Meeting Agenda
ACEC-Missouri - MoDOT STL District Liaison Committee
January 8, 2019; 9:30 – 11:00 AM
MoDOT St. Louis District Headquarters
1590 Woodlake Drive, Chesterfield, MO
Conference Room 325

MoDOT Representatives:
Tom Blair, District Engineer (absent)
Bill Schnell, Assistant District Engineer
Mark Croarkin, Assistant District Engineer (absent)
Tom Evers, District Design Engineer
Mike Castro, District Construction Engineer
Wesley Stephen, District Planning Manager

ACEC/MO Liaison Committee Members:
Jason Dohrmann, Chair
Dave Petermeier
Josephine Emerick
Nick Correnti (for J.R. Landeck)
Tim Broyles
Frank Weatherford
Marie Dennis

Agenda Topics

1) Introductions
   - No introductions were necessary as the committee has previously met.

2) MoDOT Staff Changes since last meeting
   - Beth Bittick will be retiring on the LPA Construction side and Mike Castro will be looking to fill that position.
   - Ryan Pearcy will be taking over for Jenn Becker as the West County PM.
   - Eric Kopinski will be returning from a work study with AASHTO in Washington DC to be the Deputy Director of the I-270 Design/Build project.
   - Commission and legislature approved increases for MoDOT last year for the first time in 10 years. Director McKenna will again be asking the Commission and the legislature to approve pay hikes again during the session, and ACEC can help sell the importance of MoDOT being competitive in the market for transportation professionals.

3) Funding Update
   - With the defeat of Proposition D, the STIP is unaffected. Bill Schnell stated that the focus of most districts will remain the maintenance of the system, with only three districts able to spend flexible funds on increasing the system.
   - Wesley S. added that there will be a continued focus on the Cost Share program and CMAQ opportunities to help meet the needs of the SL District.
   - Bill S. discussed the legislative priorities of the House and Senate and the pre-filed bills affecting either the DOT or infrastructure, which were few. Some involved increasing vehicle registration for inflation, and others dealt with tolling authority. None were discussed in detail at the meeting as it is unknown which could be brought to the floor for discussion.
• Jason D. asked for an update about the DOT’s interest in changing the antiquated vehicle registration formula from using horsepower to miles per gallon, but the group did not have an update.

• The group was interested in a topic Frank W. had heard of where regional solutions for District-specific funding could be used to support MoDOT. He had heard a proposal where a regional entity like Metro or East West Gateway could pass a tax specifically for the SL District of MoDOT. Questions about how a bi-state agency would accomplish this were asked. Bill S. brought up the Georgia model which passed funding by county, and suggested that there were many ideas being circulated.

• Marie D. asked the group about feedback for “de-partnering” the Highway Patrol from MoDOT funding, as it appears to her the public has an interest in funding infrastructure needs, but does not see an advantage in increased enforcement. The general feeling was that this is a charter/policy discussion that would need legislative support and action and should be something for discussion with elected officials.

4) Major Project and Design-Build Updates
• Bill S. discussed the major work zones across the District. Work is mainly focused along the I-44 corridor, from downtown to the Crawford County line, and will be long-lasting. For the first time in many years, all work on the PSB is complete. There will be some work on I-64 (at I-70), some work on I-270 (at I-70) and some work on I-55, but the majority of impacts will be along I-44.

• Upcoming major projects for the District include I-270 design/build in 2020, a rehabilitation of the Blanchette Bridge (in 2020), the completion of the Route N Study in 2019, and the completion of the Wentzville RR curve study in 2019.

• Route N is not on the Long Range Transportation Plan so the feeling was that the Wentzville Railroad curve would be the bigger priority in St. Charles County.

• The biggest issue in MoDOT’s mind is the completion of the ADA Transition Plan by 2027. Most of their projects will center on resurfacing and ADA, and they are considering all options to get this work completed, such as design/build, combining corridors together to make larger projects, and other solutions. As the STIP evolves next year, MoDOT anticipates there will be a variety of projects to address these needs.

5) Update on Consultant Meeting in October
• The general feeling of the group is that the early part of this meeting is a good opportunity for consultants to be briefed on the upcoming work that each area in the District expects over the next year, and put a face to a name for those who may be new to working with MoDOT. However, most feel the later part of the meeting is intended to get to know the MoDOT staff with which they may work with, and for general interaction outside of project-specific discussions. Generally, the room feels cramped and congested, and Tom E. suggested moving the meeting to a larger space (TMC or other) where better flow outside of chairs could occur.

• Additionally, the frequency of the meeting was discussed and felt that one time per year was about the right timeframe.
6) SharePoint Site
   - Jason D. shared some frustrating experiences with accessibility, privileges and dated content within SharePoint, and Nick C. shared experiences with limitations on the amounts of folders able to be created by consultants. However, the group generally agreed the tool was a valuable way to exchange information and much preferred over the FTP model.
   - Tom E. stated he will take this information and find out more details about the issues experienced.

7) Work Zone Awareness 5K Walk-run?
   - MoDOT stated that the committee is in place but that they had not seen a flyer for the event as of yet. Jason D. asked that they circulate the flyer to this committee as it is available for help in distribution and participating.

8) TEAM Conference update
   - The SL District will again participate in the TEAM conference, and is planning to send between 18 and 20 people.
   - Jo E. mentioned that the hotel was full if anyone still needed to get room reservations.
   - Tom E. was unaware if there were presentations being made by SL District staff or related to projects from the District.

9) Other items as time permitted
   - Government shutdown – Jason D. asked if the District had seen any effects of the government shutdown on workflow. Tom E. said that FHWA was present at meetings Monday and were participating in conference calls, and that bidding and letting has not been affected. However, several consultants stated that they were being told FHWA would not be reviewing LPA projects until there was budgetary resolution. The group seemed to notice business as usual but anticipated difficulties during a prolonged shutdown.
   - Tim B. asked if the District would have a role in the AASHTO national meeting being held in St. Louis in October 2019. Bill S. said that high-level District and HQ staff would be in town to serve as greeters and provide directional assistance or other administrative functions, but that was the usually the only role of the host state.

10) Next Meeting – Tom E. and Jason D. will look for a mutually open time in early April for the next meeting. In the meantime if there are agenda items that arise, send those to either one of these men for inclusion.