2018). Key KC district cost share opportunities include I-35 interchange in Kearney, Platte City project. There must be a net gain of zero to system as a result of cost share projects. Currently waiting on change of program rules – FY 2018 will be an aggressive timeline to reinstate the program.

- MoDOT provided three top priority projects for Federal Infrastructure package – I-435 South (KC), I-270 North (SL) and I-70 (Statewide) at $4 billion funding level. MoDOT does not have as many projects “shovel ready” as they would like for federal infrastructure funding.

- New MoDOT scoring criteria for project selection – Approach/Innovations. MoDOT wants to better be able to factor a team’s approach and innovations into the selection process moving forward.

- Decisions on KC District Engineer leadership will be made in late May, early June timeframe. Don Wichern will do double duty until then. Marty Lile is new Assistant District Engineer in NW District.

**ACEC/MO Discussion Items**

- ACEC/MO team provided a Mercury Alliance update and some recent alliance fact sheets and newsletters for reference. First Legislative Day is March 28, 2017. Mercury Alliance Board of Directors and Policy Council is meeting on
March 1st to decide final policy statements by Community of Interest group for use during Legislative Day.

- Group discussed upcoming MoDOT TEAM Conference in Branson and ACEC sponsored happy hour event.
- ACEC/MO team discussed other legislative outreach performed and what they were hearing from the legislative session to date. Key talk was of forming a Blue Ribbon Panel on Transportation Funding. This would have representatives from Governor’s Office, House and Senate to be successful and have buy-in on transportation needs and funding sources to hopefully take a bill to 2018 session.

Project Opportunities

- MoDOT is evaluating a Safety/ADA Design Build pilot project within the St. Louis metro area. Purpose is to assess which safety projects provide the best safety benefits and service. Likely to include several counties. Will also consider rural versus urban safety applications and benefits.
- Broadway Bridge rehab project is a priority for KC District. Originally planning on $10 million rehab, but new condition and repair needs findings are increasing cost to $40-$50 million range. Updating in STIP for FY 2019 funding. Coordinating with ongoing PEL study to determine best path forward. Could affect timeline and outcomes of PEL study and whether to move into next phases of NEPA sooner.
- Group discussed the MoDOT RFP for new innovation projects that could generate new sources of revenue. It was noted that 10 new innovative projects were received and being considered by MoDOT. The top concepts included integrated pavements (KC focused initiative), power generation in roadway (truck kinetic energy) or right-of-way, solar roadways (Route 66 rest area) and solar farms (KCP&L), and the Internet of Things (e.g., wiring the state with telecommunications; Nokia, Verizon, KCP&L, Cynergy, etc.). These projects are not included in the draft STIP at the current time.
- I-435 South Design Build project is underway and going to be fixed price. It will be awarded this winter with RFP in May/June timeframe. PMC and MoDOT are working on final preparations for project to prepare for RFP release.
- I-435/70 is moving to FY 2019 within updated STIP.
- Key KC STIP projects – I-70 at Blue Ridge, I-49/US 71 South of Grandview, I-29/35 Split, I-435 Missouri River crossing, I-70 Jackson and Benton curves in alignment with corridor bridge needs. Many of these projects are later in the 5-year program.
- Key NW STIP projects – packages of bridges to include survey, roadway and bridge design. Timing of surveys will be a challenge; MoDOT Bridge Division wants surveys complete 14 months in advance. I-229 viaduct is increased priority in STIP to determine rehab versus decommission and new concept. ($85 million in FY 2020)
- On-call services – finalizing selections currently. Should come out in April timeline. Still $200,000 cap on projects. Support for lobbying for raising cap with
the Commission, especially for bridge on-calls. DBE goal will be 11-13% for on-call assignments. Significant bridge and survey needs.

Next Meeting and Location

- Next meeting will be held in early June in-line with KC District leadership changes and STIP coordination at the KC District Office. Date TBD.