

ACEC / NCDOT Project Delivery Subcommittee Notes

November 7, 2024

Adoption of the Minutes:

No comments.

Staff Changes:

Since the last meeting, Katrina Feltes has become the PMU Unit Head and Jessica Luther has joined Technical Services as a staff engineer.

Helene/STIP Update:

NCDOT & FEMA will meet on Friday 11/15/24 and with this meeting the 180-day period for emergency repair work will begin. Based on initial estimates approximately 80% of all Helene damage sites are less than \$1M and per FEMA regulations all projects under \$1M are paid out based on initial estimates. Jennifer F asked who's working on a funding projection for this storm response? Mark Newsome presented during November 6th's Board of Transportation Meeting. [Click here for NCDOT Board of Transportation Meeting recordings.](#)

Conversations are ongoing about the affect of Helene Storm Response on STIP programming. As projects are put under contract, awareness of any STIP impacts will increase. Jennifer F stated the PEF's are concerned about the potential balancing act of resources needed while addressing emergency projects and its possible effect on the STIP. In early 2025, the Department will likely have a better idea of what the STIP programming impacts might be. However, STIP funds cannot be spent on any project related to storm response aside from projects that were already in the first four years of the STIP as those projects would not receive reimbursement. The concern isn't on the money, it's on contractor resources. 140 bridges need to be replaced and many more need repairs.

Technical Services Update:

Digital Delivery (Matt)

Initial Meetings with Executive, Preconstruction, Construction, and Asset Management groups occurred or will occur in the next week. These initial meetings have been a great start on things and there is a real focus from all (NCDOT, consultants, and Contractors) to really work through this challenging topic that is so important. The executive leadership is letting these initial discussions inform the needs and action items for prioritization. Matt has a goal that priorities are clarified, objectives defined, and a deadline for these will be defined so that come January 1. We will need consultant support to meet the goals that we will establish, and primary focus will be to clearly define modelling expectations for types of projects and for deliverables. This is a challenge but also a great opportunity to define the direction we want to take as a state.

- Vasim shares his current focus is on:
 - o ORD example plan sets, soon to be on Connect
 - o ORD project delivery processes, both model and project. Including model and PDN phasing. 2025 Goal is to identify various softwares used by various units and streamline if able.
- Steve Smallwood asked about what DOTs have shown the most promise in terms of ORD adoption

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- NDOT, FDOT, GDOT, Utah DOT
- David shares that a lot of conversation has occurred about how to share data, between designers and contractors.
 - MALD might still be the goal, doesn't mean it's the only deliverable.
 - Steve asks if there's been any discussions on how the licensing board views the model. No answers on this.
- Communication Check In (PEF Service Email List) (Jennifer)
 - Sign up for [Consultant Email Distribution List](#)
 - Terry and Tatia have both used this.
 - RDM update went out through this.
 - Steve feels like it's working, but not a lot is coming through it yet.
 - Some firms aren't getting it.
 - Terry has denied some because they are individual emails.
 - Technical Services needs to be more consistent with this.
 - PEFs prefer information even if it's coming from multiple distribution lists.
- Helene Storm Response Effort
 - 140 bridges id'd for replacement
 - 700 bridges need repair
 - 800 pipes either in replacement or need to be replaced
 - 14 packages coming from Division 13 for express design build
 - Several from Division 11
 - Chimney rock progressive design build
 - Gurton CMGC
 - Piegion River selection has already occurred
 - Steve asks if emergency project's specifics will be handled at the Division level
 - Jennifer confirms that a team structure is in place for each division which includes central technical expertise
 - There are leads for every discipline
 - Allyson Tamer's group has shifted to be programmatic support: WNC Strong.
 - Projects are being let in many ways; a dashboard is being created to track status. Currently internal, but eventually external facing to provide information to the public.
 - Steve asks about v8i versus ORD and if plans need to be structured
 - Current outlook is whatever it takes to get it done.
- Preconstruction Workshop
 - Industry is appreciative.
- SPOT Mobility Update - Brian Mayhew will be here next meeting
 - Will be seeking PEF support through lobbying for more money/support for this program.
- PDN and Project Management Tools Updates

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- Updated PDN on [Project Management and Delivery Connect site](#)
 - Updated MS Project Template also
 - Updated Scope Generator - coming week of 11/11
 - Utilize the comment button to submit any issues/errors that you might see. We appreciate these comments as they give a basis to make changes.
 - ASHE Technical session 11/14
 - Webinar coming soon
 - The workday estimate is still the same, hopefully it's the next item that will get updated.
- **Project Management Update:**
- Use updated project schedules and utilize the reviews built into the new template
- **Roadway Design Update:**
- RDM latest revisions are underway and expected the end of November
 - Updating sketches
 - Adding language to some figures
 - Updating language for current design practices
 - Redline document will be included
 - Contract standards checklist
 - Previous version was 11/2018
 - Updates will align with PDN and with 2024 standard drawings
 - Has been completed and is on the contract standards Connect Site
 - Checklist needs to be completed and signed by whomever is completing the plans prior to the PS&E package being submitted
 - Training
 - Open Roads Designer training modules
 - 13 modules have been available for a while, there is a great need to update based on the latest software
 - Updates were made using 2023 and windows 11
 - Versions going through qc currently, expected mid-November
 - 3 new training modules have been developed by consultant partners and reviewed by ncdot roadway staff, expected end of 2024. Topics include: Resurfacing grades, Interchange modeling, and Earthwork
 - Template library is available and updated in October 2024
 - NCDOT Roundabout Design Guidance
 - Presentation given on 10/17 CLEAR Lunch & Learn
 - <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/Value-Management/CLEAR-Program/Pages/LnL.aspx>
 - Preconstruction Workshop 2024 Roadway Staff Presentations, videos available on Connect site
 - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKjYg0oIE-Vo-bX3_D8JRuk3GIb3F7QZ

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- Steve asked about design exception process and if GESG signatures are needed.
 - o David says no direction on this yet. But GESG reviewers might not meet the FHWA agreement. Could it possibly need to come back to central for Division sign off? No final decisions have been made.

Professional Services Management Update:

- Master schedule online is up to date
 - o Eastern division contracts should be advertised in March 2025
 - o Ferry contract and aviation contract out now.
 - o Emergency projects will go up as received and not on a consistent schedule.
 - o M&T may come out in the early 2025.
- Jennifer asked if PMU will be extended for a year? Yes. Robert says it'll be advertised again in Spring 2026.
- PS1 Form Discussion
 - o Robert says management likes it, currently only used for Division contracts.
 - o Might be used for all projects eventually instead of RS2 or potential for a combo between the two.
 - o The PEF's don't like both being needed, but until senior management decides it'll end up being both.

Workforce Open Discussion:

- ACEC doesn't want to tell individual PEFs what to do (Future Cities, etc), could NCDOT be specific about what types of programs to support?
- Possibly partner with NCDOT to hold a career fair at Future Cities career fair.
- The purpose of early outreach is industry awareness, make kids aware of what Civil Engineers do.
- Plug people into the college campuses
 - o Help determine what disciplines they might choose
 - o Capitalize on the Intro to Engineering Classes
 - o Go into college classes and teach (David Clodgo and Jordan Woodard do this)
- Internship Programs for both high school and college
- Get professional organizations involved
- Form a smaller group to focus on this effort

Division Comments and Open Discussion:

- Matt Jones, transition to ORD is biggest hurdle on projects currently
- Vasim has taken ORD training to central/eastern divisions will visit Western Divisions eventually. This training includes ProjectWise and a couple rounds of training will likely be needed.

Industry Comments and Open Discussion:

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- Is there a better way to keep the industry informed of upcoming projects?
 - o A BOLO from the Department for certain types of projects could be useful. The more the industry is aware of upcoming projects, the better for the department. Derrick believes the NCDOT WNC Strong Team will release more organized communication than what's occurred up until now.
 - o AGC keeps the construction side very well informed.
 - o Maybe a forum like the express design build projects forum?
 - o Rumors come out ahead of bigger projects, is there a way for the Department to share info prior to it being advertised?
 - o Derrick to take this feedback and share it with the WNC Strong team. The dashboard might include keeping track of work assignments.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 6th.