

ACEC / NCDOT JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS

October 16, 2024
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held on October 16, 2024 at 1:00 PM; In attendance were:

NAME	REPRESENTING	EMAIL ADDRESS
Tim Harper	MBI	Timothy.Harper@mbakerintl.com
Max Buchanan	MB3	mb3engineering@yahoo.com
Liam Shannon	NCDOT-CCU	lwshannon@ncdot.gov
Jason Salisbury	NCDOT Div 6	jsalisburg@ncdot.gov
Phillip Johnson	KCI	phillip.johnson@kci.com
Troy Brooks	NCDOT-CCU	tbrooks2@ncdot.gov
Ted Adams	RK&K	tbadams@rkk.com
Shane Hayes	MBP	shayes@mbpce.com
Todd Whittington	NCDOT-M&T	twhittington@ncdot.gov
Brian Hunter	M&T	Bjhunter@ncdot.gov
Matt Hilderbran	NCDOT-M&T	mrhilderbran@ncdot.gov
Jim Sawyer	NCDOT-M&T	jcsawyer@ncdot.gov
Wiley Jones	NCDOT-Chief's Office	wwjones1@ncdot.gov
Aaron Earwood	NCDOT-CCU	aearwood@ncdot.gov
Leila Boubs	NCDOT-CCU	lboubs@ncdot.gov
Casey Bowman	NCDOT-CCU	ccbowman@ncdot.gov
Michelle Gaddy	CCU	mhgaddy@ncdot.gov

Meeting Introduction

- Troy Brooks welcomed everyone to the meeting and initiated introductions. Participants included representatives from various engineering and construction units.

Training Updates

- Jim Sawyer provided an update on the training sessions conducted so far, including the number of classes and attendees. He also mentioned the postponement of the final quarter of classes for 2024 and the scheduling for 2025.
- **Training Sessions:** Jim gave an update on the training sessions conducted so far, including 21 classes for ABC sampling with 424 attendees, 7 classes for density testing with 176 attendees, and 29 classes for concrete field technicians with 1066 attendees.

- **Postponement:** Mr. Sawyer mentioned the postponement of the final quarter of classes for 2024 due to the storm out West, with refunds being issued for those unable to attend the rescheduled classes.
- **2025 Scheduling:** He also announced that scheduling for 2025 has begun, with a similar schedule to 2024 and emphasized the importance of continuing training efforts.

Construction Unit Technician Training

- Troy/Brian discussed the ongoing construction unit technician training, including the fall pipe training and the upcoming November training in Asheville. He emphasized the importance of targeting individuals with immediate training needs.
 - **Ongoing Training:** Brian discussed the ongoing construction unit technician training, including the fall pipe training that started in Rocky Mount and will continue in Asheville in November.
 - **Immediate Needs:** Troy emphasized the importance of targeting individuals with immediate training needs, particularly those actively working on or about to work on relevant projects.
 - **Challenges:** Brian acknowledged challenges in getting slots for the pipe training and mentioned efforts to capitalize on electronic training options for 2025.
- **2025 Training Forecast:** Troy Brooks outlined the training forecast for 2025, including three days of inspector training focused on roadway and structure inspection. He also mentioned the potential for electronic training options.
 - **Inspector Training:** Troy stated that the training would include three days of inspector training focused on roadway and structure inspection, with two days dedicated to roadway topics and one day to structure inspection.
 - **Electronic Options:** It was also mentioned that the potential for electronic training options, such as streaming or recording, will continue to be explored for 2025.
 - **Future Modules:** Troy discussed future training modules for 2026, including paving best practices and utility construction, with the possibility of additional days for structure topics.
- **Resident Engineer Workshop:** Mr. Brooks announced plans for a resident engineer workshop in 2025, which will be more involved than previous years. The workshop will include training on the new resident engineer guide and other topics.
 - **Training Topics:** The workshop will include training on the new resident engineer guide and other topics, with a focus on contract administration activities.
 - **Logistics:** The workshop is tentatively scheduled for mid-March at the Sheraton Greensboro, with a three-day format including a half-day, a full day, and a morning session.
 - Discuss potential sponsorship opportunities for the Resident Engineer Workshop with the ACEC Industry Team.

