

ACEC-NC Transportation Committee Meeting

Recorded By: Christine Goins, PE, CCM
Meeting Date: November 19, 2024 at 3:00 PM
Meeting Location: WK Dickson, Charlotte

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks, Will Letchworth
2. Guest Speakers, Travis Johnson, Will Snyder (CRTPO)
 - i. Guest speakers shared information about Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO), purpose, and upcoming projects, including NCDOT Prioritization 7.0.
 - ii. Discretionary grants program and IIJA funding were discussed.
 - iii. Regionally significant projects were highlighted. These included I-77 South Corridor Improvement (I-5718A), I-485 Express Lanes (I-5507), Steele Creek Road (U-5776A/B), US-74 (Independence Boulevard), and NC 73 (Multiple Locations).
3. Subcommittees
 - i. Construction and Materials, Philip Johnson
 - o Met with NCDOT on October 16, 2024. Industry meeting was held on October 23, 2024.
 - o Committee members were acknowledged.
 - o Communication for upcoming trainings has improved greatly. There will be three days of inspector training in 2025.
 - o NCDOT will hold Resident Engineer workshop in March 2025 in Greensboro.
 - o Western North Carolina recovery efforts were discussed. Assessment efforts are coming to a completion and contracting needs are beginning
 - o Divisions 11, 13, and 14 have a need for a total of 128 new technicians and engineers.
 - o Division workload and inspection needs were discussed. Projections show a decrease in needs in eastern North Carolina in year 3.
 - o Project-specific projects were given. There will be an increase in project specific with lower numbers of required staff than traditionally seen
 - o Next meeting will be January 15, 2025.
 - ii. Alternative Delivery, Jason Gorrie
 - o Subcommittee meeting with NCDOT was held on 11/12/24.
 - o NCDOT is doing a terrific job managing the increased workload they've encountered in response to WNC
 - o State legislature passed emergency legislation which removed cap of PDB (previously 5 ea at \$550M) and CMGC (previously 10 ea at \$650M).
 - o NCDOT has elected to manage emergency bridge replacements with traditional design build. NCDOT utilized existing list of shortlisted firms, and gave additional firms the opportunity to become shortlisted.

- NCDOT recently sent out list of first bundles which include 1-3 bridge sites each. NCDOT asked teams to rank their priority of interest. Once feedback is received, NCDOT will issue RFP to five firms per project. Submission timeframe is still unknown, but expected to be 3 to 4 weeks. Award will be based solely on price; technical score will not be considered. Subsequent bundles will be issued at an unknown pace.
 - 26 bundles currently with more bundles coming in the future
 - CMGC and PDB – Larger projects are being reserved for these delivery models. These are being selected based off of Division preference and envisioned scope. Draft RFQ for all four upcoming projects expected by 11/19/24; site visits will be scheduled November 25-26. Selections are anticipated in December 2025; they will be staggered to allow firms more opportunities.
 - Changes to anticipated list were shared:
 1. US-1 (U-5307A) has been delayed to August 2025 from March 2025. Toll Lane Feasibility Study is currently in progress; due in December 2024.
 2. NCDOT did not receive grant for R-2576 but MPO has approved P3.
 3. I-77 South – P3 approved as procurement model, NCDOT anticipates RFQ advertisement August 2025.
- iii. Project Delivery, Steve Smallwood
- Discussions have been held about whether Complete Streets would be incorporated into projects, and whether stream work would be incorporated. These are still being explored; described as “fluid.”
 - Digital Delivery – NCDOT has formed a working group in asset management to determine how to utilize digital delivery. Please send input.
 - Open X Sample set of 25% plans being provided in coming days via shared email distribution and technical services newsletter.
 - Next NCDOT Preconstruction Conference is tentatively scheduled for March 17-18, 2025.
 - Updated PDN Guidelines are on NCDOT Connect site; redlined changes are included. Interactive flow chart is supposed to be available, as well.
 - Workday manday estimate has not yet been updated to fully align with PDN; please notify NCDOT of any inconsistencies.
 - Roadway design exceptions – discussed authority of GESG reviews; decision forthcoming.
 - ORD Modeling – Updates modules are available on Roadway homepage. Date stamps will show when they were last updated.
 - Next meeting: February 26, 2025
- iv. Structures, Tony Laws
- Subcommittee met on 10/28/24
 - Upcoming bridge workshops were discussed
 - Upcoming steel bridge forum has been confirmed for February 27, 2025; agenda currently being assembled.
 - WNC – SMU said they appreciated all of the individuals who have reached out offering assistance. AD

