

ACEC / NCDOT JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS

January 17, 2024
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held on January 17, 2024 at 1:00 PM; In attendance were:

NAME	REPRESENTING	EMAIL ADDRESS
Max Buchanan	STV	max.buchanan@stvinc.com
Phillip Johnson	KCI	phillip.johnson@kci.com
Tim Harper	Michael Baker	timothy.harper@mbakerintl.com
Kevin O'Dell	Summit	kevin.odell@summitde.com
Jack Cowsert	ECS Limited	jcowsert@ecslimited.com
Marty White	Transystems	mwhite@transystems.com
Jason Salisbury	NCDOT - Division 6	jsalisbury@ncdot.gov
Brian Hunter	NCDOT – Materials and Tests Unit	bhunter@ncdot.gov
Todd Whittington	NCDOT – Materials and Tests Unit	twhittington@ncdot.gov
Jim Sawyer	NCDOT – Materials and Tests Unit	jcsawyer@ncdot.gov
Matt Hilderbran	NCDOT – Materials and Tests Unit	mrhilderbran@ncdot.gov
Michelle Gaddy	NCDOT – Construction Unit	mhgaddy@ncdot.gov
Wiley Jones	NCDOT – Construction Unit	wwjones1@ncdot.gov
Brian Skeens	NCDOT – Construction Unit	bcskeens@ncdot.gov
Troy Brooks	NCDOT – Construction Unit	tbbrooks2@ncdot.gov
Suzana Matta	NCDOT – Professional Services	smmatta@ncdot.gov
Tom Payne	NCDOT – Professional Services	tpayne@ncdot.gov

[ACEC Subcommittee Business](#)

Minutes from the October 18, 2023, meeting were approved.

[Training](#)

[M&T Training Updates](#)

- Jim Sawyer updated the group on M&T classes. The class schedule for first quarter of 2024 is online and most of the classes are full and QMS Roadway capacity is maxed out for the first quarter. The registration for second quarter classes will open in March 2024.
- Jim also reminded everyone that an Online QMS Recertification Class is available thru Stanly Community College.

Other Training and Scheduling

- Structure and Roadway training is upcoming. Firms received notification of structure workshop training and the firms are required to register their technicians. The roadway training workshop information was only distributed to Division personnel and the Resident Engineer is responsible for registering inspection staff for training so they can ensure coverage on projects.
- Spring Workshops will be hosted by M&T for Pavement Preservation. The Resident Engineers will be notified and should be registering CEI inspectors. The dates for these workshops will be sent out by M&T.

Discussion Items

Vehicle and Gas Mileage Rate Evaluations

- The Department has completed the December 2023 Vehicle and Gas Mileage Bi-Annual evaluation. NCDOT sent a memorandum dated Jan 3, 2024. The direct billing costs for two-wheel drive and four-wheel drive vehicles increased. The mileage rate for the four-wheel drive remained the same and the two-wheel drive mileage dropped from \$0.21 to \$0.20. The next evaluation will be December 2025.

On-Call Agreements

- The Construction Unit will be sending a memorandum to the Divisions directing them to start transitioning to the 2023 CEI contracts and close out all the 2020 CEI contracts by the end of March 2024. The industry will need to invoice any final costs still using the 2020 CEI contracts prior to that March deadline and identify the invoice as final.

CEI Technicians Salary Increase

- Industry representatives discussed problems with the retroactive pay billing. There has been some confusion on the retroactive billing. Some firms are billing all retroactive pay on one invoice, and some have provided month by month invoices for retroactive pay. Part of these invoices that were not processed monthly have been rejected and sent back to the firm while some have been paid. The Construction Unit will check with Fiscal to provide clarification on how this needs to be submitted.

CEI Billing for Training

- Industry representatives conveyed the industry concern to NCDOT about costs for upcoming training that the Department is conducting. The concern is the cost for the upcoming NCDOT/AGC Conference, the Structure Inspector Training and the Roadway Inspector Training. The industry has requested to be able to bill time for this training. Some Divisions have allowed billing for time, and some have not. Wiley Jones stated the CEI Guidelines outline that all the training cost is the responsibility of the firms.

- The industry representatives stated that we are not asking for billing associated with any standard training that is required for certification purpose as that cost is budgeted for. The issue is when additional training is required that was not anticipated (Roadway/Structure) and you lose the billable hours. Industry representatives asked would there be any consideration for virtual or a train the trainer option to reduce travel and costs in the future. NCDOT staff stated they are going to record this training for future use.

CEI Evaluations

- Industry representatives informed NCDOT staff that CEI evaluations are still not being distributed to the firms. The industry firms would like feedback from the Department through this evaluation process. The Construction Unit discussed the CEI evaluation process with Division Construction Engineers at their meeting December 2023. The Department stated they anticipate the firms will receive reviews soon.

Division Workload Forecast

- The Construction Unit is working to complete the Division Workload Forecast. The results of the forecast will be shared with the industry when completed. Wiley Jones stated that the preliminary review of the forecasts shows a substantial increase in CEI needs in the western part of the state and less growth projected in the eastern and central part of the state starting December 2024.

Project Letting Delays

- Industry representatives expressed the industry concern with projects being delayed on the letting schedule. NCDOT stated that the financial stability at NCDOT is in good shape and the delays are associated with a new review conducted 15 months prior to letting. During this review if projects still have utility conflicts and right-of-way issues the projects are being moved back to avoid delays while under contract. The goal of the Department is once a project makes the 12-month let list the project will be let on the scheduled date.

Upcoming Projects

- **HB-0001** Division 1 US64, Replace Bridge Number 7 over the Alligator River, Anticipated Construction Let July 2024, Anticipated CEI Advertisement February 2024
- **I-2513 BD** Division 13 I-240 / I-26 from north of SR 3548 (Haywood Road) to SR 1781 (Broadway Street); and from SR 1517 (Hill Street) to SR 1781 (Broadway Street), Anticipated Construction Let March 2024, Anticipated CEI Advertisement April 15, 2024

- **U-4758** Division 7 SR 1818 (JOHNSON STREET) / SR 1850 (SANDY RIDGE ROAD) FROM SR 1820 (SKEET CLUB ROAD) TO SOUTH OF I-40 IN HIGH POINT, Anticipated Construction Let December 2024, Anticipated CEI Advertisement August 15, 2024

- **I-5719** Division 12 I-85 from US 321 to NC273; Widen to eight lanes Combined with U-5800, Anticipated Construction Let November 2024, Anticipated CEI Advertisement October 2024

- The Anticipated Advertisement page has been updated.
<https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/ProfessionalServices/Pages/anticipatedadverts.aspx>

Next NCDOT/ACEC Meeting: April 24, 2024, at 1:00 pm