

St. Louis County Department of Transportation
ACEC/MO Liaison Committee Meeting



September 23, 2020

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Webex (Access codes in meeting invitation)



MEETING MINUTES

ACEC/MO Liaison Members

Darrell Eilers – EFK Moen
Mike Erdtmann – GBA
Tyson King – Lochmueller Group
Dave Maxwell – HR Green
Tim Nugent – CDG
Bob Orr – SE3
Travis Pfeiffer – Parsons

Saint Louis County Members

Brian Gettinger
Mathew Gruendler
Glenn Henninger
Joe Kulesa - Acting Deputy Director
Russell Leach
Stephanie Leon-Streeter - Acting Director
Kori Neely
Gregory Poppitz
John Shrewsbury
Adam Spector
Pamela Thebeau
Larry Welty

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Overview of ACEC and purpose of Liaison committees
- 3) Director Update
- 4) Dept. of Transportation Staff Update
 - Stephanie is now the Acting Director
 - Joe is the Acting Deputy Director
 - Engineering down 5 engineers out of 22 total.
 - Planning down as well due to retirements.
 - County salaries are about 25% below market.
- 5) Update on St. Louis County “Cone of Silence” Ordinance.
 - Reminder – This only applies to active solicitations. Contact person for solicitation is listed in the RFQ. It has been in effect for approximately 1 year. At this time, the County is look to make some minor changes to the ordinance by exempting federally funded projects from “Cone of Silence,” allow vendors to contact office of diversity, and allow communication to the prevailing wage manager. Note: Federal funding exemption will only apply to the portion of the work that has federal fund. (i.e. If the design is funded by St. Louis County and the construction includes federal funds, the “Cone of Silence” applies.)

It is County policy to email submitters as to status of the solicitation process. Currently, the County has limited time to follow-up with non-selected firms due to low staffing level.

New website is in use and under construction. Some functionality is not available currently. Solicitation selection will be posted when the selection is complete.

6) Contracting / Scoping Items

- a) On-call / upcoming projects. This is budgeted for 2021. The current plan is to select a team for with M/WBE goals. Value is estimated at \$150k / year. Task orders may include lane widening, sidewalks, signals, minor structures, etc.
- b) Standard Scope can be edited, or parts removed, if not needed for the project. The intent is to start at the same scope with all projects and adapt if projects do not require specific items in the project. New standard schedule is provided to detail intermediate milestones for St. Louis County's process. Some scope items (like removing the number of submittals and focusing on performance) are to protect county from change orders.
- c) Scope adjustments after council approval. This should not happen with new process without a written change order.
- d) Overhead rate adjustments during contract. MoDOT and County uses overhead rate at start of project.
- e) Pavement cores / surveying scope items. (Including in some projects / certifying county survey) County will include these items in projects only when the task cannot be completed by St. Louis County. The tasks will not be included to help with design team participation.
- f) Flood plain permitting for is required for any disturbance in the flood plain, including geotechnical investigations, underground sewer maintenance, and other utility work. This should be a simple permit application. No plans or calculation needed. The County requires this as part of their flood plain management to help keep regional flood insurance premiums as low as possible.

7) M/WBE & Diversity Update / program implementation

Legal interpretation of the current ordinance is that certified M/WBE firms who are the prime on a project cannot use their certification toward the project M/WBE goals. This situation is currently under review.

Nate Adams in is the acting administrator.

8) Training Opportunities

- a) County Standards Update (from TEAM Lunch – Joe) is still an option.
- b) Presentation by County construction staff on plan problems they are seeing in the field can be considered in the future.
- c) Pavement Management Planning / Preservation for the County is still an option.

9) Other

County's transportation 5-year plan shows fewer projects because surplus funding has been used. Next year plan is for \$38M in construction projects and \$44M in 2022. Less in future years (\$32M - \$26M.) Looking to improve asset management plan for efficiency. However, they do not have the budget to implement a new plan. Operation and maintenance funding is property-tax based. Fuel tax and sales tax used for construction. Future year funding is 50% to 70% below funding needed to maintain current system. (No major road reconstruction or system expansion are included in plan.) Similarly, current staffing levels cannot deliver more than \$45M in construction at current staffing levels.

Quality control of design is key. County feels they are spending too much time commenting on consultant plans. Consultants should consider including disposition of comments with plan updates to inform the County as to the status of their comments. This may become a requirement soon.

Future solicitation moving forward without interviews for resurfacing.

10) Action Items

Develop training opportunity.

Help with initiatives as requested.

Schedule next meeting no later than February / March 2021