Staffing Updates

- Troy provided an update/overview of recent staffing changes within the construction unit, including new appointments and retirements. He highlighted the importance of these changes for the unit's operations.
 - **New Appointments:** Overview of recent staffing changes, including the appointment of Aaron Griffith as the state bridge construction engineer and the addition of four regional bridge construction engineers.
 - **Retirements:** Troy mentioned several retirements, including Chad Combs, Rick Baucom, and Patty Eason, and their replacements in various divisions.
 - **Vacancies:** Troy also discussed current vacancies, including the area construction engineer position for divisions 1 and 2, and efforts to fill these roles.
- **Western North Carolina Recovery Efforts:** Troy discussed the ongoing recovery efforts in Western North Carolina following recent storms. He emphasized the fluid nature of the situation and the department's commitment to emergency access and contracting.
 - **Damage Assessment:** Troy mentioned that nearly 7000 damage sites have been identified, with preliminary engineering assessments and “cut and shove” operations nearing completion.
 - **Contracting Methods:** Troy highlighted the use of various contracting methods, including emergency contracting and progressive design-build, to expedite recovery efforts.
 - **Federal Coordination:** Mr. Brooks noted daily meetings with federal highways to navigate new contracting methods and ensure compliance with funding requirements.
 - **Strategic Plan:** Troy also discussed the development of a strategic plan to manage the recovery efforts, aiming to repair 90% of the identified sites within a year and all within two years.

Division Workload and Inspection Needs

- Troy shared information about the division workload and inspection needs, particularly in the most affected areas. He again mentioned the goal of repairing 90% of the identified sites within a year.
 - **Workload Overview:** Information was provided about the division workload and inspection needs, particularly in the most affected areas, with a focus on Division 13.
 - **Repair Goals:** Troy mentioned the goal of repairing 90% of the identified sites within a year and all within two years.
 - **Inspection Needs:** He discussed the need for additional inspection resources and the importance of balancing resources across divisions to meet the increased demand.
 - **Training and Staffing Challenges:** Troy addressed the challenges related to training and staffing, including the need for additional inspectors and the potential for relocating staff to meet the increased demand in the affected areas.

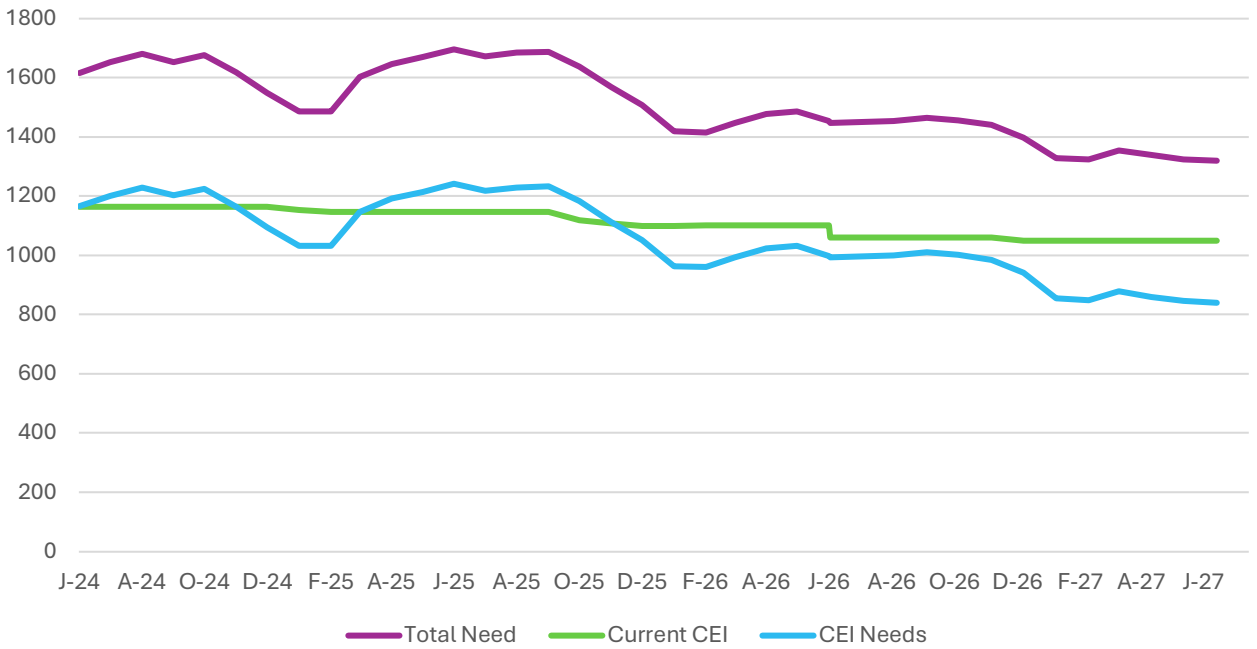
- **Inspector Shortage:** The Department addressed the challenges related to training and staffing, including the need for additional inspectors to meet the increased demand in the affected areas.
- **Relocation:** Discussed arose surrounding the potential for relocating staff from less affected areas to meet the increased demand in the affected areas, emphasizing the need for flexibility and cooperation.
- **Staffing Solutions:** Max requested/mentioned the possibility of offering incentives and accommodations to encourage staff relocation and address the staffing challenges.
 - Wiley stated that there is currently a \$175.00 Lodging Only Per Diem available to CEI staff assisting with the relief effort through December 31, 2024.

