

ACEC/NCDOT
STRUCTURES SUBCOMMITTEE

Structures Conference Room C
February 5, 2024, 10:30 AM

MEETING NOTES

1) **Attendance**

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| a) Brian Hanks | g) Tom Koch |
| b) Trey Carroll | h) Domenic Coletti |
| c) David Stutts | i) Liz Lawes |
| d) Gichuru Muchane | j) Emily Murray |
| e) Terre Peterson | k) Jeff Loftus |
| f) Hoang Dieu | |

2) **Meeting Kick-off**

- a) Reviewed previously approved and published minutes from 11-6-2023 meeting. No additional comments on the previous minutes

3) **Bridge Design Workshop Series**

- a) Reviewed Bridge Design Workshop tracking spreadsheet
- b) Discussed next workshops to schedule –
- i) Confirmed that Topic T-056, Harkers Island, is the preferred next lunch workshop topic. Preferred timing would be late April or May 2024, at the McKimmon Center. Trey Carroll, Ahmad Ighwair, and/or others from SMU would be the main presenters; Trey will also check if someone from Balfour Beatty would be interested in presenting. Domenic Coletti will ask Jessica Hartong at ACEC to check on availability of the McKimmon Center and send possible candidate workshop dates to Trey.
 - ii) Topic T-064, Perquimans Movable Bridge, was identified as the desired lunch workshop topic for fall of 2024. Domenic Coletti will reach out to David Ragan of Hardesty & Hanover about his interest in presenting. Possible dates would be in the September 2024 timeframe.
 - iii) Topic T-057, CMGC Project Delivery, was identified as the desired lunch workshop topic for winter of 2025 (Jan/Feb timeframe). Liz Lawes will continue to coordinate with Nicole Brown about presenting on this topic.
 - iv) Topic T-061, NCDOT Corrosion Research Project and SMU Corrosion Policy Updates, was identified as the desired lunch workshop topic for spring of 2025 (Mar/Apr/May timeframe).

4) **Training Opportunities**

- a) PCI Bridge Design Workshop
 - i) This workshop has been confirmed. Domenic Coletti participated in a call between PCI and ACEC on February 1 to discuss specifics.
 - ii) The workshop will be a full day event at McKimmon Center on March 5, 2024 (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM).
 - iii) The cost of registration will be \$130/person and will include lunch as well as morning and afternoon snacks, drinks, etc.
 - iv) PCI provided a draft agenda for the Workshop. The Structures Subcommittee thought the agenda looked good.
 - v) Brian Hanks requested that someone ask PCI if they would like input from the Structures Subcommittee and/or others on questions for the Panel Discussion; Domenic Coletti will forward the request to PCI.
- b) The timing of future PCI and NSBA workshops was discussed. Everyone agreed that it would be desirable to have one full day workshop per year, alternating between PCI and NSBA (PCI one year, NSBA the next year, etc.). In the past, the goal was to do this in the fall of each year, but as it has worked out the PCI workshop will be in the spring of this year. Most of the PEFs feel this is probably better for consultants in terms of having better access to training budgets earlier in the year and being able to send more attendees in spring vs. fall. Also, scheduling these bigger, full-day workshops in the spring avoids competing with the big, full-day ACEC/NCDOT Joint Transportation Conference which is typically scheduled in the late fall each year. Domenic Coletti will contact Chris Garrell of NSBA to discuss moving the next NSBA Raleigh Steel Bridge Forum from fall of 2024 to spring of 2025.
- c) Other training opportunities.
 - i) NCDOT/NC GO!/NC Chamber Fifth Annual N.C. Transportation Summit, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 21-22, 2024 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC
 - ii) WTS:
 - WTS Luncheon April 9, 2024
 - WTS Annual Conference is May 6-10, 2024, but only a few members attend.
 - WTS Go Gala May 16, 2024
 - WTS Luncheon June 26, 2024
 - iii) NCLUG
 - 2024 Winter Conference: February 20-21, 2024, 8:30AM to 5:00PM, McKimmon Center
 - CLEAR Lunch and Learn February 29, 2024 (Factors Affecting Constructability of Alternative Intersections and Interchanges)

5) Anticipated PEF Opportunities

- a) David Stutts reported that last year's prescreened projects are currently being implemented into the program; he expected that most projects will be programmed by around the end of this month/early next month. The first step in the process involves SMU determining who is best-suited to manage the project: PMU vs. Division. Most secondary route projects will go to Divisions; for Interstate and US Highway projects SMU will decide PMU vs. Division. SMU will recommend a PEF when they send each project to PMU or Division; SMU's determination of which PEF to recommend will include consideration of workload.
- b) David Stutts also discussed several topics related to PEF plan submittals:
 - i) SMU's PEF Evaluation System is starting to be used more regularly; as more and more data on PEF performance becomes available, it will be used by Divisions, PMU, SMU, etc. to help choose PEFs for each project.
 - ii) PEFs will generally receive an evaluation either for each submittal or for the project overall (the NCDOT PM will choose whether to provide evaluation with each submittal or with the project overall). SMU is typically trying to provide an evaluation for each submittal.
 - iii) When submitting through Sharepoint, keep the QA/QC form in the same folder as the submittal itself.
 - iv) David is collecting feedback and input on the QA/QC forms. Send any comments on glitches, etc. to David.
 - v) The PEF only needs to submit the QC form (not the QA form). NCDOT will fill out the QA form during their review of the submittal.

