

## Meeting Summary

Subject: ACEC/NCDOT Multimodal Subcommittee Kickoff Meeting

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Date: Friday, August 23, 2024

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Location: NCDOT Highway Building Rail Conference Room # 509 / Microsoft Teams Virtual

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Attendees	Julie White	Will Letchworth
	Brennon Fuqua	Allison Anolik
	Greg Keel	Betty White
		Emily Poole
		Robbie Kirk
		Suzanne Young

- Introductions
- Overview of ACEC/NC, Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), transportation committee, and subcommittees
  - The subcommittee can be used as a conduit for open and honest conversation and a resource to push out and solicit information. For example, can facilitate industry review of policy updates before rolling out, or engage a wider audience.
  - Legislative committee handles outreach, lobbying, and state/federal legislative issues.
    - Can coordinate with legislative committee on roadblocks, needs for additional funding, legislative changes (state/federal), etc.
- Subcommittee members
  - Group decided NCDOT Aviation (Becca Gallas) would be included in the subcommittee moving forward. With General Assembly putting \$300 million in aviation, NCDOT identified a need to build more capacity in industry.
  - Cat Peele and Jeremy Remme to be included in subcommittee meetings from Ferry Division in addition to Jed Dixon moving forward.
- Current industry concerns, challenges, and best practices
  - Locally administered projects included in the STIP lagging in delivery, potentially tying up funding for others. NCDOT Divisions can support delivery upon request from LGA, but NCDOT Divisions (including IMD) do not always have resources/time to manage and deliver the projects.
  - NCDOT Work Codes
    - When selecting work codes for RFLOIs, municipalities sometimes lack understanding of requirements to obtain codes and impact on responses.
    - Newly created codes not sent out to industry firms.
  - SPSF/DBE – How to best advance goals of engaging SPSF/DBE firms?
    - Firms that qualify may not have time to obtain certification.

- SPSF applicable to NCDOT funded projects for preconstruction/consulting and DBE designation applicable to NCDOT funded construction projects, and other municipal work (municipalities utilize HUB requirements as well).
    - Industry needs more SPSF/DBE firms and to build a pipeline of qualified firms as successful SPSF/DBE firms outgrow the designation.
  - Industry trends across the country – funding matches for rail/multimodal projects
  - Complete Streets reviews
    - Legacy projects may not have incorporated complete streets
    - Future incorporation of transit (BRT) into project reviews moving forward
    - IMD does not usually see projects at each stage of design
    - Need for engineering judgement / context sensitive solutions
  - NCDOT advertisement process
    - Over the past couple of years, some firms have experienced difficulties with the Department’s online submittal system. These firms have been disqualified due to late submittals toward Rail Division advertisements. It should also be noted that the rest of the participating firms (and there were many) submitted successfully and were considered during selection. Furthermore, Rail Division hosts information sessions prior to advertisements. During these sessions, it is made very clear that firms experiencing problems should contact Robert Stroup prior to the deadline to notify him of issues. If firms comply, they greatly increase their chances of being considered. Nonetheless, if there is an inexpensive solution, it would be nice to simplify submittal such that all firms can make the deadline.
    - Anticipated Advertisements webpage is helpful but more advance notice to put together teams is needed (particularly for larger On-Call contracts).
    - Contract extension versus advertisement is uncertain.
    - New advertisements (and work codes) are sometimes unclear (for example, recent Ferry Division advertisements).
  - SPOT/STIP education for MPO/RPO on bicycle, pedestrian, and transit projects
    - Need for more competitive multimodal project submissions.
    - Multimodal projects submitted may not be conceptualized correctly.
  - Public-Private-Partnerships (P3) currently limited to highways
    - Rail P3’s currently done with municipalities (Ex - Charlotte Gateway Station being done with City)
    - Upcoming rail projects and mobility hubs
  - Additional program management opportunities upcoming
    - IMD will be doing more program management, including managing subrecipient claims for reimbursement and mobility hubs.
    - Ferry teams will need FTA compliance expertise, NCDOT expertise, and Ferry expertise.
- Opportunities
  - Coordination with ACEC/NC legislative committee
  - MPO/RPO and municipality project execution

- Select 3-4 projects representative of challenges and hold clinic – identify problems and develop solutions, best practices.
- Include procurement process – overview of NCDOT work codes, potential pairing of projects together.
- Potentially work with League of Municipalities and/or North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition
- Complete Streets ‘tour’ to familiarize project managers and engineers with multimodal facilities.
  - Rural community – Kinston, Greenville, Hickory
  - MOBI awards tour
- SPOT/STIP education
  - Potential for subcommittee to assist with disseminating information for more competitive projects.
- Next meeting to be held prior to November 19<sup>th</sup> Transportation Committee meeting.

**Action Items/Next Steps:**

- Emily to engage Cat Peele, Jeremy Remme, and Becca Gallas for the next meeting.
- Greg to reach out to each modal division director and request plan for advertisements for the next year.
- Emily to coordinate with Denise Byron-Cox to set up the next meeting.