

**ACEC / Caltrans Division of Engineering Services
Structures Liaison Committee**

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 27, 2011

TIME: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MAIN LOCATION: California Department of Transportation
Division of Engineering Services
1801 30th Street, Room 102 (Farmers Market 1 Building, 1st Floor)
Sacramento, CA 95816

VIDEO CONFERENCE LOCATION: District 12 Office, Room 333
3337 Michelson Drive, Irvine

MEETING MINUTES: Y. Nien Wang/Brian Hansen

I. Call to Order

- A. Self-introductions
- B. Changes to Agenda

II. Status/Reports on Technical Topics

- A. Tracking and Publishing Consultant Questions (John Fujimoto)
 - *Discussion was centered around procedures for sharing responses from technical specialists within Caltrans. Currently technical specialists are fielding questions both from Caltrans internally and consultants. If responses were publically available it may help to reduce the demand to the technical specialists. It was suggested that consultant questions should come through ACEC and OSFP. It may be possible that ACEC and/or OSFP can provide the response based on previous requests and eliminate the need to contact the technical specialist directly. Mark Reno inquired if Caltrans has a procedure for tracking internal questions. Barton Newton responded that ultimately the goal is to share the information Caltrans has on their Intranet. Discussion then focused on categorizing responses so it would be easy to find the responses desired. Barton indicated that he would like to align the responses with technical specialty areas. Tom Walker suggested establishing a subcommittee of both Caltrans and ACEC members to discuss establishing a procedure for tracking and publishing technical questions. It was then suggested that it may be possible to utilize the CTBridge blog or other engineering forum. Two final considerations, maintenance must be considered and it is important that whatever procedure is developed, it must capture internal questions as well.*
 - **Action Item:** Tom Walker will lead a subcommittee to establish a procedure for tracking and publishing technical questions. Subcommittee members will include Tom Walker, Mark Reno, Shawn Cullers, Majid Sarraf and Sudhakar Vatti.
- B. Caltrans transition to Autocad Civil 3D (Tony Marquez)
 - *Jesus Mora provided an overview. It's been a long endeavor to replace CAiCE. Caltrans was required to issue RFP to solicit vendors. In June they awarded*

contract to Autodesk. It is a 6 year contract including Civil 3D, AutoCAD, a storm and sanitary package, a GIS package and a small piece of a structures package. Training approximately 4000 engineers. Ultimately Caltrans is moving towards 3d modeling. The goal with Civil 3D is to consolidate all data within one package. Caltrans has developed an implementation plan. Autodesk is going to configure Civil 3D to include Caltrans design and drafting standards. This should be completed by the end of 2011. Autodesk will be developing manuals for Caltrans. Training will start early next year with 73 key users with representation from the entire state. Overall training will take 4 years, approximately 1000 trained each year. The department will continue to support CAiCE for current projects. Microstation will still be the drafting tool for project delivery. Ultimately the department will be able to accept the Civil 3D files as part of submittal but for now the department still requires Microstation submittals.

C. ADA Construction Tolerances for POC's (Lam Nguyen)

- *Lam indicated that the department has pulled the MTD on the subject. The current practice is to not design to the maximum allowable slope. Barton indicated that there are ongoing discussions with Division of Design because it is an overall design issue. The department may actually need to publish their best practices. It is not intended to be a formal policy. It was also discussed that this issue affects more than just POC's. Lam indicated that ROW cost must be considered. If the design is going to be pushed to the limit then there should be additional language within the project specifications to account for increased tolerance requirements.*
- **Action Item:** *Sudhakar to post bulletin on ADA issues on Caltrans website. It is not formal policy but rather a reference.*

D. Technical Questions

- P/S losses for camber calculations (Tom Walker/Sue Hida)
 - *Sudhakar Vatti indicated that there has been discussions with concrete subcommittee and they agree that there is a discrepancy and there needs to be an amendment issued. Not certain about when the amendment will be available.*
- New standard plans for CIDH piles
 - *Jack Abcarius indicated that there is a discrepancy between number of bars shown on Caltrans Standard Plans and inspection requirements within specifications for 24" piles. For the 2010 Standard Plan piles, the number of #8 bars has been reduced from 8 to 6 which will satisfy the clearance requirements of the inspection pipes. Sudhakar indicated that the original design was conservative, 6 bars satisfies all strength requirements.*

E. SDC Technical Questions – Sample Abutment Details (Mark Mahan)

- *Mark Mahan has provided sample abutment details. Majid Sarraf had some questions about the detail. He indicated that the detail could only accommodate 1 to 1.5 inch of displacement. There is still some question about quantifying the stiffness of the shear key. Majid suggested working with EQE to develop a solution based on mechanical models. Majid indicated that the current details don't help to quantify actual response of bridge. Mark Reno suggested that the issue be documented through a position paper that could be submitted to Caltrans so that they can review the issue. The paper should include details of desired outcome and problem statement.*

- **Action Item:** Majid Sarraf to prepare a position paper to be submitted to the department.

