

# ACEC/NCDOT Project Delivery Subcommittee

September 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes  
Teams Meeting (Virtual)

## Phone:

Brandon Jones (Co-Chair)	NCDOT Division 5
Paul Garrett (Co-Chair)	Vaughn & Melton
Robert Stroup	NCDOT PSMU
Tom Payne	NCDOT PSMU
Michelle Long	NCDOT Chief Engineer's Office
Joey Hopkins	NCDOT Chief Engineer's Office
Greg Burns	NCDOT Chief Engineer's Office
Terry Canales	NCDOT Technical Services
Tatia White	NCDOT Roadway Design
Matthew Jones	NCDOT Division 9
Jackie McSwain	NCDOT Division 12
David Keiser	CDM Smith
Keith Garry	So Deep   SAM
Mike Fendrick	ATCS PLC
Charlie Flowe	KCI
Roberto Canales	LJB
Jerry Page	Gannett Fleming
Tim Goins	VHB
Doug Taylor	Stewart Engineering
Caitlyn Meyer	Gannett Fleming (NCDOT Atlas Team & Tech Serv Cons)

## Welcome and Introductions

- Brandon Jones welcomed the group to the Quarterly Project Delivery Subcommittee Meeting and introductions were made. David Keiser said this was his last meeting as he is rolling off the subcommittee. Note, Philip Rogers and Mike Lindgren also rolled off the subcommittee with Roberto Canales, Jerry Page and Tim Goins being the new members from the ACEC side.

## Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

- Paul Garrett asked if anyone had any objections or comments on the last two subcommittee meeting minutes dated February 4, 2021 and May 6, 2021. No comments or objections were received and both sets of minutes were approved.

## Chief Engineer's Office (Greg Burns)

- The cash balance is healthy, but we need to be cautious as there is \$6 billion in commitments.
- Working on wrapping up the STIP estimates (Joey has been managing). Implemented some changes such as basing estimates on Express Designs and updating every 2 years.
- As estimates are finished, Divisions will review estimates for adjustments for conservative numbers since estimates were completed quickly.

- VE and VA efforts – DOT is using them to adjust designs to save money. Estimates went up significantly and added a lot of dollars to our program.
- STI work group continue to define a process for future rounds of SPOT and recommended stopping P6.0 and the Board of Transportation concurred based on the amount of overprogramming in our STIP. Committed and non-committed projects – all funding buckets are over programmed. Looking at committed projects, most of the funding buckets are over programmed. In the coming months, the cash constraints will be evaluated and the STIP re-worked.
- All PE for central let projects is turned on through 2027. PE is turned on for divisions through 2025. Recently SMU has been greenlighted to turn on all bridge projects through 2026, partly because the spend rate is not where desired in the bridge program and partly in anticipation of the Infrastructure bill getting passed.
- NCDOT federal apportionment for 2021 was \$1.132B.
- Federal Infrastructure Bill – Passed the senate back in August. If it passes the house, NC will have an additional \$1.53B over 5 years (\$300M/yr) and an additional \$456M in bridge funds over 5 years (\$91M/yr). Additional bridge funding forced the need to get additional bridge projects underway.
- The new bill would also have a significant opportunity for Grants.
- August redistribution was \$102M which was about what was anticipated.

#### **Questions for Chief's Office:**

Mike Fendrick – can we get a breakdown of what is on the Infrastructure bill. Greg said DOT could give a general breakdown. Also, Mike asked if new money would go toward new projects or toward shovel ready maintenance type projects like in the past. Joey said the projects would have to go through the Prioritization process. Not sure at this time how discretionary funds will work but will still have to be consistent with federal and state law.

Doug Taylor – Is DOT going to continue VA studies on a regular basis? Greg said yes for both VE and VA. Doug sees the benefit in VA in particular. Greg agrees with the savings seen. Terry said they are looking at adding VA to PDN probably in stage 2. Very successful so far - \$68M in early savings. They are getting ready to turn on 2025 and 2026 projects to do VA studies on them as well.

David Keiser stated that having a checklist for VA process for common occurrences would be helpful. Terry said they were developing that as part of the process.

