**Mission:** To promote communication, innovation, and cooperation between GDOT and consultant firms on issues affecting design decisions, criteria, processes, and implementation as well as plan and document presentation.

**Attendees:**
Frank Flanders, Co-chair – GDOT Design Policy  
Brad Robinson, Co-chair - Wolverton  
Kevin Ergle – Kimley Horn  
Anthony Prevost - HNTB  
Matt Thompson - VHB  
Drew Martin - GDOT

1) **On-Going Topics**
   a) Drainage Manual
      i) The group partially reviewed the tabulated policies and discussed the approach.
      ii) It was decided that the group should change our mindset from if each policy should require a variance or deviation and instead consider if each policy should be a standard, guideline or if it is a reference statement.
         (1) Standards would be similar to controlling criteria found in the DPM. Some examples of drainage standards would include gutter spread, head water and design year storms. These would be very specific policy that “shall” be met or require a design variance. Standards will likely have a safety component. These standards may be stated upfront in the revised drainage manual, similar to controlling criteria in the DPM.
         (2) Guidelines will consist of the vast majority of policy in the drainage manual. One example discussed was the use of flanking structures. This is more of a maintenance issue and not necessarily a safety issue. It is not always feasible to provide flanking structures. Not doing so may require justification and documentation. “Should” can be used for the majority of guidelines.
         (3) Reference statements are related to plan presentation, regulatory requirements, etc. An example was the statement that drainage design should be developed in accordance with the PPG. These should likely be reworded to avoid the use of “shall” or “should”. Those statements may be removed from the manual or moved to an introductory section.
      iii) The group should go through their spreadsheets again with this mindset and update the spreadsheet to label policy as standard, guideline or reference. Help to identify policy in each chapter that could be considered standard criteria for drainage policy. Then provide the recommended language.

2) **Design Policy Updates**
   i) Frank stated that for interstate projects, CD roads and ramps are part of the interstate facility, and the need for design exceptions will be controlled by the interstate mainline.
   ii) Bentley has not yet shared the plan and cost for sunsetting of SS4 and older versions. It seems that node locks may be an option to use on older projects, but Bentley has not yet committed to this.