**ACEC/NCDOT Project Delivery Subcommittee**

May 5, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Teams Meeting (Virtual & in person)

Phone:

Brandon Jones (Co-Chair) NCDOT Division 5

Paul Garrett (Co-Chair) Vaughn & Melton

Ronnie Keeter NCDOT Chief Engineer’s Office

Chris Peoples NCDOT Chief Engineer’s Office

Greg Burns NCDOT Chief Engineer’s Office

Lamar Sylvester NCDOT Chief Engineer’s Office

Chris Werner NCDOT Technical Services

Matt Clarke NCDOT Technical Services

Terry Canales NCDOT Technical Services

Robert Stroup NCDOT PSMU

Tom Payne NCDOT PSMU

Tatia White NCDOT Roadway Design

Matthew Jones NCDOT Division 9

Jackie McSwain NCDOT Division 12

Norwood Gainey NCDOT Division 4

Charlie Flowe KCI

Keith Garry SAM

Roberto Canales LJB

Jerry Page Gannett Fleming

Tim Goins VHB

Doug Taylor Stewart Engineering

Ed Edens AECOM

Gretchen Vetter NCDOT Federal Grants Manager

**Welcome and Introductions**

* Brandon Jones welcomed the group to the Quarterly Project Delivery Subcommittee Meeting and introductions were made. Roughly half of attendees were virtual vs. in-person.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes**

* Paul Garrett asked if anyone had any objections or comments on the last subcommittee meeting minutes dated February 3, 2022. The minutes were approved after receiving no comments or objections.

**Chief Engineer’s Office (Ronnie Keeter & Chris Peoples)**

**Personnel moves**

* Joey Hopkins is new Chief Operating Officer (Beau Memory went to turnpike out in Colorado)
* Ronnie announced his retirement effective June 1st. Chris Peoples was subsequently named Chief Engineer.
* Chris Werner will retire effective June 1st.
* Brian Burch retired at end of March. Mark Gibbs was subsequently named Western Deputy Chief Engineer.
* Joanna Reece (Deputy Secretary of Internal Affairs) is retiring effective July 1st.

**IIJA funds**:

We received more bridge money as other states miscalculated needs. Going from $93 million to $99 million each year for next five years.

**Legislative updates**:

Session starts May 18th.

**Board Meeting**:

DOT is trying to remove the $100M dollar cap on CMGC pilots but will keep the number of CMGC projects at five total.

**Disparity Study (Lamar):**

NCDOT does a disparity study every five years. According to the study, legislation should extend in August for another five years for DBE goals.

**SPSF Legislation (Chris Werner)**:

DOT is asking for legislation that would quantify Small Professional Service Firms (SPSF) similar to Small Business Enterprise (SBE).

The legislation would give authority to the Department to place DBE goals on professional services if the disparity study indicates the need.

**Cash Balance:**

We currently have $2.4 billion in cash on hand but have commitments for almost $8 billion. DOT worked on spend plan to ensure cash available when needed. The spend plan is presented to the Board in May for informational purposes. When updated forecasted revenue projections are received, the spend plan may be adjusted for the June Board for voting for next fiscal year.

SFY 2023 Pre-construction spend plan submitted is $1 billion for PE, ROW and utilities. The spend plan does not account for STIP reprogramming. SFY 2024 has ballpark spend plan at $820M to $970M.

NCDOT CFO Stephanie King’s Financial and Spend Plan Update as of May 2022, is located:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/about-us/board-offices/boards/board-transportation/Documents/Financial_Update.pdf>

**Gretchen Vetter, new Federal Grants Manager (formerly from CAMPO & NCDOT Public Transportation Division)**:

Gretchen introduced herself and gave a little update about on on-going work mostly related to IIJA funds.

They are currently working on Multi-model Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) – three grant programs in one.

Also, they are identifying and evaluating other funding opportunities as they come out.

**Technical Services updates (Chris Werner)**

We are moving forward with Bond sales for Building C this year.

Based on our cash balance and forecasted cash balance, we will not go forward with Build NC Bonds next year. There is a $3 billion threshold over 10 years of Build NC bonds and stipulations for when we can sell them or not.

No current plans for Garvey sales.

For more Technical Services updates, see separate attachment entitled “May 5, 2022 Notes from TS.docx”.

Technical Services wants feedback from industry on whether there should be an NCDOT staff member in between production firms and GESC review firms. The committee had quite a bit of discussion on both sides of this topic including should the GESC be involved earlier in the process of developing the project.

**2024-2033 STIP Development Update (Brandon Jones for Joey Hopkins)**:

The draft STIP will continue to be refined through December.

See separate attachment PowerPoint entitled “May 2022 BOT STIP Update”. The PowerPoint explains the whole STIP process and timeline. Topics covered in the attachment include the Quality Manual and NCDOT and PEF expectations, Standard Scopes of Work, Primes Notifying Subs, Subconsultant Utilization Report and Standard Invoices.

**Roadway Design (Tatia White)**

* NCDOT updated the design manual recently. Next update expected in July.
* There are two new buttons online for updates: one is a red-line version, and the other is a log that indicates which sections have changed and what the change was.
* Tatia encourages PEFs to use the “Contact Us” button to give the Department better tracking of issues.
* Roger Kluckman is retiring effective August 1st. So, they are pushing the roadway design manual under Jeff Garland’s group.
* NCDOT is evaluating NCHR report 876 for revisions to the 3R Guidelines. Instead of having charts with defined lane widths, etc., it would be more of cost-benefit approach considering what the value is to adding lane or shoulder widths, etc. First kick-off meeting was last week. They are on a 10-month cycle. They are soliciting other states and internal staff for thoughts/policies on 3R.
* ORD implementation – Department is strongly encouraging new projects to use ORD.

**Professional Services Management (Robert Stroup)**

# Master LSC should be up to date or will be in next week or so.

# Selections for Eastern On-call should be in early June.

# Upcoming ads in next few weeks: Hydro, Utility Design and Coordination

#

# Open discussion on Work Force issue (Brandon, Paul)

# We have not made much progress in this area.

# Terry said they recently did a U-tube ad to show to Wake Tech what some jobs entail. The Ferry division has a good video of what they do. There are other U-tube videos that have been produced.

# Paul brought up the issue to ACEC Transportation committee meeting but received no input.

# Brandon suggests we need a new slogan and a video advertising our work. Terry suggests we create a new landing page describing opportunities.

# Chris thinks ACEC should champion this cause in conjunction with NCDOT.

# Keith Garry says SAM works with the military for employees. There is a program called Skill Bridge that matches military employees with private sector.

# The office of Civil Rights has work force programs. Coordination with them would be good.

**Division Comments and Open Discussion**

#  NCDOT is bringing in 20 - 24 engineering associates this round. Trying to disperse as many as possible to rural divisions. Using a diverse group of schools for associates (not all NC State graduates).

# Paul mentioned concerns about project schedules from the industry. DOT asks firms to get work done as fast as possible but the Let dates are far out. Firms may be concerned resource issues. Most DOT units are asking for firms to provide reasonable schedules that can be met but also use a production schedule for the work that can be done ahead of current Letting schedules. Ronnie said where there are resource issues, to not rush projects programmed way out unless there is a need now; then, we prioritize those needs so we do not waste resources.

# Jackie McSwain is also retiring and leaving the subcommittee.

**Next Meeting**

* Thursday, August 4, 2022, 1:30 PM, Chief Engineer’s Conference Room & Virtual Option