MoDOT/Industry COVID-19 Weekly Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2020

Attendees: ACEC, ACPA, AGC, MAPA, SITE, MoDOT

Action Items from April 1, 2020 Meeting:

1. A news release regarding the importance of continuing construction projects will not be pursued at this time. Currently many contractors are adhering to social distancing requirements, however, some are business as usual. There have been some public complaints regarding workers not adhering to social distancing requirements, as well as workers expressing concerns with working during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was determined that a better course of action would be for MoDOT and Industry to jointly produce a letter to send to contractors emphasizing the importance of social distancing and adherence to other CDC guidelines. The result would be greater worker safety and a positive image to the traveling public.

2. The correspondence to industry concerning Technician Certification is included on the COVID-19 webpage.

3. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has extended the recertification period. MoDOT received confirmation from the DNR that they will provide certification extensions for asbestos. Please contact these agencies for specifics on certification extensions.

Importance of Social Distancing for MoDOT and Industry on Construction Projects: It is critical for the safety of Industry and MoDOT workers that social distancing guidelines are followed. It is also important that the public see that workers on active construction projects are following the CDC guidelines. It only takes one crew not following the guidelines to stop all construction work within the state. Our Associations are working with the contracting industry to emphasize the importance of this issue. Information is available on Association websites for guidance. The AGC recommended several sites and encouraged MoDOT to work on a joint industry letter to help bring everyone into compliance.

Financial Outlook and Stimulus Bill: Director McKenna reviewed both the national and state financial outlook as well as providing a summary of AASHTO’s effort to provide emergency relief and economic recovery for transportation. He urged the associations to support the AASHTO proposal and to voice their support to their Representatives and Senators at the national level and encourage their members to do so as well. The AASHTO letter has been attached. MoDOT has $1.1 B in remaining contract value left to complete. We know that income will be down. MoDOT is taking immediate action and reducing internal operation spending and reducing the amount of projects in the next letting. The May letting will be reduced by 30% to an estimated value of $80 M. The majority of projects planned for this season have already been awarded. We will keep you informed if further reductions are necessary.
Addition of COVID-19 action plan to Safety Plan: MoDOT has completed a Job Special Provision for inclusion in the May letting requiring COVID-19 CDC guidelines specific to their project to be included in the contractors’ safety plan. This is being done to ensure that social distancing and other CDC guidelines are being planned for and implemented on construction projects. On existing projects, the CM Division is requesting that existing safety plans be updated. The letter has been attached.

Material Shortages: MoDOT published guidance on March 23, 2020 that cost increases being incurred by the contract industry, due to COVID-19, are excusable and non-compensable. Contractors are beginning to have difficulties with some materials. Issues like this will be evaluated and, if warranted, the contractor may be granted a time extension to mitigate these issues.

Unavailable PPE: There is a growing concern of certain PPE items becoming unavailable. One example is that safety glass producers are converting operations to support the health care needs. Contractors also need masks and respirators for functions like concrete sawing, asbestos and lead removal to name a few. MoDOT will continue to monitor this issue.

Contractor Payments to Date: For 2020, the contracting industry has increased its work in the spring of 2020 as compared to previous years. For January, February and March, $103 million has been completed as compared to $60.4 in 2019 and the 10-year average of 69.3 M.

The next meeting will be on April 15, 2020 at 10:30.