Tim Goins – If we have some projects near environmental completion that were suspended, do you anticipate the Infrastructure bill to turn them back on? Greg said he would anticipate it would turn some of the projects back on. They could fund some bridge projects with federal dollars which would open state funds for new bridge projects.

#### **Technical Services updates (Terry Canales)**

- The Pre-Construction workshop (1.5 days) was postponed to January 25 and 26. \$125/person at McKimmon center. If already signed up, you don't need to do anything unless you are no longer going to attend. Let Terry know if you signed up and can no longer attend or need to change names.

- On the 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 -noon, they are having a SPSF outreach. Meeting with central staff and division staff to discuss upcoming projects, etc.
- PE move forward lists should be occurring by next week.
- Project Managers are instructed to do everything they can do to meet milestone dates. Legitimate schedule changes only. Locking down budget and schedule.
- In December of 2020, DOT implemented the new Consultant Evaluation Management System (CEMS) and provides quarterly reports to its managers. They want feedback as to how the evaluations are going.

#### **Questions for Technical Services:**

Mike Fendrick and Paul Garrett both stated they haven't seen any evaluations. Terry said to check with the DOT manager. You should get one every 6 months unless the project is a year long time frame which may result in evaluation at the end of the project. The system is new, but DOT is pushing for the evaluations to get done. Terry can check to see if the firm has had evaluations, but the DOT project manager would be the one to get the evaluation for a specific project.

#### **Project Atlas Update Presentation (Caitlyn Meyer for Leilani Paugh)**

- ATLAS – **A**dvancing Transportation through **L**inkages, **A**utomation and **S**creening
- 1. Suite of Web Apps 2. Spatial Data Development/Delivery 3. Business Process Improvements
- Anyone within Transportation Project Delivery can access if they have had the training class.
- Atlas team won the 2021 URISA Exemplary Systems Government's 'Distinguished Enterprise System' award!
- 2 new updates in 2021 so far, 30 work items moved to production.
  - DOT GIS Screening and Map Templates
  - Improved project file access for Agency partners
  - Integration with new Project Commitment Tracker
  - ATLAS Workbench Speed and Navigation Improvements.
  - Full release notes can be found here:  
<https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/Environmental/EAU/Project-Atlas/Pages/default.aspx>
- Current templates – Merger pre-screening; Recreation 4(f); Historic 4(f); Section 6(f); Clean Water Act; Fed Lands, Rail and Air; CAMA Resources; Floodplains
- Future templates coming soon – School Studies; Environmental Features Map
- 18 new GIS data layers created
- Future Work Plan
  - 2021 Quarter 3 release scheduled for late September 22nd, 2021 (tentative)
  - 2021 Quarter 4 Release
    - Scope is currently being developed
    - Alignment with PDN
    - External Agency Workbench Improvements
  - 2022
    - Still executing contracts with partners.
    - What data sets do you need that don't exist?
    - What needs to work better or be integrated?

- Integration and coordination with other DOT Project Delivery tools.
- 2021 New ATLAS Data Layers
  - NHP Data Tier 2 (quarterly updates)
  - NC Wetlands Assessment Model
  - Bike Ped Crash Factors Summary
  - Points of Interest (Gov Buildings, Med, Worship, schools, transit lines, parks, historic sites, colleges, etc.)
  - Species Habitat – Machine Learning and Expert Models (may need to download this to local environment (ArcMap or GIS) as they have visualization issues currently with some of the models in ATLAS.)
- If a document is identified as an ATLAS deliverable, it must be uploaded to ATLAS and ATLAS will upload to sharepoint.
- From January through July of 2021: 3,000 study areas screened, 2,000 Geospatial Data downloads and 60+ CE documents uploaded.
- **Training:** Monthly New User/Refresher Training through end of this year (usually first Wednesday of every month) is available and specific small group training (5-10 folks) can be requested.
  - Email [ATLAS@ncdot.gov](mailto:ATLAS@ncdot.gov) to sign up for training.
- They are working on knowledge center library for all the applications within ATLAS. By the end of the year, they hope to have 1-to-2-minute training videos for how to do different functions in the application.

**Questions for ATLAS presentation:**

Paul Garrett asked if the presentation could be made available. Caitlyn said it could and may be able to access if signed up for IPD newsletter.

