

Location: 4th Floor GDOT Office

Next Forum Meeting Date: 02/01/2017

Happy 2017! The meeting started off with a welcome from Mario Macrina and introductions for the new Transportation Forum coordinator, Wendy Dyson. Wendy welcomed attendees and quickly started the meeting with an update from Michael “Sully” Sullivan, ACEC Georgia Executive Director.

- ✚ Sully discussed upcoming happenings on the State and Federal levels regarding legislation and support for ACEC initiatives. Session begins January 9th.
 - Bill will be reintroduced regarding PE/SE licensure. Progress has been made through PELS board ruling for structural engineering requirements with GDOT’s help on defining the requirements regarding years and building structural vs bridge structural.
 - State and Local governments becoming more receptive to transit governance. SRTA will have a \$0.5 Mil Study looking at Regional or Statewide Transit Network.
 - Drew Ferguson, Georgia’s newest Congressman – hoping for a seat on the Transportation Infrastructure Committee.
 - President elect Trump had stated would put \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ into infrastructure.
 - Indemnity Bill passed but concern was voiced about still seeing verbiage included in local/municipal contracts. Sully stated that it is the law and if forced to defend the courts would rule with the law. Sully added that consultants should not have to bear the expense of time/money to defend. Please let him know of any contracts with verbiage so that he can help educate the local issuing authorities. He would work on our behalf. A suggestion was made to work with ACCG and GMA to make better known.
 - A question was asked on likelihood of the \$5 hospitality tax being removed; Sully did not anticipate that being brought up in session. The GA Chamber has helped create a Georgia Hotel Association (the industry did not have a group prior).
 - QBS was brought up and Sully indicated that he is working with ACCG to educate on what it is and why is better. ACEC is creating a task force to focus on that issue after assembly.

✚ Transportation Forum Subcommittee Selection Process Review –

Wendy advised that questions and discussions have been occurring regarding the selection process; Tommy Crochet and Joe Macrina addressed the forum with the following:

- Tommy stated that the steering committee was pleased with the number of applicants and that the selection process was an exhausting, challenging and time consuming task.
- 136 volunteers representing 49 different firms applied for 73 available positions. Top requested subcommittees included the following:
 - Program Delivery (51 volunteers/8 positions)
 - Roadway Design Policy (35 volunteers/8 positions)
 - Procurement (48 volunteers 14 positions)
 - Engineering Services (31 volunteers/7 positions)
- A matrix was created to organize the information received from applicants: prior subcommittee service and activity, subcommittee meeting attendance, leadership roles, company size and representation and more.
- Gave example/suggestion: procurement subcommittee is the most desired subcommittee. Apply for multiple subcommittees instead of just one. If having never served before, apply to serve on smaller committee and move up to others.
- Sully weighed in on the selection process and was very impressed with the thought and direction used for selection and Tommy’s spreadsheet 😊.
- The Steering Committee and CRC are not applicant positions: Steering Committee members are previous co-chairs of CRC committee. CRC member slots are filled by Subcommittee Co-Chairs.
- The Steering Committee and CRC meets with GDOT Directors, Chief Engineer and high level GDOT staff to elevate important issues and provide direction to consultant industry.
- The committee member numbers are kept low to provide equality between GDOT and Consultant participants to allow all to have more frank discussions and identify common issues, etc.
- Subcommittee members **should not** send a substitute if unable to attend their meeting. A subcommittee member position is individual and not transferrable within your company organization. In addition, If someone steps down from serving on a subcommittee; a replacement will be selected through the CRC and is not necessarily filled from same company.
- 2017 Co-Chairs:
 - **Steering Committee:** GDOT – Meg Pirkle, GHCA - David Moellering & ACEC - Joe Macrina.

- **Consultant Relations Committee (CRC)** GDOT – Hiral Patel & ACEC - Rob Lewis (Rob will help formulate the new format for the CRC group going forward.
- ✚ **Many thanks** offered to Mario Macrina for his dedication and hard work as Forum coordinator with the development of Forum roundtables and presentations over the past years!
- ✚ **Many thanks** to Tommy for his past and continued service, dedication and hard work on behalf of the Transportation Forum over the years!

Wendy introduced an added Transportation Forum position of Forum Reporter. *The Forum reporter (Ossie Brewer) is tasked with developing a Forum Report detailing subcommittee reports, discussions and upcoming events to attendees and non-attendees.*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: Wendy asked each subcommittee to give a 2016 Summary and introduce their new respective Subcommittee Co-Chairs.