F. District Approvals of Bridge Site Data Submittal Package (John Fujimoto)

- *Sudhakar Vatti indicated the BSDS guide will be updated. An approved BSDS is required prior to Type Selection. A question came up if a consultant has a current Type Selection should they be using the existing or new BSDS? Sudhakar stated that the Liaison Engineer should be consulted for direction. Lam inquired if the issue has been vetted and discussed with District Engineers? Sudhakar indicated that Liaison Engineers will be contacting District PM's. Lam indicated that if there is a Type Selection coming up, keep all parties informed. Remind the Liaison Engineer to discuss the requirements with District to make sure everybody is on the same page. Walt LaFranchi indicated that it isn't clear who actually approves the BSDS. Caltrans indicated it should be District PM to approve the BSDS.*

III. Updates

A. DES Updates (Lam Nguyen)

- *Overall in the department there have been a few changes:*
 - *Sri Balasubramanian used to be Chief of Division of Equipment and has now been moved to the ADA Program.*
 - *Larry Orcutt of Research and Innovation will step in as Chief of Division of Equipment.*
 - *Coco Briseno of Division of Transportation System Information will step in to take over for Larry in Research and Innovation.*
 - *Jim Appleton will take over for Coco in Division of Transportation System Information.*
 - *Christina Ferraz is replacing Mark as new principal for Alameda and Contra Costa County.*

B. DES Updates: Memo to Designers, Technical Research, IQA (Barton Newton)

- *Charles Sikorsky provided an update on research programs:*
 - *Seismic program, started 11 agreements for this fiscal year, bulk of them accelerated bridge construction. Several related to confinement models, looking at hollow columns. 4 projects in holding pattern, rocking of bridge foundations and others looking at isolation for accelerated bridge construction.*
 - *There is a new call for submissions, total of 34 proposals to review. The bulk of submissions came from the first announcement.*
- *Barton Newton provided further updates:*
 - *Developing 5 year plan for standards and guidance. Pretty well defined in 1st year what will be accomplished. Years beyond the first year aren't as clear. Need to know where to spend limited resources. Focus on earth retaining systems (LRFD), geotechnical guidance (LRFD), accelerated construction, QA/QC of concrete(changes to construction specs in projects to have contractor perform more quality control in projects), software strategic plan (how to use, how to manage) and CA Amendments.*
 - *The department will likely adopt 6th edition of AASHTO LRFD, skip 5th edition.*
 - *Updated XS sheets are now available.*

- *MTD 20-12 for bridge widening is available to help clarify some recent issues. Please provide feedback to the department.*
- *MTD 20-7 is close to being completed, focuses on slab bridges.*
- *MTD 20-8 is also close, focuses on bridges that cross faults.*
- *Guidelines for steel bridge members 12-2 is close to becoming available.*
- *Construction Specs: Specs development crew is very lean. Looking at three areas, QA/QC concrete, micropiling and splicing of prestressed precast concrete girders. Other topics include rapid setting concrete patches.*
- *Nationally:*
 - *T10 is now discussing A1035 MS steel at national level. Caltrans is formulating a position.*
 - *Preservation: Big conference next week on bridge management and preservation. Subcommittee on highways just adapted a new provision for bridge preservation. For additional information google TSP2. Number of local agencies may be using this as a way to extend service life of existing bridges.*
 - *Load Rating: T18 is considering changing rating factors for doing not only permit ratings but legal load ratings. LFD method will stay the same but LFR will potentially be changed in Manual for Bridge Evaluation.*
 - *Lastly, QA/QC for design. FHWA H-08-17 is a Bridge QC/QA document that FHWA has prepared and will likely be adopted within AASHTO. Barton will provide copy of this document. Its origins are I35, it is guidance, not mandatory.*
- **Action Item:** *Sudhakar Vatti to send electronic version of FHWA QA/QC guideline to Tom for distribution.*

C. ACEC Updates

1. New ACEC Co-Chair & Secretary for 2011 (Tom Walker)

- *Yung Nien Wang to take over as co-chair in January.*
- *Mark Ashley questioned who is going to be the new secretary? In following protocol, the secretary would be whoever is going to be chair next time. Todd Goolkasian would be next if we follow progression.*

