

**KDOT/ACEC-KS Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Topeka, KS**  
**February 22, 2016**

**Approval of Agenda**

- Approved

**Approval of last meeting's Minutes**

- Minutes approved

**Action Items**

- Ron brought on Contracts Committee
- Have not invited anyone from KTA to join yet, Jim K. to work on that before our next meeting
- Mr. Hoppe added to Liaison Committee

**Status of KDOT Funding**

- If Jerry makes it to the meeting, we'll ask him for update, Jim gave his perspective
- House and Senate have passed budgets but neither address last week's court ruling on school finance
- Many things still up in the air
- Budget put cap on KDOT bonding, limited to 18% currently at 19%
- Governor has recently been given enhanced ability to move funds between agencies
- Still hearing from representatives that they can still use bank of KDOT if they need to fill funding holes
- Representatives relying on Efficiency Report, starting to discuss in various committees
- Secretary is supporting QBS regardless of the Alvarez & Marsal (A&M) Report
- Jim doesn't know that QBS recommendation has much support
- Hiring additional engineering associates is simply replacing some lost staff from attrition, not staffing up
- Jim also mentioned that KDOT was not replacing field technicians and would be outsourcing more inspection work.
- Last three programs KDOT averaged 70% outsourcing to consultants, plan to continue this level of outsourcing to consultants
- KDOT hoping that representatives ask for a dollar amount KDOT will be asked to save and not opening the report and picking specific items
- Area Engineers (AE) are supposed to be involved in projects from cradle to grave so closing Area Offices does not work well. AE face of KDOT at public meetings as well
- Many emergency services using KDOT radio system, KDOT not interested to give that system away.
- Bill giving companies eminent domain power to place cell towers in all public right-of-way. KDOT has been exempted but KDOT also oppose this bill.
- A&M made their final presentation on their study, over the next few weeks the agencies will make their presentation to the house on their recommendation.
- KDOT went through all recommendations and their thoughts
  - Recommendation #1 – Agencies should move to more aggressively consolidate operations and adopt best practices where possible. KDOT already doing this so doesn't see any changes from this.
  - Recommendation #2 – Eliminate Area Offices, moving administration to Districts and maintenance to sub-area offices. KDOT does not support this as AE's are face

of KDOT and are responsible to be local KDOT representatives on all projects from cradle to grave.

- Recommendation #3 – Replace some outside design engineering contractors with in-house staff. KDOT is not looking to replace consultants, only looking to replace positions they have lost and not been able to fill the past few years. This amounts to 20 engineers. Need enough staff to support/review the work consultants are doing. Plan to maintain the 70% outsourcing of work.
- Recommendation #4 – Sell underutilized non-passenger equipment. KDOT is already doing this and will continue to look at equipment that is underutilized and sell it off as they have been doing.
- Recommendation #5 – Institute right of way, access permits, driveway permit fees. KDOT does not have the current legislation to do this, not sure how they charge for permits.
- Recommendation #6 – Institute or increase sponsorship for rest stops, traveler assist hotline, roadside logo sign program, and motorist assist program. While KTA does utilize State Farm for motor assist program not sure KDOT is going to look at this very seriously.
- Recommendation #7 – Centralize DOT HR staff HQ with DOA. KDOT HR staff already moved to DOA but HR staff stayed in KDOT building, KDOT still pays for IT and HR even though they were relocated to DOA. HR and IT may be moved out of KDOT building to DOA.
- It was stated the bright side is that we do have federal dollars for the next 5 years. A question was asked if there was any fear of not being able to match federal funds and KDOT answered emphatically “No”, they would find the funding to match federal funds and position themselves for redistribution at the end of the year as they do every year. KDOT typically receives redistribution funds.

### **BLP Update**

- Federal funds as they apply to local programs will not change in regards to FAST ACT
- Even with concerns with state budget issues, BLP will continue to share 20% of federal funds and will continue that practice, currently this accounts for a little over \$70M/year
- Local share is currently being calculated and will be sent out over the next few weeks
- City connecting link program (GI & KLINK) big announcement coming about a “significant” enhancement to those programs
  - KLINK is a maintenance program (K1R)
  - GI is geometric improvement (K3R)
  - Big gap between KLINK and GI that will be coming out with funding
  - New program will be much more flexible “heavy rehab” (K2R)
  - Announcement coming March/April timeframe
  - Last year they increased the funding to KLINK
- Right-of-way acquisition on all federal aid projects will start requiring that you are certified as of July 1, 2016,
  - Those doing the acquisitions are not consistently meeting the Uniform Federal Relocation Act whether intentional or not KDOT seeing same problem year after year
  - To get certified have to go out to FHWA’s website to view video’s (total time is 35 minutes) working with LTAP to develop a test you will have to pass to get certified
  - Certification will start out as a onetime thing but keeping options open to see if we see improvements
- Local Bridge Program; over 2,000 structurally deficient (SD) on local roads most very small structures on low volume roads