✚ **Bridge**

Tom Tran presented report. 2017 Co-chairs GDOT- Bill DuVall & ACEC – Greg Grant

1. Bridge guidelines for environmental documentation/permitting is almost ready to be formatted by GDOT. Document will be posted on the GDOT webpage once formatting is complete. Document will be of use and benefit for all PMs/designers.
2. 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.
3. Group discussed training needs including additional LRFD (pilot training rolled out earlier this year) and NHI courses are planned.
4. Other focus areas: Railroad coordination / feedback in construction / Design Build

✚ **Engineering Services**

Michael Moseley gave report. 2017 Co-chairs GDOT- Lisa Myers & ACEC – David Henry

1. Continue awareness of benefits of the Post Construction Evaluation. Set a goal of holding five (5) PCEs this calendar year.
 - a. Update: By end of November five PCEs will have been held. Three were design build and two were traditional design, bid, build projects.
 - b. We discussed openly that there needs to be a way to disseminate the critical “lessons learned” to our peers. This will be a topic moving forward.
 - c. Lisa mentioned that since Walt Taylor has joined Engineering Services, he has been crucial in pushing to hold the PCEs. Walt has taken our “Top 10” list and contacted the District/Area offices, key personnel and scheduled the meetings.
2. Report and track project deliverables not delivered per the letting schedule. Our goal is to assist GDOT in meeting an 80% success rate.
 - a. See attachments for update on January and February lettings.
 - b. There has been noted improvement on delivery dates for both Maintenance and TIA projects.
3. Continue to track and publish commonly see field plan review comments twice a year.
 - a. Update: This task is in progress and is tentatively targeted for update by the end of the year.

Goals and objectives for 2017. Below is some ideas passed around:

1. Continue to research good candidate projects for PCEs. Determine best way to disseminate “lessons learned”.
2. Get involved in Constructability Reviews. Chuck has been researching supplemental agreements (SAs) during construction since joining Engineering Services in July. He has reviewed approximately 7,000 SAs and has prepared a white paper on the findings. This committee could assist in this area in 2017.
3. Continue to look into SA(s) quarterly and report common themes.

Action Items:

- Update commonly seen field plan review comments for distribution twice a year (Engineering Services)
- The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 13 at 11 am in the 4th floor conference room TBD.

✚ Environmental

Wendy Dyson gave report. 2017 Co-chairs GDOT- Eric Duff & ACEC – Laura Dawood

1. The environmental subcommittee is made up of area specific subcommittees that meet separately.
2. Ecology – Prepared a consultant survey as well as an internal survey that focused on streamlining processes. Items discussed included:
 - a. ecology report template
 - b. aquatic survey methodology
 - c. 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
 - d. stream buffer variance for criteria a and h statewide
 - e. revisit PAR review process
3. A/N – Met on 11/17. GA is now in attainment for PM_{2.5}, and the old requirement no longer apply. Discussions now around CO program with FHWA which may result in CO analysis going away.
4. NEPA – Meet 12/5. Environmental discipline subcommittee co-chairs will now be included in this subcommittee meeting.
5. NEPA – FHWA audit of PCE agreement draft findings expected in January 2017. March 2017 expected to be complete.
6. NEPA – Revised PCE agreement discussed related to 4(f) and Informal Section 7. Working to include in PCE some provisions to allow PCE even with 4(f) or IS7.

✚ Materials

Tom Scruggs gave report. 2017 Co-chairs GDOT- Monica Flournoy & ACEC – Tom Hruby

1. Presented two training classes for LRFD (Load and Resistance Factor Design) BFI (Bridge Foundation Investigation) design and report preparation to approximately 45 geotechnical and structural engineers.
2. Provided reviews and revisions for the LRFD BFI template and related special provisions.
3. Provided revisions and updates to Policy 5525-1 on UST and Hazardous Waste Investigation Procedures.
4. Provided revisions and updates to the Pavement Design Manual.
5. Provided revisions and updates to the OMAT (Office of Materials and Testing) cost proposal template.

Additional work and discussions included:

1. Performance-based specifications
2. MS4 Processes and effects on geotechnical investigations
3. Geotechnical specifications and special provisions
4. Scour research project
5. High-performance concrete piles

✚ Preconstruction Awards

Michael Thomas gave report. 2017 Co-chairs GDOT- Tim Matthews & ACEC – Michael Thomas

1. The purpose of the Preconstruction Awards Committee is to review and select finalists for Preconstruction Awards.
2. The awards, given across several categories in the transportation industry, are intended to be a celebration of the work of consultants, designers, and owners in response to their bettering of the public good.
3. The awards are given annually at the Georgia Transportation Summit.
4. The response to the 2016 awards has been generally positive.
5. The Committee welcomes ideas for subsequent awards and awards procedures.

2017 expectations

- Michael Thomas will continue as consultant co-chair
- Tim Matthews will replace David Norwood as GDOT co-chair, and we thank David Norwood for his time and energy devoted to the Committee.
- Keith Franklin and Eric Rickert join the co-chairs and Nathaniel Panther on the Committee.
- The Committee is considering the addition of a planning award this year.
- The Committee meets irregularly, depending on the current awards advertisement schedule.
- Next meeting is Feb 1, 2017.

