

ACEC/Division of Engineering Services Structures Liaison Committee

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: December 12, 2008
TIME: 10:00 am – 12:00 am
LOCATION: Caltrans Division of Engineering Services
1801 30th Street, Farmers Market Plaza I
Sacramento, CA 95816

MINUTES:

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Self-introductions
- B. No changes to agenda.

II. REPORTS ON TECHNICAL TOPICS

A. *New Seismic Hazard Maps (Consultants to review methodology)*

Walt proposed that Paul Somerville of URS could help review the methodology. A timeline is needed. Caltrans will publish open solicitation letter to get second geotech to review the methodology.

B. *Accessing As-built Plans, Bridge Inspection Reports and Geotechnical Data in Caltrans Sacramento*

Sudhakar Vatti & Wei discussed the issue and recommend to remove the item from the agenda.

Action Item: Remove this topic from the Technical Topics Agenda.

C. *Expansive Soil Exclusion Zone*

New guidelines coming – no timeline. Interim guidelines are posted on OSFP website under “Current Issues”.

D. *Seismic Design of Utility Openings in Bridges*

Caltrans has issued letter with interim guidelines for low risk/high risk utilities to be posted on OSFP website under “Current Issues”.

E. *MSE Wall Connection/Anchorage*

- Issue #1: Caltrans feels the current guidelines are sufficient. No additional guidance on anchorage design – have to write specifications if more than 50 year design life is desired.

- Issue #2) Need research on seismic but this is a nationwide issue and beyond the scope of this committee.

Action Item: Remove this item from from the Technical Topics Agenda.

F. *Implementation of CTBridge User Website/Discussion Forum*

Paul Young and Paul Mayer found the following issues:

- Would the site be open access for all (including Caltrans) or just ACEC members?
- Staff and resources would be required to monitor and maintain the site
- RBF and PBS&J cannot host the site for similar reasons

Suggested solution is to use “Eng-Tips Forums” website. Site is a host for engineering technical topic discussion forums such as the one desired for CTBridge. Cost is \$10/month. Website host monitors for spam, etc. so minimal resources required to maintain the site

The question was raised as to the status of Caltrans hiring a third party to market and distribute CTBridge. Rob stated that the decision was made not to pursue third party distribution or support because Caltrans doesn’t want to influence the pursuits of CTBridge competitor’s software.

Another question was raised as to the availability of upgrades for CTBridge. New licenses that are being issued have a newer version of the software. Mike’s recollection was that Caltrans policy was that all “bug fix” upgrades would be mailed to CTBridge license owners but software feature upgrades would have to be purchased with a new license.

It was asked if it would be possible to establish a maintenance fee (one time or yearly) to pay for upgrades.

Action Item: Jay to establish CTBridge forum on “Eng-Tips Forums” website. Note: this action item has been completed, see the following link...

<http://www.eng-tips.com/threadminder.cfm?pid=1434>

Action Item: Mike to research Caltrans policy for upgrades for CTBridge.

G. *Type R Approach Slab Pay Items*

Walt suggested an informal meeting between consultant and Caltrans specification writers to discuss these type of issues.

Jim noted that the goal is for all projects delivered to OE by July 1, 2011 to be in 2010 Standards (new plain language style standard plans and specifications). The new Standards will published online by late summer of 2010 and hard copies will be out at the end of 2010. Updated guidelines for foundation reports to come out in spring.

Action Item: Walt to contact John Stayton at Caltrans to discuss. Will likely want 10-12 consultants to participate.

III. UPDATES

A. ACEC Updates:

1. Wei stated that in reviewing the charter, it seems that more should be updated than just the name change from CELSOC to ACEC. He suggested that a subcommittee should be set up to look at the entire charter document and look for possible revisions such as rotation of committee members (consultant side) or establishing technical subcommittees that would report back to the main committee.

Action Item: Wei to distribute charter to consultants to field input for format of committee membership.

Action Item: Jim, Wei, Mark Reno and Tony to form subcommittee on structure of committee/subcommittees.

Action Item: Wei to present draft of new charter by next meeting.

2. Tony stated that a meeting has been set up to identify what items can be streamlined by his staff that will help invoicing.
3. Technical Topic Suggestions:
 - a. LRFD design issue of shear and moment interaction producing very high shear requirement for longitudinal steel (controlling longitudinal steel design) especially on high skew bridges.

Jay noted that this is indeed a significant issue and it is currently being researched at the University of Nebraska (for Caltrans). One problem is that the Caltrans amendments specify the use of the old shear modification factor for skew bridges but the LRFD specifications do not account for those higher modification factors.

Jim noted that Caltrans is publishing research notes on this issue.

Action Item: Jay to submit letter describing the design issue to Mike Keever.

Action Item: Sudhakar to add link to “Caltrans Research Notes” on OSFP website.

- b. LRFD Design Workshop: Workshop on general design issues that presents LRFD modeling issues but cannot be focused solely on CTBridge – other LRFD software vendors need to be included.
 - c. CIDH Pile Workshop: Focuses on details, construction and LRFD with the goal of improving constructability. Tom Ostrom stated that Caltrans has this presentation in the past and it’s ready to roll out. Suggested to use this as a “test workshop” as a means of working out the logistics without having to create the presentation.

B. No updates.

C. (Kevin)

- Potential project delays due to the economy (bond funds shortfall)
- Also potential for acceleration of projects due to stimulus package
- Caltrans OE is considering options such as waiving environmental requirements or eliminating reviews
- DES service will not expand at Diamond Bar due budget impact
- Looking to update Memo to Designers 1-3
- NTSB will recommend improve/formalize QC/QA process
- New Caltrans LRFD Amendments (4th edition) to be published next month. Memo will be released with implementation dates
- Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) – Caltrans has three good materials available on ABC
- Golden Guardian: Need strategy for how to interface w/ consultant side for responding to emergencies. Discussions and investigations are continuing to combine efforts of Caltrans and consultants, no set target date.

Action Item: Sudhakar to add link to the three ABC materials on OSFP website.

D. (Vong)

- Geotech West has an upcoming \$750k project
- Other projects coming up in lookahead report include 9 contracts – 3 in building, 3 in METS, 3 in geotech. Two contracts are for \$700k, others all <\$500k
- \$7M Building contract coming
- Statewide inspection contract expires in March. New contract will be two \$8M contracts instead of one contract.

(Tony)

- It has been asked why DES has short lookahead report as compared to Districts. Currently working to extend lookahead report to 6 -9 months
- District is requesting for small businesses to be able to sit with DES to determine size of contracts

E. (Tom)

- Statewide meeting on Nov. 20th
- Looking for projects to be constructed in 2009
- Discussing waiving CEQA/NEPA for accelerated projects for stimulus package
- Looking at P-3 or design build contracts

- Caltrans working w/ Sacramento State University to establish formal negotiation guidelines
 - Cognizant audit being formed. Federal Highways will likely suspend mandate for audit requirements
- F. (Tony) DPAC is considering an increase of the \$1M threshold to trigger audit because 99% of all contracts are >\$1M and this wasn't the intent.

IV. 2009 MEETING SCHEDULE

March 27 (Sacramento)
June 26 (Dist 7)
September 25
December 11

ATTENDEES

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