

ACEC/Caltrans Division of Engineering Services Structures Liaison Committee

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 26, 2013

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

I. Call to Order

- A. Self-introductions
- B. Changes to Agenda
- C. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (2/1/2013)

II. Old Business

- A. Technical Workshops: (Shawn Cullers)

1. ACEC/Caltrans Winter Training Seminar
Winter Training date is set for June 7th and the satellite locations are confirmed. The notice and agenda are being finalized and should be available. Going to send out a save the date notice next week. The agenda will be coming out later. Time frame will be the same. The online modules will be available prior to the meeting.

2. Structures Design Seminars

- a) Overview of Policies and Procedures

The consensus of the group was that it would be nice to start off with changes to the policy and procedures. OSFP could summarize some of the key changes to what Consultants and Local Agencies should be doing. Can they highlight some of this information? Would a 2-hour webinar be helpful? Mark suggested that ACEC try to come up with possible agenda items and then work with OSFP to build the format for the webinar. That way it's a collective effort which really meets the objectives of the charter

- b) Design/Build

Ray Tritt has some Design Build classes that he has done with HQ. Consultants can possibly take the lead in terms of putting their resources together to help educate both Industry and Caltrans. This could be a lessons learned and

informative session on what some of the key items may be. ACEC will take the lead on this.

Barton emphasized that they are certainly looking for some assistance in terms of pulling together information to help share the load, resources are tight and so it's difficult to try to pull information together. Barton went on to explain that sharing the upcoming information doesn't change the contractual situations with consultants and Agencies. Mark pointed out that there are ways to incorporate changes by completing design exceptions. Also Mark pointed out that Local Assistance often requires designs to look at changes, for example a new SDC may have to be evaluated and discussed with the Structures Local Assistance Engineer, before they sign off on it. One of the issues with Design Build is that there are different requirements per different agencies and organizations. That is why Caltrans is not necessarily stating that there is only one method for this work to be done. That is why this seminar more focused on what things went well and what things didn't go well. Make it an information sharing.

Mark & Mark (TY Lin) want ACEC to take lead on both of these workshops. Lam pointed out that for the items where we are seeking Caltrans input from, it shouldn't be just listing the items. ACEC should try to describe their current understanding of the topic or issue. Nien suggested that ACEC have a follow-up conference call. Mark asked that Caltrans provide a representative for this effort. Lam agreed for Sudhakar to be that person for Design Build. For the Policy Procedure it may require having someone from Barton's shop going forward.

3. 2010 Specifications Training

Looking at September October. Nien is working on pulling this together. Bob Sennett from MGE will working on this task. Looking to have a specific project on how to build the specifications. Will be seeking input from everyone on the committee to make sure we are heading down the right path. Mark suggested that Ruth Fernandez be utilized to review the course information as its developed. Lam agreed to this and suggested that we include Rob Stott's construction group to see if there are any information learned from on-going projects. Jim Davis also suggested that Ophelia's group might have some things to share. Nien is looking to follow the same framework for the 2003 class that was done. ACEC will take the lead o pulling it together and Caltrans will review materials and course work.

III. Recurring Business

A. DES Updates (James Davis)

James Davis provided the following Caltrans staff updates:

HQ

Chief Engineer - Karla Sutliff

Division Chief Environmental Analysis - Katrina Pierce

Division Chief Research, Innovation and System Information - Coco Briseno

DES

*Deputy Division Chief, Structure Design - Mike Keever
Acting Structure Design Office Chief, District 4 - Majid Madani
Acting Office Chief, Program Management in PPRM - Esther Morris
Acting Office Chief, Project Control and Support in Office Engineer - Doug Nguyen*

District 7

*Deputy District Director Program/Project Management - Gregg Magaziner
Acting Deputy Director Design - Amarjeet Benipal
Deputy Director Construction - Mark Archuleta*

District 8

*Deputy District Director Program/Project Management - Syed Raza
Deputy District Director Traffic Operations - Jesus Galvan*

In Project Management Office Engineer is moving out of the PS&E business. District OE will now be taking that work on. So structures will be working with the DOE to complete the PS&E packages. HQ OE will only be advertising and awarding projects.

James also informed the committee that this week two Caltrans employees died rock scaling outside Redding. ES had been doing the rock climbing training Statewide.

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

*Barton went over a summary of on-going technical efforts and update of various manuals and publications. (This is attached as a separate file)
There are a number of initiative tasks going on for the purpose of improving bridges and highway structures to save money or address a high risk area. Looking to do things that have a positive change. Cost is defined as Total Cost. Could address construction, long term maintenance and development. Trying to meet customer's needs. Customers expect that when they drive across a bridge it's there, and the performance of that bridge keeps it in service. Trying to get all departments trying to work collectively or more wholeistically. Barton talked about the Caltrans Structures Strategic Direction Document that they are developing. This helps Caltrans focus on their needs, and development areas. Caltrans has owner operator role as well as developer. To develop this document they had a charter and pulled together Local Assistance, Maintenance and Engineering Services. There was a steering committee which had the Division Chiefs that included a District Director, Tom Hollenbeck. Also had a task force. Barton has green lighted to try distribute internally and externally and seek comments. Executive Committee at Caltrans has requested to distribute only to existing groups. There will be a central clearing house for comments. They will collect all the comments and respond to them in a matrix format. It's a strategic plan for the asset. There are objectives with short term and long term tasks. There will be a prioritization of the tasks and the things that need to*

get done. This document has really gotten the discussion going on the design floor. This lines up with MAP-21 and the intent of this is looking for the right solution for the right situation.

