

# ACEC/Caltrans Division of Engineering Services Structures Liaison Committee

## MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** July 25, 2014  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
**MAIN LOCATION:** California Department of Transportation  
Division of Engineering Services  
1801 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 102 (Farmers Market 1 Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
**VIDEO CONFERENCE LOCATION:** District 12 Office, Room 333  
3337 Michelson Drive, Irvine

### I. Call to Order

- A. Self-introductions – See sign-in sheets.
- B. Welcome Caltrans New Committee Lead
  - M. Reno introduced Richard Hartzell as the new Caltrans Co-Chair.
- C. Changes to Agenda – None.
- D. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (4/25/2014)  
Approved. R. Hartzell will post.

### II. Old Business

- A. Technical Workshops:
  - 1. 2010 Specifications Training – Update

J. Abcarious said that the prior 4-hour training session showed that it is very important to know the Standard Specifications and Revisions. He and the other other ACEC attendees are willing to provide training to other consultants. It was agreed that training would be worthwhile and to do physical training sessions in Nor Cal and So Cal (2 sessions). The instructors would use Caltrans training materials and expand on it. ***J. Abcarious will take the lead and flush out an outline for the training.*** Could try the CEAC meeting room or the Caltrans Lannatt Street training room for Nor Cal. The County of LA or the HNTB training room could be used for So Cal. ***N. Wang will handle the logistics for So Cal.***
  - 2. Structures Design Build Seminars – Update

M. Keever thought there would be interest in working together further on this and it is included in his “contract for performance.” S. Rajendra is willing to participate. Paul Chung is the lead for Caltrans Structures Design. M. Keever suggested assembling representatives from other groups to work together on the scope. W. LaFranchi suggested a White Paper laying out the issues, lessons learned and possible solutions from all interested parties and also to determine what comes out of it (policies, etc.). ***M. Keever and S. Rajendra will discuss the approach to setting up a Task Force. M. Reno will get back to M. Keever on the ACEC representative.*** N. Wang suggested Paul Chung.
  - 3. Structures Policy & Innovation Webinar

M. Reno thanked Caltrans for their resources on this. Received good feedback with about 100 people on the webinar. ***M. Reno will look into Certificates of Appreciation for the***

**Caltrans trainers.** Collecting trainer presentations to distribute to attendees. M. Reno will collect questions on the presentation and pass them along to Caltrans.

M. Reno mentioned the ADSC committee that works on various issues including CIDH pile construction. **M. Reno will provide a briefing to this committee.**

### III. Recurring Business

#### A. DES Updates

M. Reno brought up an issue with the transition to the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of AASHTO based on the Office Bulletin by Barton Newton. He has noticed that Structures Local Assistance reviews have not been consistent with the transition policy. It was discussed and agreed that the Office Bulletin provides sufficient flexibility for the transition.

S. Rajendra reported that Rob Stott is planning to retire by the end of August and that Barton Newton is leaving Caltrans for a new opportunity. Vong Toan will take over OSCM. S. Rajendra is taking a temporary assignment in HQ as Assistant Division Chief for Program & Project Management starting in early August. Eric Fredrickson separated from CT at beginning of July. Also, DES has fully implemented electronic bidding statewide.

#### B. DES Updates: Memo to Designers, Technical Research, IQA

The seminar on Structure Policy and Innovation, Strategic Direction & Implementation was held on July 23. M. Reno reported that the attendees were a mixture of designers and Project Managers. B. Newton's presentation covers the technical updates. **Barton has a few recently published MTD and BDP that he will provide for these minutes.**

B. Newton commented on the California Bridges & Structures Strategic Direction. It includes objectives, strategies and actions. DES is currently developing implementation plans for five of the twelve objectives. Barton thought it would make sense to have ACEC involvement in the implementation. It is being forwarded to Agency for their information. It will be uploaded to the Internet. Barton will provide a pdf of the document and he welcomes feedback.