**Roadway Design (Tatia White)**

- Release of Updated Roadway Design Manual is now anticipated around October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Figuring out best way to get feedback to update throughout the year and the schedule for updates (quarterly vs. semi-annually). Hoping to not have so many memos being used.
- ORD transition to version 10.10 soon. 17 training modules they would like to produce. Eight have been written and are at various stages. Workspaces have been developed for all the NCDOT units.
- ProjectWise managed workspaces are also nearing completion.
- Training for Connect and ProjectWise may be released this fall. Divisions have been notified of the training.
- 3R guidance is dated. Reviewing how that corresponds to 2018 Greenbook. Mini advertisement to see what kind of expertise is out there to help in this effort.

**Consultant Rate Schedule (Michelle Long)**

- CRS reminders – please log in every 28 to 30 days to not get locked out.
- Quarterly updates are allowed just be mindful of how often you do this.
- Consultants should pass along any CRS issues to Michelle or Robert.

## Professional Services Management (Robert Stroup)

- Addendum was posted today for Highway Asset Inventory
- Master schedule for contracts is updated.
- Biggest thing on the street aside from some CEI contracts coming out, Aviation Professional Services Contract is due September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Next big advertisement will be the Eastern On-Call contracts. Anticipated February or March of 2022.
- Change to website for utilization. Will only show current report. There is a link for archived reports.

## Division Comments and Open Discussion

- Brandon welcomed Matt Jones to the subcommittee who is the new representative for Division 9 replacing Brett Abernathy.
- No other comments were made.

## Industry Comments and Open Discussion

- Paul Garrett asked what the timeline for revised kitchen sink estimate is to better match the PDN, have project management hours, etc. Robert – a few changes have been made. Spreadsheet was turned over to Governance office. Discussion of new spreadsheet was discussed. Environmental Policy Unit was working on standard scopes that would match some PDN stuff. Not sure where stands. Caitlyn – spreadsheet has been locally updated by original designer. Replacement spreadsheet may be developed but likely a way's off. Will be coordinated with ACEC. So, there may be a small, updated kitchen sink estimate at some point but big changes not happening soon.
- *Robert said there is a new financial module (Ariba) in SAP that may affect invoicing, prequalification, procurement (POs), estimating, etc. in the next couple of years (end of 2022 possibly). Only 1 meeting on it so far but should make it easier across systems in the long run.*
- *Caitlyn said they are also working on standard scopes of work and invoicing templates for consultants to use that may be out within a month.*
- *Paul Garrett said DOT has always done a good job with innovation, and diversification of letting methods from Design Build, Express Design Build (EDB), Central and division low impact lets and other methods. Paul said he would like to see that continue in particular; he would like to see the EDB projects continue to be advertised. Greg said the potential is still there and is up to the divisions. He said in Division 6 it seemed like smaller groups of bridges can get done quicker and not drag out like a bigger 9-10 bridge project.*
- *Doug Taylor – Does the Department anticipate having a prequalification code for Value Assessment as they do for Value Engineering. No one has heard but Terry will ask since it is being incorporated in the PDN. **Follow up after the meeting:** Terry contacted Alyson Tamer, State Value Management Engineer who stated that the VE code would not work for VA since it requires the facilitator to be a Certified Value Specialist (CVS). Currently there is not a VA code. A code has been approved by Roadway for PMs to use Urban Design Prequalification in the scope and that will be added to the PDN. There currently is nothing specific to Rural designs.*

- *Terry Canales said there is MS Project Schedule Training out there which is shown in the IPD newsletter. If you are not getting the IPD newsletter, let Terry know and she will include you in monthly distribution.*
- *Paul Garrett stated the subcommittee has talked about different issues to consider tackling to help Project Delivery but thinks firms are still digesting the new systems put in place recently by NCDOT and would address things as they come up. We are open to any suggestions from NCDOT or ACEC members.*
- *Brandon stated if there were any presentations or topics covered, to let him know and he would get it scheduled.*

#### **Next Meeting**

- Thursday, November 4th, 2021 at 1:30pm (Chief's Engineers Conference Rm or Virtual, TBD)