6) Technical Topics

- a) Recent revisions to manuals, standards, etc.
 - i) Gichuru Muchane announced that NCDOT SMU has posted the 2024 Standard Drawings and 2024 Standard Special Provisions to the SMU website.
 - ii) Gichuru Muchane noted that the updating of standards to OBD for current projects was addressed in a recent NCDOT SMU Policy Memo ([V8 DGN MIGRATION TO OPENBRIDGE](#), dated November 28, 2023); the memo outlines NCDOT's expectations and allows leeway with regard to the appearance of text fonts, etc. He also noted that SMU will only fully update individual standard drawings to OBD format when there is change to the actual content of the standard.
 - iii) PEFs were advised to check with the project geotechnical engineer to see if they need to update previously prepared Foundation Recommendation Reports to NCDOT GEU's current format prior to letting. It was noted that NCDOT GEU is still making various changes to their preferred format for these reports.
- b) Liz Lawes asked if NCDOT SMU is requiring the use of a specific version

- of OBD. She noted that versions V10.10 and V10.12 do not work well together. David Stutts responded that there was not currently a preference or requirement. David and Brian Hanks noted that NCDOT is setting up a group under the direction of Glenda Gibson to better establish OpenX version control within NCDOT.
- c) Upcoming revisions to manuals, standards, etc.
 - i) Gichuru Muchane reported that NCDOT SMU is still working on updates to the NCDOT Structure Design Manual chapter on Corrosion and the chapter on Walls.
 - d) Digital Delivery, OBD/Open X, and ProjectWise implementation.
 - i) Digital Delivery Implementation – Brian Hanks noted that NCDOT has a Digital Delivery working group that is actively working on various digital transformation initiatives, but that this is a long-term effort.
 - ii) OBD/Open X – David Stutts stated that any project that will be letting in 2024 can still be done in V8, but in general project scheduled to let after the beginning of 2025 should be done in Open X; David noted that there exceptions may be granted on a case by case basis for older projects that have had their letting dates delayed. David noted that this timeline was worked out with Technical Services, so Roadway and other disciplines should be on a roughly similar timeline.
 - iii) FIB Girder Standards – Gichuru Muchane and Trey Carroll stated that there was no update to report; NCDOT SMU is working to incorporate FIB girders into their in-house BDS bridge design software soon. NCDOT SMU has a new table of maximum overhang width limits for FIB girders that can be provided to PEFs on request; NCDOT SMU can also provide the latest version of the in-progress NCDOT FIB girder standards to PEFs on request.
 - e) Research project updates.
 - i) Brian Hanks reported that precast prestressed concrete channel beams that had been previously repaired using a post-tensioned FRP repair method developed through an NC State research project will be subjected to laboratory testing to evaluate their strength after a few years in service. The bridges with the repaired channel beams were being replaced and the repaired channel beams were salvaged for testing.
- 7) **Open Discussion/Other Topics**
- a) NCDOT Contract unit is becoming more insistent about having all contract documents in hand 14 weeks prior to letting; NCDOT SMU historically has allowed submittal as late as 8 weeks prior to letting. For projects with railroad coordination this is even more of a concern due to the length of time needed to secure railroad agreements; Rail Division is asking for final plans 9 to 10 months prior to letting. PEFs were advised to be aware of this when developing project schedules, regardless of who is managing the project (i.e., SMU, PMU, Division).
 - b) Next meeting (May 13, 2024) will be the last meeting before Tom

Koch and Domenic Coletti rotate off the Structures Subcommittee. Domenic will reach out to ACEC staff (Meredith Houston) and ACEC Transportation Committee (Allen Pope) to see what the process will be this year for identifying the incoming Structures Subcommittee Members.

- c) Anup Shah of Arcadis is supposed to be in the 2nd year of his three-year rotation as a member of the Structures Subcommittee, but has been absent for the past several meetings; it is believed that he had relocated out of state with Arcadis. Domenic Coletti will reach out to ACEC staff (Meredith Houston) and ACEC Transportation Committee (Allen Pope) to ask about options for replacing Anup.

8) **Next Meeting: May 13, 2024**