B. Newton noted that it is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AASHTO. They have new Strategic Plan and intend to work less in silos with more integration between functions. There is discussion about "performance-based practical design." Sustainability is a new interest (social, economic and environment components). Caltrans is looking at this as well. Caltrans has brought on a new Deputy level person for Sustainability.

DES has decided not to adopt the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications. DES has decided not to adopt the new AASHTO LRFD Specification for Signs, Luminaires and Traffic Signal Supports until it has been tested further. It is a major changing including increasing the size of sign panels. This will be a major design and Standard Plans effort.

Mint Lynn has been replaced by Joey Hartmann as the Director of Bridge Technology for FHWA.

B. Newton is Chair of the Technical Committee on Bridge Security. They are implementing a scalable approach to incorporating blast loads into design. Barton has proposed including other hazards such as seismic for assessment.

AASHTO is working on condensing the research on bridge preservation into something useable for bridge designers.

T9 has been working on post-tensioning issues, particularly improvement of grouting where quality has improved and the problems are probably largely solved. Florida is looking at using wax like in Europe.

There are a number of research proposals from T11 such as performance-based seismic design. M. Keever helped develop problem statement. Also guidelines for the use of stainless steel.

There will be an ABC conference in Florida December 3-5, 2014. There will be a couple of Caltrans presentations. ABC is gaining momentum including within Caltrans.

DES is working on a QMP based on ISO9000 principles. This will cover all structures. Also using Risk Assessment more in projects.

M. Reno said that Caltrans is reluctant to release design backup for the XS Sheets. B. Newton said it is public information and may be released on a case-by-case basis.

#### C. CT Abut Update

T. Ostrom said that Caltrans is still waiting for the copyright. They will be releasing new LRFD version in October. ***Tom will check on whether CTBridge licensed users automatically get all updates.***

#### D. Caltrans New Seismic Screening Method

T. Ostrom reported on this. State and local bridges have only been screened for seismic vulnerabilities once. There are additional bridges identified in STRAIN with potential seismic vulnerabilities. The Districts have gathered these and programmed them and they come to DES for strategy. There have been uneven outcomes from this. DES has pursued funding with OSMI to review the projects prior to District programming. We have now moved to Probabilistic Spectra with higher accelerations in certain locations and have more of an issue with liquefaction. DES has funded five PYs to re-screen the inventory with a new filtering system. They are looking at old retrofits and bridges under 300 feet. This includes 4,000 bridges. They plan to finish this year and issue a report.

There is another effort on liquefaction for 6,000 bridges using the Log of Test Boring and discretizing risk. Meanwhile, Caltrans is focused on wrapping up the local program.

M. Reno suggesting calibrating the new screening algorithm with actual HBP bridges that are being analyzed in detail for widening or rehab.

T. Ostrom offered to provide an overview of the new screening algorithm for this committee.

#### E. Project Development Oversight/Updates/Contracting Opportunities

S. Rajendra said that DES will have new office chief for SLA/OSFP (Lam Nguyen's former position). DES will be issuing an A&E RFQ for wastewater/cleanwater this summer (two geographic contracts). During fall DES will go out for structures construction inspection which will be geographic similar to the past.

#### F. New Consultant Selection Process Used By DPAC

J. Abcarius reported that there was a successful pilot in District 8 and they are planning a follow up pilot. Jack thought the selection was centered around the SOQ. The interview included no canned questions. The questions were based on each firm's SOQ. This process was well received by consultants.

#### G. Caltrans Load Rating Requirements

R. Hartzell reported that according to Kevin Keady, while there is nothing in Memos to Designers yet regarding the requirement to include load ratings, Caltrans is planning to move toward this in the future. There was discussion on the appropriate methodology for load rating depending on whether it is a new or existing bridge. **Richard said he would ask Kevin to provide a clarifying memo on this.**

#### H. Statewide ACEC Committee Update (Jack Abcarius)

J. Abcarius reported that although the pilot on consultant selection was well received, Caltrans decided to include some canned questions in interviews.