- \$120K made available to replace bridge, if an agency would add a second bridge they'd get \$150K; first round very successful 77 projects from that program and also eliminated additional 34 structures
- KDOT going to have another round this year, waiting to see what the funding looks like after legislation is complete
- Call for projects, High Risk Rural Road, for FY 2019. They have done a three year program and will update yearly to have a rolling three year program.
- March/April connecting link call for projects as well as HRRR call for projects for FY2019 and Federal aid off-system call for projects
- ARTBA reports KS at 9% Structurally Deficient bridges
  - On NHS on deck area 1%
  - Statewide on deck area 3%
- In MAP-21 if more than 10% SD of deck area, then certain percentage of funding had to go towards bridges KDOT nowhere near 10% figure

### **FHWA Update**

- FAST-ACT passed fourth QTR 2015
- Fact sheets on website slowly coming out
  - Slower than usual having to go from FHWA up to Secretary then out vs coming straight from FHWA
  - Includes Freight program
- New Director Rick Backlund starting May 16, Nobert will continue to act as interim until then
- FHWA really impressed with KDOT BLP Local Bridge program

### **Contracts**

- David N. working on new procurement manual, attorneys currently reviewing
- KDOT is currently putting estimates for recent proposals
- Two new projects will be coming out soon; Traffic Engineering Study north Concordia & US169 & 175<sup>th</sup> Street
- All KDOT On-Call contracts are going to have an upper limit; for existing On-Call contracts the consultant will be given an upper limit to keep the contact active assuming the firm accepts the new upper limit; new federal rule requires that there has to be time frame and upper limit for total contract amount for that time period
- Will impact inspection On-Call contracts as well
- On-Call inspection started in 2013 for 5 years what you have already done and what you expect to spend over the remaining life on the contract
- If a firm would be coming up close to the upper cap, KDOT has the flexibility to raise the cap
- KDOT will continue all of their On-Call lists at this time but the ultimate plan is to reduce down to one On-Call list
  - Not everyone who is pre-qualified will be on the On-Call list
  - Want to keep the technical expertise
  - Used to have a limit of \$250K and that was bumped up to \$500K a couple years ago, KDOT not sure what the new limit will be.
  - Typically On-Calls are for small or emergency projects
  - Jim K. asked if the consultants felt KDOT was misusing the On-Calls and our response was we felt KDOT was using the On-Calls fairly for all firms
- Typical projects will be procured through LOL's so everyone can compete

### **Division of Engineering and Design Update**

- Signing and sealing electronic signatures; board of technical professions updating language, original was to stamp every sheet, KDOT opposed to this
- KDOT supportive of second sheet for additional stamps
- New bill does not give KDOT exemption to not have to sign and seal their in-house work, this would include geotech and traffic reports, standards, special provisions, etc...
- Pressing forward with 3D deliverable
  - Contractor will still be bound by sealed plans not 3D deliverable
  - Ultimately would like to get to point where 3D is part of “sealed” deliverable

### **Update from Consultants**

- Several members have expressed concern that KDOT does not make their own staffing assignments until February or March and by the time they do, all of the CIT classes are done and it can be very difficult if not impossible to provide KDOT with inspectors.
  - This year the March Basic Inspection Class has been cancelled because no one signed up but several members still don't know if KDOT is going to need help or if they are what help KDOT is actually going to need.
  - Also asked if District/Area offices have had issues filling their inspection On-Call positions in the past. Sue said she has never heard this was an issue.
- On page 49 of the State Efficiency Report was Recommendation #3 – Free up working capital by paying invoices on Day 30. This was geared more as an overall State recommendation and not KDOT, has KDOT been asked to look at this? KDOT does not have any plans on waiting until Day 30.

### **Legislative Update**

- Scott not in attendance today
- Trying to finish early this year due to going long last year and election year; Jim said he has heard they are wanting to limit the amount of time on off year with putting together two year budgets

### **KDOT/ACEC Partnering Conference**

- Approximately 250 in attendance, about 50/50 split
- 96% conference met expectations
- Conference October 10, 2016
- Secretary going to hire an aviation director
- Secretary very interested in 3D
- Very well received by KDOT

### **Other Business**

Send out electronic invite Outlook for future meetings