

ACEC-SC Transportation Committee Meeting – 2019 Meeting 1

Date/Time: February 7, 2019 / 2:00 PM
 Place: Michael Baker International
 2nd Floor – Bella Vista Room
 700 Huger Street
 Next Meeting: May 16, 2019
 Attendees: Open to all ACEC-SC Member Firms
 Distribution: Available to All ACEC-SC Members

Call to Order and Introductions:

Melvin Williams opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, and requested each person present introduce themselves with affiliation and participation in ACEC-SC.

SCDOT Update:

Melvin Williams introduced John D. Boylston, PE, Director of Preconstruction for the SC Department of Transportation. John provided an overview of the activities of SCDOT:

- John reported on the *State of the SCDOT* address Secretary Hall delivered to the state senate sub-committee on 2/6/2019. John made available handouts for some of the information Secretary Hall shared with the sub-committee.
- In answer to the question “What gaps still exist?”, John allude to the program expanding into off-interstate widening projects.
- John provided some details of the success of SCDOT’s 10-Year program now underway: 10-Bridge projects completed last year; 15 selections made for new projects; 12 bridges in District 2 contracted by the design-build method of delivery.
- John provided an update on developments in the SCDOT procurement process. DOT was refining the 2-tier selection process. The approach to capacity/workload scoring was being reviewed. What he alluded to as the “Virginia Model” will be coming to the ACEC-SC/SCDOT Procurement Committee for discussion in the near future. Lump Sum contracting is on the radar screen and being evaluated. Multiple selections from a single proposal is being revisited as a potential way to add efficiency. He noted that DBE %-goals are creeping up, as SCDOT needs to increase DBE participation to meet its goals. To help with resource limitations, SBE’s will be engaged more formally, to help meet part of the federal goals. John noted that a system of pre-qualifications for consultants was not something presently being considered by SCDOT.
- John closed by thanking the committee for the invitation and offered to keep encouraging DOT interaction, with meetings and presentation as frequently as monthly.

Melvin noted it was good to remind ourselves of the ACEC-SC mission statement as we start the new year of meetings:

“The mission of ACEC-SC is to promote and protect the business interests and professional standards of engineers in the state of South Carolina; and to improve member firms' ability to profitably provide quality services to their clients.”

2018 ACEC-SC/SCDOT Partnering Committee Co-Chair, Emily Swearingen, provided a summary report of 2018 activities. She highlighted some of the main points:

- She addressed the “Safety During Construction” initiative and how that begins in the design office.
- She noted attendance was a minimum of 50 members at each of the 4 meetings.
- She complimented to ne SCDOT staff for how quickly and well-connected they had become to the ACEC-SC/SCDOT partnership.
- She thanked everyone for their participation in the annual conference in December noting 480 attendees and 30 sponsors/exhibitors.

Melvin reported on the AGC safety training program. He planned to meet with AGC to determine if ACEC could participate.

Melvin mentioned the Tri-County Tech 2-year construction technology degree that is being developed as a new career training path.

Mid-Level Designers needs a nomination for co-chair. Program continues to be successful with excellent turn-out at each presentation. About a 50-50 split in attendance between SCDOT and ACEC-SC is the norm.

Melvin requested individual committee reports:

- Design-Build: Brice Urqhart reported the committee is very active with a lot going on. SCDOT is trying to release four design-build projects per year. Several projects are in various stages of development:
 - US 1 over I-20 Interchange Improvement
 - I-26 Widening MM 85-101
 - Carolina Crossroads
 - I-85 over Rocky Creek Bridge
 - Closed and Load Restricted Bridges Replacement Package
 - I-26 over SCLRR, US1, and SC302 Interchange Improvements

- I-526 Widening MM 11-18 (Lowcountry Corridor)
 - I-20 Over Wateree River and Swamp Bridge Package
 - I-85 Widening MM40-51
 - I-85 Widening MM51-69
 - I-526 Widening MM 18 -30
- Brice described the previously discussed “NEPA Shape” approach to the environmental document. This approach defines a larger NEPA footprint to provide the design-builder more freedom in developing economical solutions. Debate is on-going as to whether the starting point should be a completely blank canvas, or whether DOT should provide the alternatives used to develop the larger footprint. The design-builder would evaluate 3 interchange alternatives, then refine to one, for which FHWA is prepared to issue “operational acceptance” with the IJR/IMR following later.
 - There was discussion concerning a master agreement for utilities that was referred to Utilities Committee and Design-Build Committee for joint investigation.
 - Brice noted the SCDOT initiative to investigate DOT performing ROW acquisition on Design-Build Projects. If this moves forward it will reduce some of the work (and bonding capacity needed) for the contractors.

Environmental Committee had no report.

Traffic Committee: Ricky Ward noted request for comments on traffic manual, but that comments link had a bug and wasn't responding.

Road Committee: Randy Roberts reported meeting is planned for end of February. Several topics are slated for discussion:

- Constant Contact system for receiving design updates. Everyone encouraged to sign-up.
- Potential for having regularly scheduled annual training on design manuals.
- Standardizing submittals for QC'ing using the BlueBeam software package.
- Sealing of as-built plans. Whether advisable or legally possible.
- Standardizing half-size border to 11 x 17, rather than 11 x18.
- Standardizing full size border to 22 x34

Hydraulic Design/Stormwater Management Committee: No report.
Right of Way Committee: Has initiatives started on as-builts with design-build sub-committee and on standardization templates.
Bridge Committee: Preston Felkel reported on committee discussions concerning seismic provisions of GDM Version 2.0 (2019) and the plans to transition to AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications 8 th Edition.
Survey Committee: No report.
Geotechnical Committee: No report.
Professional Services Committee: Emily Swearingen report that committee was studying lump sum contract use, invoicing issues, and grouping of projects for advertisement.
<p>Executive Director's Report:</p> <p>Adam Jones addressed on-going legislative issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint and Several Liability Bill that may expose the profession to greater liability in the event of a lawsuit.• Registration by Comity bill.• Potential for Engineers having to register as lobbyists to provide advice to clients.• Potential for the pipe bill to reappear.• Ongoing attacks on QBS selection requirements. <p>Adam reminded the committee of upcoming events:</p> <p>Engineering Excellence Awards – February 5th, 2019 at the USC Alumni Center on Lincoln Street Wednesdays at the State House. Engineers from member firms are invited to join Adam to meet their representatives at the statehouse on Wednesdays to show support for engineering issues. Call Adam for details.</p> <p>ACEC-SC/SCSPE Winter Meeting - February 12, 2019 at Seawell's on Rosewood Drive.</p> <p>ACEC-SC Annual Planning Retreat - March 15-17, 2019 The Westin Poinsett in Greenville.</p>

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Melvin noted the March 26th and 27th dates for the SCDOT Highway Conference.

Also noted:

Future Transportation Meeting Dates:

5/16/19, 8/1/19, 11/7/19

Future Partnering Meeting Dates:

2/14/19, 5/23/19, 8/8/19, 11/21/19

ACEC/SCDOT Fall Conference:

December 3, 2019

Other Business: None

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

Respectfully Submitted,

David W. Taylor

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Attachment: None

c. None, but available to All ACEC-SC Members