

**Missouri Department of Transportation (HQ) / ACEC Missouri
Liaison Committee Zoom Meeting**



**Monday, March 8, 2021
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**ACEC
Missouri**

- MEETING MINUTES -

ATTENDING: In addition to the committee members listed below, more than 65 other ACEC-MO members attended this virtual meeting.

MoDOT Attendees:

Steve Atkinson, CADD Services Engineer
Shelie Daniel, Design Liaison Engineer
Laura Ellen, Design Support Engineer
Ed Hassinger, Deputy Director/Chief Engineer
Dennis Heckman, State Bridge Engineer
Travis Koestner, State Design Engineer
Michelle Kratzer, Multi-Modal Ops Director
Patrick McKenna, Director
Kelly Niekamp, Audit Manager
Eric Schroeter, Assistant Chief Engineer
Julie Stotlemeyer, Asst. State Design Engineer-LPA
Missy Stuedle, External Civil Rights Director
Kevin Vollet, Computer Aided Draft Support Engineer
Kenny Voss, Asst. State Design Engineer

ACEC-Missouri Attendees:

Ed Alizadeh, Geotechnology, Inc.
Bob Gilbert, Bartlett & West, Inc.
Howard Gotschall, Hanson Professional
Aaron Kober, Modjeski and Masters, Inc.
Vicki LaRose, Civil Design, Inc., Board Chair
Dave Maxwell, HR Green, Inc.
Dan Meckes, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.
Linda Moen, EFK Moen, LLC, Cmte. Chair
Steve Wells, Hg Consult, Inc.
Todd Welz, Quigg Engineering, Inc.
Morgan Mundell, ACEC-MO President
Dawn Hill, ACEC-MO Staff

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) **MHTC Updates** – Patrick reviewed that the Commission leadership will remain the same and the 3 termed-out commissioners are staying in place for now.
- 2) **Funding and STIP** –
 - Patrick gave a thorough review of the MoDOT Budget/STIP Update – the draft STIP will be available soon – Eric Schroeter and Eric Curtit worked well with the Missouri partners to agree on what 2019 Unfunded Needs would be added back into the STIP.
 - The Governor’s Bridge Program and BUILD grants added about \$500M to the STIP and allowed some unfunded needs to be pulled back into the STIP.
 - Federal funds from Coronavirus Relief Act will help keep the MoDOT program at the \$1B level and will give local agencies some relief also.
 - As the Amendment 3 bonding debt is paid off MoDOT plans to draw on that Bonding Capacity again with shorter-term smaller draws. Don’t forget that MoDOT is deficit spending ~\$100M/ year now to continue to match Federal funds. MoDOT needs to eliminate the need for deficit spending before the MO Road Fund runs out.
 - MoDOT is strategizing for a new round of BUILD grants and Patrick noted that earmarks are as good of a process as the INFRA/BUILD grant system which creates a lot of work for the MoDOT staff and many other people and yields an 8-10% success rate.
- 3) **Pandemic and PPP Loan FAR Overhead Effects** –
 - ACEC-MO reviewed the impacts that the pandemic and the PPP loans are having on our member firms – we are making very impactful business decisions and any information that MoDOT can provide is greatly appreciated.

- Kelly Niekamp, MoDOT Audits Division, is working with the MAASTO/AASHTO auditors group and **will share information as it is available**. They need to follow FHWA guidance, and those details are still being worked out. The financial prequalification process will likely request additional information to identify PPP loans, etc. Sandy Riley and Robert Mason are available to answer questions as ACEC-MO firms are putting our financial prequalification paperwork together.
- Travis and Julie may consider allowing annual adjustments to overhead on LPA project contracts to help minimize the effect of a low-OH anomaly caused by the pandemic and/or PPP loan forgiveness and are willing to discuss ideas that help ease the negative impact of the overhead on future contracts.
- ACEC-MO noted firms will be trying to limit the time period when they have an unrealistically low overhead rate to negotiate future contracts with and some firms may request more time to submit their financials due to so many changes and impactful business decisions being made this year.

