

MINUTES
ACEC/KDOT PARTNERING COMMITTEE
MAY 10, 2016
WICHITA, KANSAS

Present were Tyler Glissman, Jim Kowach, David Nagy, Mike McKenna, Brett Letkowski, Joe Drimmel, Scott King, Mandy Anderson, Rusty Simerl, and Scott Heidner.

It was moved and seconded to approve the February 22, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.

Kowach said they are still working on an updated contract procurement document. They have not shared it with consultants or FHWA yet.

Kowach discussed current levels of KDOT funding. There were additional sweeps from the highway fund. There is a court case on school funding being decided soon that could create the need for more state general fund money, which could create more risk for the highway fund. Existing projects are continuing, but lettings are on hold. The Governor still needs to cut \$100 million from the budget in the current fiscal year, and there has been no announcement on where those cuts will happen at this time.

Kowach gave an update on the Bureau of Local Projects. Ron Seitz is at another meeting. Most of the positive updates Seitz shared last month are on hold because of the uncertainty of the funding situation. Because of retirements/resignations/etc, they have lost several people. Michael Ingalls is moving to bridge design. Nelda Buckley is moving to corridor management. Ed Lewis has left KDOT. Amy Coon has come back to work at KDOT. Kelly Farlow has left KDOT.

Simerl gave the FHWA update. Their new Division Administrator will be here in late May. There are final rules from MAP-21 that will be released later this year. FHWA will work with states on implementation of those rules when they are finalized. There will be a review of the quality of KDOT and consultant inspection efforts later in the year. There are concerns about KDOT's ability to continue to provide the necessary dollars to match federal funding.

Nagy gave a contracts update. The prequalification committee met and will add a new category for environmental inspection, separating it from basic inspection. Two projects were released recently, a study north of Concordia and a project on 169/175th St. They are about to sign contracts on the freight and rail plan. There is a traffic center in Wichita that will probably require KDOT to use the on call list to adequately staff. The development of the new CMS system is just starting. They are working on next year's PE budget, but are largely in a holding pattern with current budget issues.

Kowach gave an update from Division of Engineering and Design. The new Lawrence office seems to be working fine. There is a new Director of the Aviation Division. They continue to move towards 3D design. They are providing the models three months before lettings so contractors can start looking at them. They have been actively recruiting engineers for the last couple years. Kelly Wallace, who heads the recruiting effort, is moving to western Kansas but will continue in the position.

Heidner gave an update on legislative affairs. The A&M recommendations were not accepted for the most part. There was legislation (SB 463) that would have stripped most of the funds currently dedicated directly to the highway program and routed them to the general fund, which was defeated. The local property tax lid legislation was passed, which will put limits on tax increases available to local units of government for infrastructure funding. There were several pieces of legislation that would have negatively impacted the Engineering Initiative Act, but all were defeated.

Kowach said KDOT will make changes to accommodate the KSPTB passing KAR 66-6-1 dealing with seals and signatures. Those changes will be rolled out in the future.

Glissman gave an update on partnering conference planning. They have a few more speaker slots to fill. The committee is still looking for a conference theme. Several topic suggestions were offered, which Glissman said he would take back to the planning committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.