

WSDOT/ACEC-WA Executive Liaison Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 – 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Meeting Minutes

- 1.) Welcome New Members: Linea gave a brief introduction of our two new ACEC-WA Executive Committee members, Kevin Collins and Jilma Jimenez.

- 2.) I-976 / Legislative Update: Marshall noted that WSDOT workforce remains challenged by policies to reduce costs such as no new hires, minimizing purchases, and furloughs. This is a big deal and they spend time every week dealing with requests and plans to cover workforce issues. Marshall noted that I-976 and COVID budget impacts would be a key focus of next legislative budget. WSDOT is working on their budget, which will be followed by the Governors' budget and then a legislative budget. There are still a lot of unknowns about the budget and whether WSDOT and Consultant furlough days will be extended beyond November and what the new year will bring. To date, WSDOT furlough days are dictated by the Governor. Furlough days which impact consultants are established by the individual project or programs on a case by case basis. Based on current revenue projections, the WSDOT budget is about \$400 million in the red this biennium, and over a billion dollars plus in the red through next biennium. Marshall also noted that on the positive side, working remotely has been going well and it's likely that the future return to office needs will look much different than it did in the past. Traffic patterns are different as well, though some volumes are starting to build.

Van also noted that remote workforce has been successful. The ACEC community agrees that the future of office workforce will likely be smaller than it was in the past as more will work remotely.

- 3.) Update on Committee Charters: Steve informed the group that we would be modifying the current Executive Committee charter to include Jim Thomson's and Eva Wood's effective membership end date and that both Kevin and Jilma's names and signature line will be added to the Charter for signature. Once the new signatures are completed, we will consider the charter to be finalized.

- 4.) Kyle McKeon - Local Programs Update: Kyle mentioned that the Local Programs budget is under delivered by over \$40 million, likely as a result of COVID. Areas being looked at to expend remaining dollars and that need to be addressed are: a) City Safety Program & virtual site visits; b) rail program compliance; c) bridge compliance programming for load ratings, load posting, scour, & bridge inspections.

Kyle also noted that he is seeing more and more local agency and consultant agreements that are not in compliance with federal regulations. ACEC & Local Agencies should be using agreement language from the LAG Manual. Local MPO's in the SW Region of the state is where most of the non-compliance is happening. Agreements are being signed with

non-conforming Title 6 language, and agencies are not performing interviews. Many WSDOT Local Agency Reps are newly placed into the positions so he needs ACEC to be informed and following proper procedures.

5.) Subcommittee Reports

- Design-Build: Art McCluskey and Richard Patterson mentioned that their subcommittee is on summer break through September and their next meeting is scheduled in October. They will hold their annual D/B Training Summit virtually. Industry is helping the committee with the best way to do this. The D/B contractor performance report is in it's final draft. In June, AGC was tasked with coming up with criteria to rate WSDOT's performance as well. This is something that is already done on Design Bid Build projects and this will likely be used as an example. WSDOT is also interested in environmental sustainability and how to encourage good environmental practices like using recycling concrete etc.

Santosh requested updates regarding the Progressive D/B Program: Art noted that Bob Dyer is working with the Olympic Region on their Fish Passage Project. The RFQ is posted and the project is moving forward. WSDOT received a one-time approval from CPARB for this project. Once this project gets further along, WSDOT will decide next steps but is certainly leaving the door open for more projects.

- Structures & Geotechnical: Mark Gaines and Matt Lengyel noted that their last meeting was in May, they are also on summer break and their next meeting will be in September. At their May meeting they discussed: COVID responses; review of 2019/2020 work plan accomplishments and brainstormed 2020/2021 work plan which will be firmed up in September; aligned calendars for future meetings.

The next year's plan will be focusing on autonomous vehicles and truck train load combinations and their impacts to bridge loading. They expect that these vehicle combinations will exceed current AASHTO bridge loading criteria. In addition, these types of vehicles do less meandering between lane lines. This may result in more pavement/bridge deck rutting. He also mentioned that their committee will also be looking at fish passage alternative material delivery approvals. Steel plate and steel arch structures are currently approved. A SR 203 fish passage project included a project specific approval for a composite arch structure. If the product works well, the subcommittee will be revisiting specifications for approval. They expect that ACEC reps will help with the new specification development.

- Project Delivery: Neither Mike Fleming or Lisa Reid was available to provide an update this meeting. Steve Roark mentioned that the group was working on design approvals for D/B projects and will request an update.
- Business Administration: Ahmer Nizam and Santosh Kuruvilla mentioned that they were also on summer break and will officially convene in September. In the meantime, they have been meeting monthly to share information regarding best practices and proactive direction regarding COVID impacts and the following: teleworking; return to work phasing; freezing construction contracts and procedures involved; budget updates; and local program updates. There is also COVID guidance documents being worked on by the Auditor's Office. The WSDOT "Look Ahead" for consultant work is being updated and a new version will be released soon.

- Steve noted that a Website has been established to post all ACEC-WA/WSDOT Executive and Sub-Committee meeting minutes etc. He will share the address with Van so that ACEC can link to this site.

6.) Update on Professional Liability Insurance Requirements: Steve Roark thanked Van for the information and informative meetings that were held. It's a complicated business and WSDOT appreciated the dialogue. The ball is in WSDOT's court and they are considering making improvements to D/B insurance language in the following areas:

- Amount of Insurance required: They will likely be using a 3 tiered approach based on risk (low, medium, high) and a commensurate insurance value will be established for each type of tier. This will bring consistency to how the agency sets insurance values. The projects will be classified depending on the risk tier.
- Required coverage for tiered subs: WSDOT will make it clear what types of coverage will be required to cascade to the subs.
- Project Specific Policies required vs not: WSDOT will be looking at size and complexity of project and be more deliberate about this decision.
- Required Deductibles: WSDOT is looking at this to better define what is an appropriate amount.

Steve noted that the group should stay tuned for more information and that a meeting will be set up in the next month or so to discuss.

Van added that he thought the meetings were fruitful and much appreciated. We support WSDOT's strategy of evaluating risk for establishing PL insurance needs for D/B projects.

7.) Annual Meeting Planning: Steve opened the floor for a discussion on the Annual meeting via the below bullets:

- Cancel or defer again?
- Is there value in having an abbreviated virtual meeting and if so what content is most valuable or vital?

The group consensus was that there is value in putting something together virtually. The group is getting experienced in putting together annual meetings and conferences virtually so this could be done:

- Likely no more than half a day.
- Topics could include WSDOT submitted budget, COVID Impacts, Roger's view of the future, Insurance update, subcommittee updates, and legislative update – Hobbs/Fey?
- Include planning/discussion for next meeting
- Timeframe October/November (though avoid primary timeframe)
- Linea and Steve to do more planning before next meeting Sept 30th. Richard noted that Statewide D/B training is on September 30th, but folks may be able to break away for this meeting.

8.) Action Items and Upcoming Meetings: Steve & Linea noted the following actions.

- Upcoming meetings:
 - September 30, 2020
 - January 11, 2021
- Develop Draft Agenda for Annual Meeting
- Subcommittees prepare presentations for meeting
- Post Meeting Minutes
- Schedule Insurance Meeting

9.) Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am