ACEC has prepared new language in the indirect cost rate which has been sent to Caltrans legal for review.

Prevailing Wage Rate: There is now a subcommittee dealing specifically with the prevailing wage rate issue. This has been confusing due to State versus Federal regulations. Per Diem is also an issue.

**Jack will follow up with G. Antonucci on any other topics.**

### IV. New Business

#### A. Early Age Deck Cracking Pilot Programs

This is being done by Caltrans with TransLab and industry to look at different admixtures and fibers. M. Reno asked how we get data back from this program. B. Newton said there are other pilots going on such as use of ASTM1035 steel for non-ductile members and grouting for post-tensioning. Barton suggested obtaining results from the state bridges and possibly simply including it in the Specifications. The pilot materials may not meet Caltrans specifications so they may not be able to be used on federal aid projects. Could have Craig Knapp (Concrete Committee Chair) present to the committee on the pilot in the future.

#### B. Caltrans Education Committee

These sessions are being opened up to a limited number of consultants. The next one is 1:45pm, August 20 at TransLab. The topic is bridge railing design and type selection. B. Newton suggested a sign up to ensure that there are not too many attendees. Barton will provide a maximum number to M. Reno. The first session is recorded and put on the Intranet site. Caltrans needs to discuss whether they can make it available outside. Permission from presenter is required.

#### C. PCI West Conference

The conference (formerly PCMAC) will be held on November 18, 2014.

M. Reno suggested that if any consultants have technical issues for the committee provide a write up to present to Caltrans and include a suggested resolution. Mark thinks there are still issues with administering the 2010 Specifications. B. Newton said that if the issues are administrative in nature,

they should go to Statewide Committee. Mark said his issues are more technical items that affect administration.

M. Reno also said the new liquefaction guidelines are creating issues. He is curious about how guidelines are being implemented. T. Ostrom said there are some challenges with it. Tom said the guidelines are somewhat of a work in progress and have not been officially adopted yet. The Caltrans geotechnical team is working on this. Tom offered to do a briefing and suggested we may need a Task Force.

T. Ostrom noted that more dampers are being used with requirement to do testing at UCSD SRMD. They need advance notice to schedule this.

**V. 2014 Meeting Schedule**

- ✓ February 7, 2014 (Friday)
- ✓ April 25, 2014 (Friday)
- ✓ July 25, 2014 (Friday)
- Oct. 24, 2014 (Friday)

**Distribution:**

Robert Pieplow, Caltrans, DES  
Rob Stott, Caltrans, SC  
Mike Keever, Caltrans, SD  
Tom Ostrom, Caltrans, EQE  
Sue Hida, Caltrans, SPI  
Barton Newton, Caltrans, SPI  
Dolores Valls, Caltrans, SMI  
Vong Toan, Caltrans, OSCM  
Phil Stolarski, Caltrans, GS/METS  
Shira Rajendra, Caltrans, PPRM  
Richard Hartzell, Caltrans, OSFP

Mark Reno, Quincy Engineering  
Mark Ashley, TY Lin International  
Jay Holombo, TY Lin International  
Nien Wang, HNTB  
Jim Frost, Kleinfelder/Simon Wong  
Wei Koo, WKE  
Jack Abcarius, NV5  
Chandu Shenoy, NV5  
John Woelfel, HNTB  
Steve Tayanipour  
Todd Goolkasian, Cornerstone Struct. Eng.  
Shawn M. Cullers, Cornerstone Struct. Eng.  
Greg Zeiss, HDR  
Majid Sarraf, TTG  
Ayman Salama, TranSystems  
Todd Lambert, TRC  
Syed Kazmi, URS  
Mike Bianucci, Mark Thomas & Company  
Kevin Thompson, URS Corporation  
Patricia Preston, Apex Civil Engineering  
Walt LaFranchi, URS Corporation

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Walt LaFranchi, URS Corporation

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## SIGN IN SHEET

Date: July 25, 2014

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