

# ACEC Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

ACEC/Missouri - MoDOT HQ Liaison Committee

November 14, 2019 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

at ACEC/Missouri Office

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### **ATTENDEES:**

#### **MoDOT Representatives:**

Bryan Hartnagel, Asst. State Bridge Engineer  
Travis Koestner, State Design Engineer  
Michelle Kratzer, Multimodal Operations Director  
Eric Schroeter, Asst. Chief Engineer  
Julie Stotlemeyer, Asst. State Design Engineer-LPA  
Kenny Voss, Asst. State Design Engineer

#### **ACEC/MO Liaison Committee Members:**

Buddy Desai  
Kevin Eisenbeis  
Howard Gotschall  
David Maxwell  
Dan Meckes  
Linda Moen, Committee Chair  
Rod Sachtleben  
Steve Wells, ACEC Board Chair  
Todd Welz  
Bruce Wylie, ACEC President

[Attendance – a completed registration sheet will be attached to these notes.]

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

MoDOT Training Modules – MoDOT U is accessible to the consultant community through MoDOT's website. Anyone can register for a non MoDOT external account and enroll in the 217 courses including the LPA required classes. More Tech On-Line classes including 34 geometric modules will be offered soon through a cooperative effort with MN DOT. MoDOT asked if consultants would be willing to pay for access to these on-line classes – ACEC/MO members said yes, depending on the fee and the course content.

Missouri was awarded two BUILD Grants in the last round of selections – East Locust Creek Reservoir Improvement for Sullivan County and Grant Avenue Connect Parkway for City of Springfield. Recipients may request MoDOT to assist with the paperwork.

The first bonds for the Governor's bridge bonds were issued November 13<sup>th</sup> by MoDOT. MoDOT sold \$201 million in highly rated tax-free state bonds at 1.24% for the Governor's Focus on Bridges program. Will sell about \$200 million more in about a year.

Jeff Glenn, director of Missourians for Transportation Investment (mfti.org, formerly Mercury Alliance), is compiling talking points and will collaborate with MoDOT on 2020 legislative priorities. Possible legislation to support: Internet Sales Tax used for transportation; phased gas tax increase over three years (under Hancock limit) 3 + 3 + 3 plus inflation indexing; change vehicle licensing from horsepower to mpg.

Federal Funds rescission is still a possibility. The rescission will mainly cause MoDOT to shift their funding. However, for the BRO program the funds that Counties received under the MoDOT allocation method but did not obligate as of the rescission date, will be rescinded/taken back by the federal government. This has been communicated to the counties and could be as high as \$40M in funds that will no longer be available to the counties for that program.

Local bridge rating system will be re-done using the Good-Fair-Poor rating system which could shift the priorities a bit for local bridge funding distribution.

MoDOT Districts work with local planning partners to compile and prioritize the STIP and a second-tier list of unfunded needs for the state. MoDOT updates this annually and uses it as a tool to create the Governor's High Priority list, etc.

The Alternative Project Delivery Forum, led by Dave Simmons with MoDOT, ACEC/MO and AGC members, had their first meeting. The members will come up with priority subjects to work on, such as stipends, number of short-listed teams, ways to simplify the process. MoDOT is working to keep their [www.modot.org/design-build-information](http://www.modot.org/design-build-information) site up-to-date with current and upcoming design-build projects.

Bryan Hartnagel noted that FHWA is encouraging 2D hydraulic modeling and MoDOT is analyzing what projects should require 2D hydraulic modeling and what the best methods are for those calculations. The free HEC RAS 2D software is not appropriate for this (yet), but FEMA and SEMA tend to use HEC RAS for their flood insurance and no-rise analysis. SRH 2D is a good software option but it is not free. Stay tuned as this topic develops.

MoDOT has submitted a statewide DBE goal of 12.45% to FHWA for review and approval. The statewide goal was calculated using current availability of DBE firms to perform the type of work that MoDOT has contracted over the past few years. The new statewide goal is below the actual DBE % that MoDOT has achieved over the past 3 years. The statewide goal does not necessarily affect project goals, which are set very specifically to the type of work being contracted out as it relates to the DBE firms available to do that work. Missy Stuedle is the Interim External Civil Rights Director after Lester Woods, Jr. took the role of Interim Chief Administrative Officer.

The MoDOT MOU proposals are due a month before the LPA MOU proposals are due. MoDOT expects to announce the selections at the same time in early 2020.

MoDOT alerted ACEC/MO members that an RFP for an "embedded" LPA and MoDOT project overflow environmental reviewer has been advertised in addition to the LPA Environmental category. A consulting firm cannot be selected for both. Julie Stotlemeyer said MoDOT is considering limiting the number of consultants put on the LPA MOU list. ACEC/MO members encouraged her to put every qualified firm on the list for each category to give the LPA's access to firms they know or that are local to their projects.

FHWA is getting stricter on the Threatened & Endangered Presence/Absence process. It is important to address that early in your project schedule because that task is specific to the time-of-year.

Michelle Kratzer noted that Amtrak ridership is down due to flooding and due to longer trains blocking the sidings. Both cause train delays that make riders reluctant to choose the train. MoDOT is a regulator for the railroads which gives them some leverage when discussing the Amtrak delays caused by freight rail. MoDOT is responsible for paying Amtrak a portion of their operating costs and is in arrears because of the inadequate state allocation for Amtrak.

Michelle thanked Bruce for help educating multi-modal agencies about the Brooks Act and showing them the proper way to select consultants for their work to meet the requirements of federal funds.

Governor's cost share program applications are asking for two times the available funds. MoDOT and DED are collaborating to select the projects. MoDOT will have oversight of this program.

The MoDOT Citizens Guide will be updated annually.

TEAP project applications amounted to three times the available funds.

Patrick McKenna's top priority as the President of AASHTO is safety. He will be very busy this year with AASHTO duties and is raising the MoDOT profile with these activities.

# REGISTRATION

MoDOT (HQ) / ACECMO Liaison Committee Meeting

November 14, 2019

NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	ATTEND
Buddy Desai, ACECMO	Buddy.Desai@jacobs.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Eisenbeis, ACECMO <i>KRE</i>	keisenbeis@burnsmcd.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Jay Wunderlich, MoDOT	James.Wunderlich@modot.mo.gov	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bruce Wylie, ACECMO	BruceWylie@acecmo.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Other Attendees: