# ACEC / NCDOT Project Delivery Subcommittee Notes
# August 1, 2024

**Adoption of the Minutes:**

No comments.

**Legislative Update:**

HB 198 addressed an increase in the project cap for CMGC to $750 million on 10 projects, which is an increase from the original number of 5. This also gives NCDOT the ability to utilize the Progressive Design Build delivery method on up to 5 pilot projects which do not exceed $500 million.

Question was asked if there is any discussion on raising the limit of the Division Award Amount to more than $5M. NCDOT answered that there is discussion within NCDOT and with the construction industry.

**Staff Changes:**

Jennifer Evans has become the Technical Services Deputy Director since the last meeting. NCDOT has posted her old position and will be interviewing for the next PMU unit head.

**Technical Services Update:**

Roadway Design Update (Tatia)

- Design Exception Form: Design exceptions on centrally managed projects are signed by the Technical Services Director, after review by the State Roadway Design Engineer. Design exceptions on division managed projects are signed by the Division Engineer. The changes ensure that the designer/engineer of record signs the exception and includes a signature line from an NCDOT representative. The next conversation will be with the consultant partners on any concerns with being a signatory on the document.

  Not every division has someone who has senior-level roadway design expertise, and the SME support may be provided by the GESC. NCDOT wants to ensure that an adequate number of professional engineers with roadway design expertise are involved in reviewing and supporting the design exception. It was mentioned that firms will take responsibility for the work that they do, but there are liability considerations that some firms need to evaluate before signing a design exception on a project that they are reviewing.

  In the past, some design exceptions only had 1 or 2 signatures on it. NCDOT wants the people with the right experience to review these and sign off in case it is ever called into question.

  Tatia asked if the topic needs to be taken back to the larger committee since it impacts a large audience. The Committee agreed that it should. Tatia will also send information to the subcommittee members for their review so they can provide additional comments.

  Based on the conversation of signatories, Jennifer brought up the PS&E Checklist from the PM Leadership Call earlier in the week. The checklist currently has a line for an NCDOT SME to accept the plan type. Per Contract Standards, this person needs to be an NCDOT employee, not a GESC. Since the NCDOT person (typically the project manager) is not a SME, there will be more discussion on this with CS&D as we determine who is "accepting" vs "reviewing".

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- Roadway Design Manual Update is now available. Updates include the submittal guidelines, updated adjacent project checklist, and new submittal form with space to put information. The manual now aligns with the PDN deliverables.
- Roadway is working on guidance for temporary detours and application of super elevation. They are also working on some final plan videos targeted on common issues that CS&D Plan Checking is experiencing as not correct or needs work. Earthwork, Geotech recs and temporary conditions are examples. They hope to roll the guidance out in the fall and are working with CS&D on the final plans check list.

PSMU Update (Robert)

- Posted 2 advertisements today. One for traffic operations and one for high-speed data collection.
- The Master schedule will be updated soon.
- All Western division LSCs have been executed for use.
- Will be an update to some of the reproduction costs. OIG is finalizing numbers for Maximum Allowable figures and PSMU will get numbers updated in the estimate form.

Role of the Consultant (embedded) (Matt C.)

NCDOT is talking with folks to get a better understanding of how embedded staff is being utilized, the type of duties performed as a PM, and the type of requests that embeds are assisting with that are business related (ie. Invoices, contracts). GESC language that is in some contracts is not included in other contracts so there are inconsistencies. NCDOT is looking to draft a scope of services template and define a PM type role and a different type of scope for a position doing business type work. The goal is to have draft language ready for the Preconstruction Workshop. Note that we are aware that there are some business units that don't have the resources to do all the business work and they turn to consultant assistance. We will be looking at both embedded consultant through an engineering firm and those that are temporary through agencies like Temp Solutions to make sure we have proper boundaries in place.

If anyone wants to share information, let Derrick, Jennifer or Matt Clarke know.

Preconstruction Workshop (September 30th and October 1st at McKimmon Center)

- Registration will go up within the week, just waiting on a few things to be confirmed for payment.
- Will again be having the SPSF Outreach with the divisions on the first day (Sept 30th) from 10:00 am to noon. This will be a separate registration.
- Workshop will start at 1:00 pm on the 30th.
- All sponsorships have been taken. Thank you!
- We will also be having a Career Event on the first day from 9:00 am to 12:30pm. Of course, NCDOT is looking for future employees, but we are also wanting to introduce high school

students to a career in transportation and all the areas that impact it. We are working with our Communications Office and HR to get the word out.

- If you have any questions, please reach out to Terry Canales

PMU Updates (Jennifer)

Jennifer wanted to remind everyone that when they start new workday estimates, to download the spreadsheet clean off the website and not use old ones to minimize the risk of being rejected. All forms can be found on the PSMU site.

SMU Update (Derrick):

Derrick mentioned that even though PMU is taking on the bridges for project management, SMU is still involved in the process of firm assignment and scoping.

**Workforce Development**

Committee Status: An email was sent to Executive Director for ACEC and limited response was given as they are looking at it. Currently there are no documented next steps.

**Division Reps Discussion:**

No comments.

**Industry Reps:**

Derrick mentioned that he is working on the Spot Mobility limit to inform the committee as discussed at the last meeting.

A question was asked on modeling and how it pertains to scope for bridges and small projects. Are there any discussions on limiting the amount of modeling for small projects? In other words, do we need to provide the same level of detail for small projects vs larger. Example is does a contractor use a grading model for a small project…probably not. Per Tatia, NCDOT is having ongoing discussions on this. It was noted by the committee member that driveways are very difficult to model.

A question was asked if there is going to be new guidelines that detail out what is to be expected in the deliverables as it would help us not to assume expectations. An example is that cross sections are a snapshot of a model and will not look the same as before. It was time consuming to make them look the way that the reviewer wanted them to look.

NCDOT is having discussions about producing a sample set of plans as Divisions have also been asking what the expectation is.

Tatia asked for folks to let her know what the pain points are with the ORD transition.

Based on the conversation, Matt mentioned that there has been some work to better organize the department's focus on digital delivery. NCDOT is creating a leadership structure to define not only designing in ORD, but transferring it to construction and then as-built drawings for maintenance and asset management. An executive leadership group, a preconstruction subgroup, a construction subgroup and an Asset Management subgroup is being created. The goal is to have the executive

leadership define where the department is to be in 3-5 years and each subgroup will define what they need to focus on to fulfill the goal(s). The Department needs to define what data is needed for asset management which impacts what construction needs to capture, etc.

A question was asked about the updated PDN. Derrick responded that the PDN will be finalized by the workshop and will be sharing around that time. The PDN graphic is finalized and we are now working on the writeups. The updated PDN will map out the process the way it is actually happening with a project. We will also be updating the scope generator at the same time.

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, November 7th. Same time and place.