Tom Ostrom says SDC 1.7 is in draft form

Barton informed the committee on updates to the Caltrans manuals. The attached DES Quarterly Tech Update provides the items that were discussed.

Barton suggested that the Caltrans Quarterly Internal Report from his group probably needs to be sanitized before it can be distributed to the committee.

Caltrans is currently going through a quality review process of the Memo To Designers and Bridge Design Aids to determine if they are still required and should be updated. They have been going through Structure Policy Initiative, starting off with what is one. Then how are we going to implement them and change them. Going to follow High Design Manual, permissive, suggested, mandatory. If it's mandatory then a design exception will have to be completed. There needs to be guidance on how you go from modeling/engineering into the code checking. So there are some elements within the scope of the engineer for record that are not specified.

Caltrans is looking to develop a roadmap for these efforts. Barton looking internally at Caltrans to see who can lead and direct this effort.

There are a couple policies about ready to be changed

- *Early age deck cracking. Going to do a pilot program to see how they can change or implement some guidance.*
- *Grouting Specification – Trying to go with the PTI recommendations and more of the National Spec, which includes more specs, higher qualifications and option pre-packaged grout.*
- *QA/QC for concrete in pilot phase*

Barton noted that resources for Corporate work are going to be getting more scarce. So Barton will need to know what is on their plate and what are the most important issues they need to work on. Information requests need to be prioritized. Construction Documents, Specifications, XS sheets, Safety Aspects are all very high priorities. National engagement not as high of a priority. They are going to have to stop doing some things in order to reduce resource expenditures. Caltrans is looking for ways to work together with ACEC to try to get some things done.

Madjid wanted to point out that if there are changes and requirements to AASHTO there is still the decision as to whether it's necessary to implement or make changes to it and that requires some cost. It shouldn't be pushed down to the specific project level decisions, but makes it tougher to try to determine how to incorporate.

Now that 2010 Specs are going, in only a year, they will be looking to incorporate the 2015 Specs and start trying to develop and refine those.

Caltrans not currently utilizing consultants on the review of revisions to policy memos. Barton looking to possibly utilize ACEC to review draft documents prior to finalization.

Structures lessons learned database is on internal website

C. ACEC Updates

1. Revision to ACEC/DES Structures Liaison Committee Charter for Annual Report – Fiscal Year to Calendar Year (Shawn Cullers)

Shawn made proposal to change Annual Report submission date from the State Fiscal Year to Calendar Year. The proposed change to the charter is:

ANNUAL REPORT

*The Co-Chairpersons shall prepare an annual report describing the issues considered by the Committee, action recommended and the results of such recommendations, as well as ongoing and future issues to be addressed by the Committee. The annual report will also include goal approved by the Committee to continue to better this collaborative effort. The annual report will be approved by the Committee at its first meeting in the following ~~State fiscal~~ **calendar** year.*

Voting members supported this change.

D. Project Development Oversight/Updates/Contracting Opportunities (Lam Nguyen)

- *No contracts on the design side.*
- *Source inspection for statewide Design-Build Projects, excluding Gerald Desmond and District 8 Projects which have already gone out.*
- *Looking at replacing one of the Construction Structures Inspection contract, probably 6 months out.*
- *All opportunities could be shown in the lookahead report.*

Cognizant audit that is in place for several years. There is a “most frequent issues” document from audits and investigations. Lam asked if this committee wanted a presentation on it. Mark suggested that it didn’t need to be done with this group. We just need to share it with the consultants. Audits are doing some presentations on the road. Tiger Grants V is now out there \$475 million. No less than \$120 million in rural areas. Criteria is not much different than prior grants.

Mark requested that once things become more stable on the MAP 21 and the implementation, is; what effects will there be on the Structural Local Assistance side? How is this going to be implemented and what effects will there be on the program? It would be good if Local Assistance could give some updates once they have a better understanding. Looking like 1 months’ timeline shorter and smaller document for the boilerplate only dealing with the Federal Contracts.

E. Statewide ACEC Committee Update (Mark Reno)

Workload again looks down 2 1/2 %.

ACEC is now in agreement with the revised Local Assistance Procedures Manual Chapter 10, and that issue is probably wrapped up.

There was no progress on Standard of Care, Conflict of Interest, and Additional Named Insured. After our PLC meeting, the issues were taken to a meeting with Malcolm, and subsequently an ad hoc committee has been formed to try to make progress between meetings

Safe harbor rate program being offered for the very small consultants. California is pilot program and so that is in the works.

Cal Mentor continues to grow and build. Question was should we have a person in the District 59, Lam is the Man to be the point person for District 59 and will be more involved in the Districts.

IV. New Business

No New Business

Meeting was closed at 11:55 am.

V. 2012 Meeting Schedule

~~February 1st (Friday)~~

~~April 26th (Friday)~~

July 26th (Friday)

October 25th (Friday)

Distribution:

Robert Pieplow, Caltrans
Sudhakar Vatti, Caltrans
Rob Stott, Caltrans
Mike Keever, Caltrans
John Stayton, Caltrans
James Davis, Caltrans
Barton Newton, Caltrans
Dolores Valls, Caltrans
Lam Nguyen, Caltrans
Phil Stolarski, 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, URS
Patricia Preston, Apex Civil Engineering