2. Invoicing on Caltrans Contracts (John Fujimoto, Mark Ashley)

- *There was a meeting some time ago, but the effort to find ways to streamline the invoicing needs to continue.*
- **Action Item:** *Mark Ashley to initiate the discussion with John Fujimoto.*

3. Technical Workshops

a) Plain Language Specifications Training Opportunities

Item was kept on agenda because of potential opportunity for consultant training. In house training is ongoing. Tony Marquez indicated he wasn't sure about the plans for industry training. Tom noted that at the last meeting it was discussed that it would be difficult in this economy. Lam indicated that Caltrans is going to put together a recorded training. By December the first module will be available. This should be something the department is able to share with industry. Maybe after the modules have been distributed to industry it may be good to get feedback on where it

could be improved or what may be useful for industry. Rob Stott indicated he could try and get an outline.

- **Action Item:** Rob to try to get an outline of the training and provide at the next meeting.

4. ACEC/DES Structures Liaison Committee 2010/11 Annual Report
(Tom Walker)

- *Draft of annual report went out, if there are any comments let Tom know. Lam mentioned that looking back at Charter that was approved last year, it was discussed that we would be working collaboratively between DES and ACEC. If somebody from within Caltrans reviewed the annual report, it appears that everything is being done by Caltrans. It's important to highlight that we are working together. Questions aren't specifically for ACEC's benefit, it's beneficial to both groups.*
- **Action Item:** Tom to update annual report and submit to Lam

D. Project Development Oversight/Updates/Contracting Opportunities (John Fujimoto)

- *Sudhakar Vatti indicated that there are four contracts going out:*
 - *Two Geotech contracts, 6 million dollars each.*
 - *One product development A/E, technical services.*
 - *One A/E contract for modeling for Earth quake Engineering, Complex modeling.*

E. Statewide Committee Report (Tom Post)

- *Local Programs Update:*
 - *FHWA has new guidance rules on consultant selection and negotiations for local agencies. More information at the following link: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/172qa.pdf>.*
 - *The \$100 thousand threshold for contracts being exempt from Brooks Act has increased to \$150 thousand.*
 - *Caltrans is working on developing a flow chart and dispute resolution procedure for consultant when undergoing negotiations under the new risk based audit approach. Caltrans requested a meeting with a consultant subcommittee to discuss their proposed solutions.*
- *ACEC and IDC Task Force Report Update, Contract Issue Discussion*
 - *Fee Escalation Task Force: DPAC postponed final resolution of the task force meetings.*
 - **Action Item:** Tom Post will obtain the document from Tad Widby of the ACEC Statewide Committee and distribute it to this committee.
- *Mark Ashley inquired about cognizant audit, specifically questions from local agency. How do they initiate that audit? Lam indicated that the Department may need to talk with local programs. Mark Reno indicated it is still initiated through local programs. Mark indicated that the ceiling is 1 million dollars. Anything under 1 million dollars doesn't have to go under audit.*

IV. 2012 Meeting Schedule

January 20th (Friday)
April 26th (Thursday)
July 26th (Thursday)
October 25th (Thursday)

Distribution:

Robert Pieplow, Caltrans
Sudhakar Vatti, Caltrans
Rob Stott, Caltrans
Mike Keever, Caltrans
Tony Marquez, Caltrans
John Stayton, Caltrans
James Davis, Caltrans
Barton Newton, Caltrans
Dolores Valls, Caltrans

Walt LaFranchi, URS Corporation
Wei Koo, WKE
Mark Ashley, TY Lin International
Thomas Post, HNTB
Jay Holombo, TY Lin International
Nien Wang, HNTB
Jim Frost, Simon Wong Engineering
Tom Walker, Mark Thomas & Company
Jack Abcarius, Nolte Associates
Chandu Shenoy, Nolte Associates
Mark Reno, Quincy Engineering
Steve Tayanipour, Huitt Zollars
Todd Goolkasian, Cornerstone Struct. Eng.
Greg Zeiss, HDR
Majid Sarraf, TTG
Ayman Salama, TRC
Kevin Coates, WKE
Syed Kazmi, URS
Po Chen, Mark Thomas & Company
Sunny Jhutti, AECOM
Kevin Thompson, Arora
Patricia Preston, Apex Civil Engineering

**ACEC/Caltrans Division of Engineering Services
 Structures Liaison Committee**

SIGN IN SHEET

Date: Oct 27, 2011

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Video Conference Sign In Sheet

ACEC/Caltrans DES
Structures Liaison Committee meeting
Attendee List @ D12 10/27/2011

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