Upcoming Projects

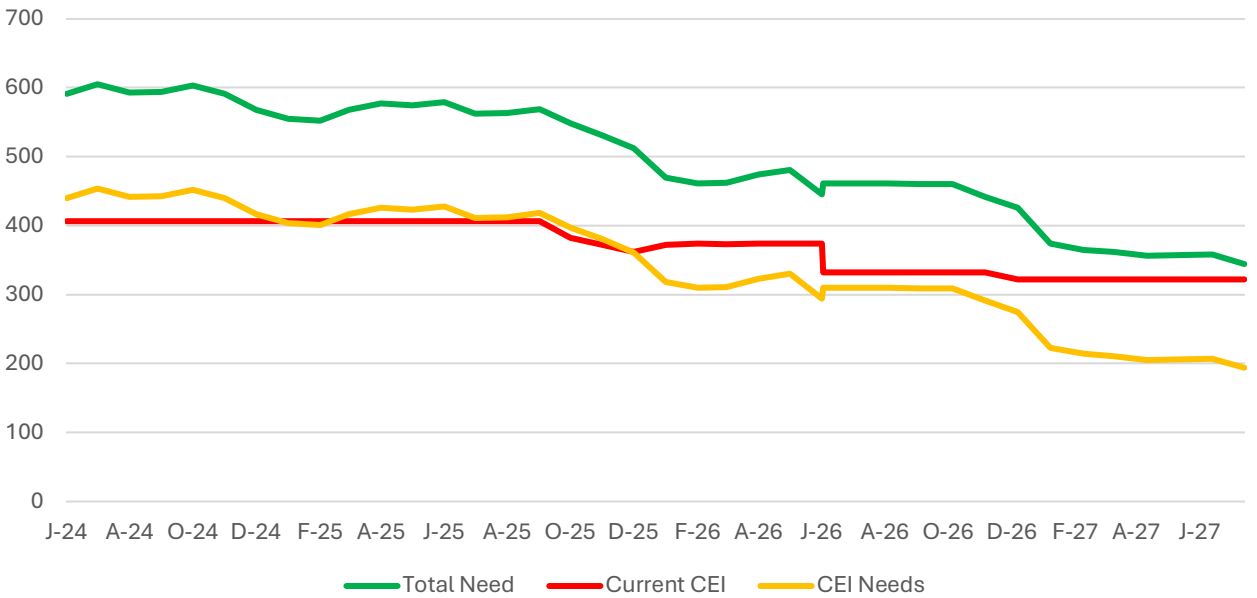
- Troy and Leila discussed upcoming projects and their timelines, including specific contracts and their expected durations. They also addressed the need for accurate projections and updates.
 - Discussed **Project Timelines and Accurate Projections**
 - Upcoming Potential Projects:
 - P-5715 Division 5 New Hope Church Road Grade Separation over CSX Railroad.
 - Construction Let Date October 2024
 - U-4758 Division 7 SR 1818 (JOHNSON STREET) / SR 1850 (SANDY RIDGE ROAD) FROM SR 1820 (SKEET CLUB ROAD) TO SOUTH OF I-40 IN HIGH POINT
 - Anticipated Construction Let December 2024
 - R-5759 Division 11 NC 115 FROM US 421 TO 2ND STREET. WIDEN TO TWO LANES WITH MEDIAN. CONSTRUCT BIKE LANES AND SIDEWALKS.
 - Anticipated Construction Let August 2025
 - I-5719 B&C Division 12 I-85 from Us 321 to NC273; Widen to eight lanes Combined with U-5800
 - B Section: Let Date July 2025 Anticipated Construction June 2026.
 - C Section: Let Date January 2025 Anticipated Construction July 2025.
 - U-5747A&B Division 5 SR 1635 - FROM WEST OF SR 1613 (DAVIS DRIVE) TO NORTH OF SR1637 (CHURCH STREET) IN MORRISVILLE. WIDEN TO 4-LANE DIVIDED
 - Anticipated Construction Let February 2026
 - **Specialty Contracts:** Troy and Leila addressed the need for specialty contracts for specific projects, such as railroad and signal jobs, and the importance of clear communication and planning.

