

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



**Tuesday, June 29, 2021
9:00–11:00 AM**



- MEETING MINUTES -

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

MoDOT Attendees:

Cheryl Ball, Administrator of Freight & Waterways
Laura Ellen, Design Support Engineer
Tom Evers, Assistant District Engineer – St. Louis
Sarah Kleinschmit, Policies & Innovations Engineer
Travis Koestner, State Design Engineer
Patrick McKenna, Director
Kelly Niekamp, Audit Manager
Eric Schroeter, Assistant Chief Engineer
Julie Stotlemeyer, Asst. State Design Engineer-LPA
Kenny Voss, Asst. State Design Engineer
Jay Wunderlich, Governmental Affairs Director

ACEC-Missouri Attendees:

Ed Alizadeh, Geotechnology, Inc.
Bob Gilbert, Bartlett & West, Inc. (*incoming Cmte. Chair*)
Howard Gotschall, Hanson Professional
Aaron Kober, Modjeski and Masters, Inc.
Dave Maxwell, HR Green, Inc.
Dan Meckes, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.
Linda Moen, EFK Moen, LLC (*Cmte. Chair*)
Tim Ross, GBA, Inc. (*incoming Board Chairman*)
Todd Welz, Quigg Engineering, Inc.
Morgan Mundell, ACEC-MO President
Dawn Hill, ACEC-MO Staff

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) Condolences to MoDOT upon the death of Lloyd Crawford who was killed in the line of duty Monday, June 28th. This is another reminder that we all need to travel safely and watch for workers on the highways, especially over the holiday weekends.
- 2) MoDOT Staff Changes:
 - Dave Silvester and Dennis Heckman retired
 - Chris Redline is now the KC District Engineer
 - Marty Liles is now the NW District Engineer
 - Dennis' successor has not been named yet.
- 3) ACEC-Mo liaison committee members will transition July 1:
 - Bob Gilbert will become ACEC-Mo's Committee Chair for this liaison committee
 - Tim Ross is the new ACEC-MO Board Chair
 - Vicki LaRose, Kevin Wallace and Srinu Yanamanamanda are added to this committee July 1
 - Dan Meckes, Steve Wells and Linda Moen will rotate off this committee.
- 4) Update on SB 262
Director McKenna thanked Morgan Mundell for the great part he played in the partnership with industry+agency+legislators to get this bill passed. The Governor is expected to sign the bill after the special sessions and the budget session are completed. The tax increase authorized by the passage of SB262 will begin generating new gas tax revenue on October 2, 2021. This new revenue is expected to be ~\$77M in the first fiscal year and is not built into the current STIP. At the commission meeting on Thursday July 1, the Commission is expected to approve a \$5B 5-year STIP with \$1.1B/year average construction budget.
- 5) Federal Transportation Funding Outlook
Ed Alizadeh shared ACEC's Special Report on the 2021-2026 Engineering Industry Outlook and Dawn forwarded this document to the committee members/attendees. The report compares potential Net New

Spending in the White House Jobs Plan, the Republican Roadmap Plan and the Bipartisan Plan. The outlook is very positive for the industry and draws attention to the staff shortage we are likely to see. Director McKenna shared that increased federal funding is likely going to happen, but the amount of new money is hard to predict. He is hopeful that reauthorization will bring a 30% increase from the baseline federal funding and there is likely to be additional federal funding through another stimulus bill. MoDOT is hopeful they can grow the state's program to \$1.5B/year average. MoDOT's unfunded needs list has identified and prioritized \$3B in unfunded needs over the 5-year life of the STIP that could be funded with the increase from SB262 and the new federal money. MoDOT has also moved forward with Multimodal planning partners to identify and prioritize needs so they are ready to use the money for projects the public has agreed upon.

- 6) Project Management Consultant (PMC) Discussion – Kenny Voss, Tom Evers and Jim Smith see the potential for more Project Management Consultant RFQ's. HDR was probably the first to win one of these opportunities with MoDOT and HR Green is currently working on a project that includes serving as MoDOT's Project Management Consultant. The STL District has >12 projects assigned to each of their 9 PM's and most of their PM's have <5 years' experience. Hiring project management consultants and providing a place for them to be in the district office several days each month will help keep up with the increasing MoDOT staff workload. Other districts are considering this also, as their more experienced staff are retiring.
- 7) Remote and Hybrid Meetings – MoDOT staff are not gathering for meetings yet and they recognize that the need for remote and hybrid meeting platforms is probably here to stay. Hybrid meetings are a challenge, but MoDOT' offices have been set up for this for years and will likely continue remote/hybrid meetings. MoDOT had a recent increase in cases of the COVID Delta Variant!
- 8) PPP Loan Guidance for FAR PreQual Submittals – ACEC-MO has several members working directly with Travis Koestner, Julie Stotlemeyer and Kelly Niekamp on MoDOT's interpretation of the FHWA guidance for PPP loan impacts on FAR overhead calculations; and what PPP loan information needs to be included in our overhead and financial prequal paperwork. MoDOT will distribute their final guidelines soon and we all understand that additional questions and guidance may come up as each firm has a different scenario to present to MoDOT. This is a huge extra load on MoDOT's audit staff and on ACEC-Mo member firms' accounting staff.
- 9) Update on ORD and Projectwise 365 – MoDOT is not using ORD for plan design yet – they are waiting for Bentley's next release in 2 weeks and will test that version. MoDOT's training PC's were used by staff during remote work and MoDOT is now gathering those back to get ready for live training. MoDOT is willing to have consultants attend training with their staff to create a partnering environment, but they don't have the schedule or number of available seats yet. Projectwise 365 is going well as a plans collaboration tool and project teams are also beginning to use Microsoft Teams as a front face to SharePoint for collaboration – send comments to MoDOT if you have suggestions.
- 10) Upcoming EPG Revisions – Sarah Kleinschmit reviewed recent updates in the EPG. She reminded ACEC-Mo firms that you can sign up for E-Updates and that design letters, etc. are posted on the Doing Business page of the MoDOT website. Bob Gilbert noted that this is very useful information and should be a standing agenda item for this committee. Design Build guidance will be updated in the fall; Std Plan 620.00 will have a new sheet for Alternate Passing Lane Marking. FHWA reviewed the consultant section of the EPG and has recommended some updates to reflect the current MoDOT practices.
- 11) Laura Ellen reminded firms to stay current on the Consultant PreQualification Information list so we remain eligible to submit on RFQ's; to pay attention to the correct way to show FCCM on your overhead and cost calculations; and if your provisional overhead letter does not show an FCCM % and you think you should have one, please ask as soon as you notice that.
- 12) MAASTO Annual Meeting will be in Chicago August 30-September 1, 2021. 7-10 MoDOT staff will be there including Ed Hassinger, Eric Schroeter, Jay Wunderlich. Several are presenting at the conference.

- 13) The Commission meetings are still livestreaming – contact Pam Harlan if you are interested in the link: www.modot.org/mhtc/live.
- 14) The MoDOT 10-33 Golf outing to raise money for families of MoDOT workers killed in the line of duty will be September 13th – Travis Koestner encourages us all to SAVE-THE-DATE!
- 15) Next Meeting Date is September 10, 2021 and will probably be in person at the ACEC-Missouri office. Bob Gilbert will be the Committee Chair for that meeting.