4) **Federal Infrastructure Funding Package –**

- The Federal coronavirus backstop money to Missouri will help prime the pump to keep the program flowing and avoid a significant slowdown in construction lettings. Though Senator Blunt has announced he will not run again, he and our state representatives will be strong advocates for good Federal infrastructure funding packages.
- There could be an economic stimulus bill with infrastructure funding separate from Reauthorization. Reauthorization of the FAST Act and funding for the Highway Trust Fund needs to happen again by September 30, 2021.

5) **Update on HB 1044 and SB 262 –** At the time of this meeting it was too early to tell how these bills might play out, but they are the best plan for a legislated gas tax increase without going to a vote of the people that Missouri has seen for over 30 years.

6) **Consultant Projects –**

- ACEC-MO members encouraged MoDOT to give advanced/planned Notice of Upcoming RFQ's – in addition to the STIP. RFQ timing helps firms plan proposal efforts and strategize on which projects best fit their firms' experience.
- ACEC-MO members noticed that the timeframe to respond to proposals varies and sometimes the largest projects have the shortest proposal response time. Firms requested that MoDOT keep that in mind when they send out RFQ's.
- Travis Koestner noted that MoDOT is considering requiring the first scope and hours negotiation be submitted within 2 weeks of the initial project scoping/kickoff meeting. Their intent is to keep the projects moving forward in a timely manner. This idea came from their centralized negotiation pilot. Travis noted that similar to the RFQ response request, they may consider extending that time frame for larger projects.

7) **Governor Parson's/MoDOT's Focus on Bridges program –** Dennis Heckman reported that the program has contracted for construction of 118 bridges so far. Bridge #100 was opened to traffic in December 2020.

8) **MoDOT/Consultant Staff Remote Work, Travel and Vaccinations –**

- ACEC-MO firms have noticed unusual delays in receiving payments for project invoices. MoDOT noted they have a small staff responsible for paying invoices and WFH/illness/vacation has caused payment delays. They are catching up!
- Not making any changes until the vaccines have rolled out and there's new CDC guidance.
- MoDOT staff are eligible now for vaccines.

9) **Final Design before NEPA –** Kenny Voss noted that consultants need to be diligent about not moving into right of way plans/final design before NEPA clearances are received. Some fast-moving projects have gotten ahead of this process and that creates problems with FHWA and could cause a project to lose Federal funding.

- 10) **Revisions to the Standard Invoice** – Laura Ellen is working on small changes such as adding a line for FCCM; adding space for workforce diversity reporting if applicable to a project; workforce section mirrors DBE reporting to track per invoice and total to help PM’s keep track of progress. These updates have not been posted to the EPG yet for MoDOT or LPA invoices. MoDOT is working with AASHTO on best practices for administrating consultant contracts and may have more changes to invoices, etc. based on that.
- 11) **ProjectWise 365** – SW District will host a 1.5-hour ProjectWise 365 demo for ACEC-MO. Julie Stotlemeyer and Steve Atkinson are working on that and [will send the invite to Dawn when that is available.](#)
- 12) **ORD/OpenRoads** –
- “Non-project” MoDOT Workspace is being tested now and will be released soon. MoDOT [will let Dawn know when that is available.](#)
 - Travis Koestner said that OpenRoads training will be rolled out internally at MoDOT this summer/fall.
 - After the ORD rollout, new projects will start in ORD. MoDOT is working on a conversion document and will decide on a project-by-project basis whether an existing project converts to ORD.
 - There are MoDOT ORD Microstation demonstration videos available now on YouTube.
- 13) **Other Training** – Travis reminded ACEC-MO members that MoDOT Program Delivery Training and other training videos are available via their external SharePoint. The link to that was shared in our last HQ meeting minutes. Travis checked into how trainees, external to MoDOT, can receive PDH’s for this training. MoDOT does not have the ability to keep track of those taking the webinars if they don’t work for MoDOT. Companies who would like to use the webinars should develop their own method of keeping track or proof of attendance as a company or on an individual basis and that should work for PDH credits. If the Missouri Board for Professional Registration questions the PDH credits, they would just need to show verification that they viewed the webinar and what the content was.
- 14) **MoDOT DBE Symposium** – March 23 – Virtual 9:00-4:30 – All ACEC-MO Member firms are invited to attend.
- 15) **Next Meeting** – Tuesday June 29, 2021 - 9:00-11:00 AM – Virtual.