Next Meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2025 at 1:00 pm.

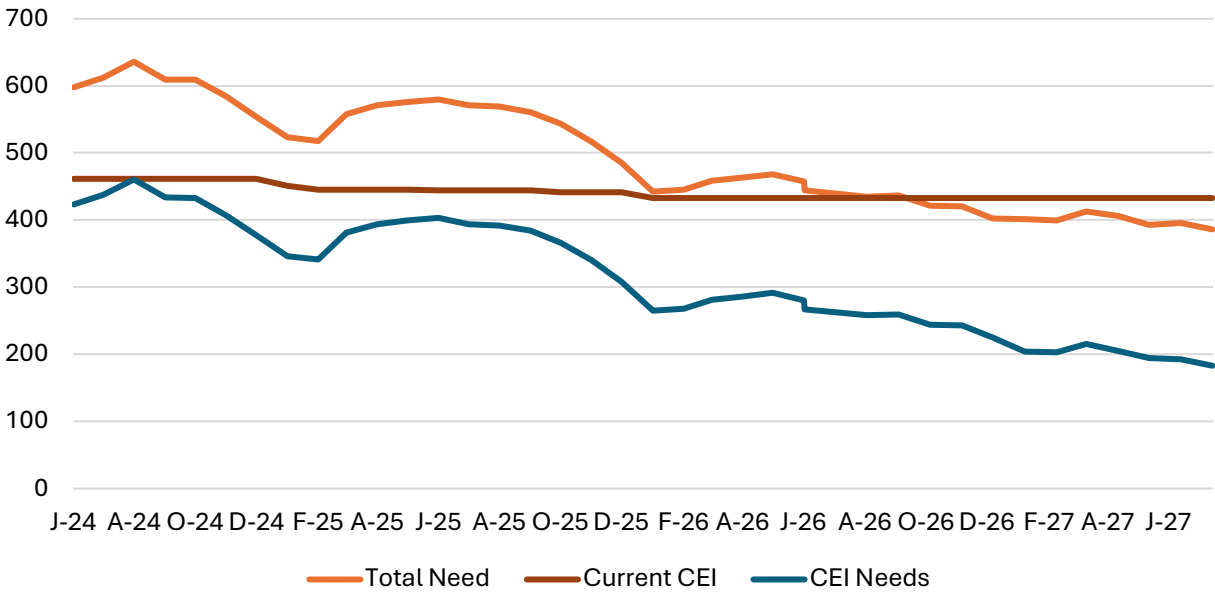
Statewide June 2024 - 2027



Region 1 (Div 1-4, 6) June 2024 - 2027



Region 2 (Div 5, 7-10)
June 2024 - 2027



Region 3 (11-14)
June 2024 - 2027

