Minutes of Meeting
Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality (GPTQ)
Consultant Relations Committee (CRC)
November 15, 2016
GDOT Conference Room 403/404

1. Opening

- Previous CRC meeting held 9/20/2016.
- Tommy shared that the CRC Steering Committee met on 10/21. Discussed several things including GPTQ charter, the good work being done by subcommittees, and various issues/initiatives.
  - Joint training for GDOT and consultants – new training subcommittee has been created to focus on this initiative.
  - Design engineer’s role during the construction – discussion on the value/role of engineer in helping answer or provide more timely feedback during construction. David Moellering (GHCA) participated in discussion.
    - Real time feedback would help in the field, but one concern was time it could take to engage designer.
    - Pilot project(s) could be an option to perform a mid-term construction evaluation.
    - Group discussed that there is always an option for Engineer of Record (EoR) to stay engaged with their project regardless of being paid or not. Tommy clarified that intent of this item is to open dialogue on the topic.
    - Hiral mentioned that some concerns from contracting industry was related to staging plans. There may be some value in having EoR participate if awarded contractor proposes a different/more optimal solution.
    - GDOT mentioned a project with 170-page amendment prior to letting. Group discussed. One suggestion was for GDOT to consider a way to communicate a change in the plans whereby not every effected sheet has to be revised in the plan set so long as change has no substantive impact.

2. CRC Subcommittee Reports –

- CEI
  - Partnering with Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) to discuss demand and specific resource needs Statewide.
  - Continue focusing on training program/outreach, e.g. engineering skills development, how to understanding construction plans.
  - Next CEI subcommittee meeting on 1/26.
  - Bruce Campbell has moved to Construction Claims, and will be replaced on this subcommittee.
  - Darryl VanMeter mentioned that Innovative Delivery will be advertising CEI resource needs. Anticipated advertisement dates can be found on the Design-Build website.

- Bridge
  - Bridge guidelines for environmental documentation/permitting is close to complete. Several rounds of comments have occurred. Nice document, about 15-16 pages. Document will be posted Bridge Office webpage. Good document for PMs/designers. Bridge Subcommittee send bridge guidelines regarding environmental documentation/permitting to Eric Duff for a final review.
  - The software task force has met several times to discuss RC-PIER and CON/SPAN for LRFD. Standardizing input/output data for consistency is the goal.
  - Group discussed training needs including additional LRFD (pilot training rolled out earlier this year) and NHI courses as an option.
  - Subcommittee meeting last held 11/7, and next one is scheduled for December.
• Engineering Services
  o 5 P-C Evaluations have been held this year. Goal of conducting 5 this year was met. Includes 2 Design-Bid-Build projects and 3 Design-Build projects.
  o Positive report on final PS&E packages being submitted on time to Engineering Services per 2016 Letting Schedule for Processing Plans. January lettings – 14 lettings, 5 PS&E package late. February lettings – 47, 3 PS&E package late. Need to continue to focus on meeting schedules, with quality and as complete packages.
  o 2017 objectives will be the next focus. Ideas include continue to proactively identify projects and conduct P-C evaluations – and identify any trends, constructability reviews, and discuss options to best flag/track SA’s that could be attributed to design items.
  o Next subcommittee meeting on 1/13/2017.

• Environmental
  o Ecology – met on 11/10. Focused on streamlining process with a rather aggressive schedule through 2017. Items discussed included:
    ➢ ecology report template
    ➢ aquatic survey methodology
    ➢ protected species coordination which includes coordination with USFWS and DNR. Group discussed fee in lieu of (conservation fee) for impacts to bats and other T&E species too via a biological opinion (BO). If approved can allow for flexibility for clearing limits and timeframes
    ➢ stream buffer variance for criteria a and h statewide
    ➢ revisit PAR review process
  o A/N – Met on 11/17. GA is now in attainment for PM2.5, and the old requirement no longer apply. Discussions now around CO program with FHWA which may result in CO analysis going away.
  o NEPA – Meet 12/5. Environmental discipline subcommittee co-chairs will now be included in this subcommittee meeting.
  o NEPA – FHWA audit of PCE agreement draft findings expected in January 2017. March 2017 expected to be complete.
  o NEPA – Revised PCE agreement discussed related to 4(f) and 407. Working to include in PCE some provisions to allow PCE even with Section 407.

• Materials
  • Last met 10/27.
  • LRFD WFI – in progress. Met a couple of weeks ago. OMAT led training for LRFD WFI on 2/7 for half a day.
  • LRFD BFI – training will be rolled out in 2017.
  • HPC spec modified to require stainless steel reinforcement in coastal areas. PSC piles note being modified in BFI.
  • Jewell Stone PD Branch is working with subcommittee.
  • MS4 geotechnical testing requirements – group discussed GDOT’s use of consultants for infiltration/percolation tests. Several concerns raised regarding liability for 5’ or deeper holes that are dug and left exposed. Bore holes may be a possibility.  **DP&S is drafting a scope for this work.** Tommy clarified that this only applies to infiltration basis.
  • Phase I/II updated guidelines should be wrapped up in early 2017.
  • Drilled Caissons specs are being updated/combined to including optional verbiage depending on situation (wet/dry, slurry/non-slurry) that will be modified per project. Anticipate mid-Feb 2017 completion.

• Preconstruction Awards
  • 10/26 meeting to determine the award winners which will be announced at the 11/30 Trans Summit.
• Planning award being considered for next year.
• Tim Matthews to serve as GDOT co-chair in 2017. Thank you David Norwood for serving.

• Procurement
  • Negotiations Task Force – focusing on labor classifications and scoping process. Several meetings have occurred.
  • SA Task Force – focusing on contracts >10 years to determine best strategy to modify contracts that is fair and reasonable to both GDOT and consultant.
  • CMIS – up and running. If issues remain please contact GDOT Solutions Center. “Don’t suffer in silence” – Treasury Young.
  • Consultant Evaluation Task Force – GDOT has been waiting until CMIS issues are resolved before GDOT starts adding area classes to each contract.
  • 561 contracts in FY 15 ($286M), 300 contracts in first 4 months of FY 16 ($130M).
  • FHWA – will audit GDOT’s consultant selection process for compliance with June 2016 Procurement Manual.

• Program Delivery
  • Progress Report – this revised report was rolled out this summer. Goal is to track history/progress of projects. Good feedback so far for those using. Only for use on GDOT let contracts.
  • OPD webpage – work in progress to better organize information.
  • PM roundtable planned at the 11/30 Transportation Summit to include Traffic Operations PMC.
  • Design-Build program – new/upcoming DB projects were posted on the Design-Build website.
  • Ongoing efforts – risk assessment with focus on constructability, resources and schedules. Initially evaluating “riskier” projects. Looking for trends/areas to improve such as not letting 12-24 months pass between PFPR/FFPR.

• Roadway Design Policy
  • No update.

• Traffic
  • District/State Comments Task Force continues work to discuss those comments where there is a difference of opinion. Quarterly meetings ensue.
  • Works continues on Chapter 13 updates – traffic studies, etc…
  • Todd recognized and thanked Allan Davis for his contribution to the subcommittee.

• Utilities
  • Lee Upkins retired. Patrick Allen is now the State Utilities Administrator.
  • Training material has been prepared and dry run held. Ready for rollout in 2017. Focus is above/below ground facilities, SUE levels, conflict resolution and coordination.

• General Discussion
  • Tommy thanked Al Bowman for his role as CRC co-chair as this will be Al’s last meeting in that role. Al thanked Hiral Patel and the active participants in the CRC and subcommittees.
  • Next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 17, 2017 – March 21, 2017.