- SMU's priority has been inventory of existing bridges. As of date of meeting, 2300 bridges had been inspected; 78 completely washed away, 11 missing spans, 102 approaches washed out, 55 had significant scour. At the time, 150 bridges were expected to need full replacement.
 - Moving forward, not intending to slow down or stop the bridge program. SMU is working with PMU on the assignments; Structures LSC will still be used for those assignments
 - SMU has not made determination about extension of SMU LSC for third year
 - Superstructure plans for timber bridges has been posted
 - Current corrosion policy in SMU manual is outdated and updates are expected in 2025.
 - Deck design tables are being designed currently; bridge design workshop will likely be held mid-2025.
 - SMU asked how the industry is implementing AI in the workplace, and how industry would feel about AI as a review tool. General feedback from subcommittee members was one of mistrust about AI.
 - Next meeting: February 10, 2025
- v. Multi-Modal Subcommittee – Emily Poole
- Aviation has been added to the team. There is a need for increased resources. Increase in funding from legislature, looking for industry firms to provide additional resources.
 - Ferry – Unique work and looking for firms with unique resources. Currently have RFLOI open for Vessel Construction Oversight.
 - IMD – Member firms have invoices lagging in payments; IMD is working on getting new tools in place, including AI for invoice review.
 - Rail – Busy with contracts
 - IMD On-Call and IMD SPSF were anticipated for advertisement in mid-November. There will be an IMD-specific SPSF contract; would like SPSFs to be prime and complete at least 50% of the work.
4. Legislative Update, Seth Poole
- i. State Update
 - Council of State split 5-5 between Democrats/Republicans
 1. Senate: Republicans maintain supermajority
 2. House: Republicans are 1-seat shy of supermajority
 - Disaster Recovery Act of 2024 (Parts I, II, and Part III is expected)
 - ii. Local Legislative Updates
 - Bond updates discussed
 - iii. Legislative Day 2025 – Date to be determined; reach out to Seth Poole if interested in participating.
 - iv. Next Meeting: January 14, 2025
 - v. Winter PAC Blitz – Supports ACEC National PAC
5. Joint Conference – Amy Faulkner
- Successful conference held on October 10-11, 2024

- Registrations from WNC attendees were able to be backfilled; therefore, conference attendance were not affected
- Deadline to download PDH credits is 12/31/24; these were emailed from ACEC on 10/15/24.
- Post conference survey – Only 77 responses were received; Amy encouraged additional feedback. Debrief meeting has already been held but they welcome additional feedback.
- Next Conference: September 23-24, 2025
- For those interested in helping with the conference, email Amy Faulkner and Jessica Hartong; they will evaluate committee roster and determine needs after identifying participants who will be rolling off.

6. Junior Board – Blake Bush

- Update on purpose and membership of board.
- Most recent socials on 10/28/24 were strongly attended.
- DP Connect – Aims to bolster networking with young professionals. 42 participants this year across Charlotte, Raleigh, and Wilmington
- Additional DP Roundtables being planned for early 2025; Charlotte and Raleigh locations will be offered.
- Junior Board of Directors Company Liaisons – New initiative which seeks point of contact at each member firm who are in the 7-15 years of experience range.

7. NCDOT Storm Response Update

- i. Correspondence from NCDOT will be shared with attendees/member firms.
- ii. Bi-weekly recurring call with NCDOT has been scheduled: Boyd Tharrington, Lamar Sylvester, Will Letchworth, Radha Swayampakala, and Mike Holder. Minutes from each meeting will be shared with member firms.
- iii. This gives member firms the opportunity to discuss any issues which may arise; please raise them to Will prior to meetings.

8. Open Discussion

- i. Tara Robbins provided update on Advocacy Toolbox, including PAC Blitz, and prizes for contributing. Tickets are \$50/each, and will be drawn at Raleigh holiday party.
- ii. Davis Diggs noted that ACEC as a whole has limited response to surveys; they are exploring alternatives to email blasts, including a specific point of contact who will facilitate responses.
- iii. All firms and members were encouraged to update their contact information.

9. Next Meeting – February 18, 2025 at 3:00pm at NC Rural Center