✚ Procurement

Saurabh Bhattacharya gave the report on behalf of Daveitta Jenkins. 2017 Co-Chairs: GDOT – Treasury Young & ACEC - Saurabh Bhattacharya

1. Ongoing Negotiations Handbook Task Force – focusing on labor classifications and scoping process. Negotiations handbook being developed
2. Ongoing Task Force reviewing issues resulting from the old Conventional Contracts (>10 years old) to determine best strategy that is fair and reasonable to both GDOT and consultants
3. SA Task Force – Complete. Developed Supplemental Agreements Request Process that defines the roles, responsibilities and authorities of each party
4. Cost Estimating Spreadsheet has been finalized and being used in ongoing procurements.
5. CMIS – up and running. If still having issues, please contact GDOT Solutions Center.
6. Monthly meetings are held typically same morning as the Transportation Forum.

✚ Program Delivery

Jeff Church gave report. 2017 Co-Chairs: GDOT - Albert Shelby and ACEC - Jimmy Garrison

1. **Project Manager Roundtable**
 - a. Three per year including one at the Transportation Summit
2. **NEPA and Design**
 - a. New flow charts
 - b. Environmental procedures manual
3. **Project management software**
 - a. Projectwise, Ebuilder, Bluebeam
4. **Design-build**
 - a. New contract updates
 - b. DB manual updated
5. **Risk Assessment and Management**
 - a. CRAFT tool from Georgia Tech
 - b. ARC's tool
 - c. Constructability review memo
6. **Other**
 - a. TIA program
 - b. Developed/distributed the new Consultant progress report
 - c. GDOT Program Delivery webpage being updated and monthly meetings plan to continue

✚ Roadway Design Policy

Chris Marsengill presented report. 2017 Co-Chairs: GDOT – Brent Story & ACEC - Alex Stone

1. 5 focus areas:
 - a. Accessibility – ROADS Website
 - On-going updates and improvements to functionality
 - Subcommittee members will continue to report broken links and suggest improvements
 - b. Awareness
 - Policy updates are emailed to ACEC and distributed to membership
 - A Policy Announcements list is included at the top of ROADS Website
 - c. Clarity
 - Standard document formatting throughout GDOT manuals
 - Cross reference between DPM and other manuals to avoid duplicate and/or contradictory information
 - d. Flexibility
 - Avoid one-size-fits-all design policies
 - Clear guidance regarding when Design Exceptions and Design Variances are required
 - e. Proficiency
 - Identify and offer applicable training opportunities
 - A FEMA floodway course was suggested
2. Topics the subcommittee has assisted with
 - a. Paved shoulder under guardrail
 - b. Traffic section of DPM
 - c. Design vehicles section of DPM
 - d. Ditch lining software
 - e. MS4 design process
 - f. Section 408 process

Traffic

Bill Ruhsam gave report on behalf of Todd DeVos. 2017 Co-Chairs GDOT: Alan Davis and ACEC – Bill Ruhsam

1. District/State Comments Task Force continues work to discuss those comments where there is a difference of opinion. Quarterly meetings ensue.
2. Chapter 13 update work continues – traffic studies, etc....
3. Bill asked for concerns/needs be sent to subcommittee for their review/discussion

Utilities

Jeff VanDyke gave report. 2017 Co-Chair ACEC - John Tuttle

1. Lee Upkins retired. Patrick Allen is now the State Utilities Administrator.
2. The committee is really a joint GUCC, GHCA, GDOT Utilities Office Task Force led by GDOT Utilities Office.
3. Members are utility owners, highway contractors, consultants, and GDOT Utilities office.
4. They met 3 times in 2016 to discuss specification, permitting, and construction concerns
5. The consultant portion of the Task Force has been working with Utilities Office to develop some utility training.
 - a. The focus of the training is to educate designers (GDOT and Consultant) on identifying and accommodating utilities throughout the design process.
 - b. The training material is complete and a dry run has been held.
 - c. The training class would be approximately 3 to 4 hours and held in 2017.
 - d. The GOAL of training class is to save time/money for Department/Engineer/Contractor and reduce changes.

CEI

Ed Hill gave report. 2017 Co-Chairs: GDOT – _____ & ACEC – Ed Hill

1. With Sully and ACEC's assistance have begun partnering with Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) to discuss demand and specific resource needs Statewide for recruiting.
2. Continue focusing on training program/outreach, e.g. engineering skills development, how to understanding construction plans.
3. Two Industry Days - upcoming for 2017
4. Next CEI subcommittee meeting on 1/26/17 and plan to meet quarterly.
5. Innovative Delivery will be advertising CEI resource needs. Anticipated advertisement dates can be found on the Design-Build website.

Training

New subcommittee no report. 2017 Co-Chairs: GDOT – Jeff Conrad & ACEC – Al Bowman