

**Transportation Forum Coordinator: Wendy Dyson**

**GENERAL ITEMS:**

- Welcome
- Next meeting March 7, 2017; Christina Barry, GDOT Traffic Operations Engineer Manager will be presenting on the 'ICE' tool
- Transportation Forum meetings will now be recorded to simplify reporting.

**Legislative Update by Michael L. 'Sully' Sullivan, President & CEO, ACEC Georgia**

**PLEASE see ACECGA Capitol Update emails for more complete details and updates are posted on website**  
<https://www.acecga.org/pages/CapitolUpdates>

**Good News and Bad News take-aways (Federal and State)**

- **Federal Update – Bad News first**
  - President's \$1.7 Trillion infrastructure plan (not just roads includes all infrastructure types) not likely to get anywhere close to that amount funded. Maybe \$200-250 Billion
  - In the appropriations bill already cutting monies - Highway Funding bill and shortfall of Highway Trust fund (approx. \$35 Million/year) – their answer is to cut funding
  - Previous funding ratios may be reversed (States may have to come up with 80% and Feds the 20%).
  - Georgia is also owed over \$935 Million (GDOT letting 2 projects in March and April is TBD)
  - Questions:
    - Push back? Talk to your US congressman and ask them to get rid of the red tape.
    - Any idea of how the \$250 Billion will be delegated. *No earmarks*
    - How will money owed GA get resolved. *Government must be funded first and Georgia is part of a much larger problem*
- **State Update**
  - General Assembly – they will pass a balanced budget. This is an election year so not as much will happen and will be a short session. February 28 is cross-over day
  - Professional Licensure bill – The licensed professions bring in \$24 Million in fees. One group oversees all and are in charge for reviews, investigators, etc. and runs on \$8 Million. This means that non-engineers might be reviewing engineering items, etc. The Bill proposes to allow each profession to allow their board to develop costs for maintaining their licenses and set the fee and then keep 100% of the fees to run their profession.
  - Transit Bill – Anticipating a very large expansive bill proposed by Rep Kevin Tanner proposing for House. Sen. Brandon Beach has proposed for Senate. There are some policy differences and they are working closely together to get something passed this session. More importance emphasized – i.e. (Amazon, State Farm and more economic impacts influencing)
  - HB 150 – last year didn't happen – proposed removing the sunset on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of the motor fuel tax – trying to remove cap altogether. Didn't get the cap removal but did get 4-year extension. Future sessions will revisit
  - Hotel/motel tax removal (HB 170) – not going away this session but positive conversations are going on about raising excise tax
  - Alternative Fuel Vehicle – usage tax – This is a more of a fairness fee; AFV vehicles are using roadways and need to help provide funds to maintain. The fee is equivalent to what is collected through motor fuel vehicle taxes
- **ACECGA works for you so please contact us with any issues that you need addressed.**

OPEN DISCUSSION: (Tommy Crochet and Albert Shelby)

**Tommy Crochet - Construction Cost Estimates Follow-up**

- ❖ Consultant Relations Committee (CRC) discussing problems that were identified last forum meeting
  - CRC is looking at cost estimating issues: for both Consultant and Department
  - Identifying how mitigate and rectify the problems/situation?
  - Is there enough Department guidance in place?
  - Are there other factors to consider?
    - Suggestion to look at Lump Sum items and cost comparisons there from estimate to contractor to see if the differences are coming from those LS items outside of the 'missing' bid items.
  - Albert Shelby stated that he has had Bobby pull 5 years of project costs / bids and sent out to GDOT PM's to share with the consultants. GDOT PM's will work with consultant to look at data (*i.e. Department will provide comparable projects so that consultants can look at actual bid items to your project's bid items*).
  - CRC Looking at forming a Task Force to review issues.
    - The new Task Force will formulate guidance for bid items, determine pricing issues and how to resolve, establish expectations by both sides, tightening up quantities (*i.e. Leveling – more detailed takeoff than using a %, etc.*)
  - Does the Department want consultants to begin to use professional estimators? Short answer is NO but a larger project – maybe)
  - Albert noted that Department is seeing problems when comparing our own project milestone estimates (PFPR estimate to Final estimate) and seeing unreasonable bust in costs. (*Example: \$1.5 million PFPR construction cost estimate and \$2.5 Million final construction cost estimate*)
  - QA/QC reviews now require signatures and documenting cost estimates.

**Albert Shelby, Director of Program Delivery, GDOT – Project funding**

- ❖ Asked to address funding issue relative to on-going projects and future projects (Discussions from Procurement sub-committee).
  - Per the \$950 Million outstanding – there are approximately 50 projects with additional task orders being negotiated that cannot move forward due to funding.
  - Suggested that consultants get with your GDOT PM and see if there is some scope that can be carved out to keep project moving
    - Question asked if a limited NTP could be issued for a Task Order with a not to exceed \$\$ amount listed?
    - NO - State law requires that a project must have all funding in place when Department signs contract.
  - Mistakes in Preconstruction: The Department will be contacting Vice Presidents and putting on notice about the quality and status of plans produced. These letters will be saved to firm's prequalification file and if letters accumulate – Letters will affect future area class prequalification.
  - Department is paying for QA/QC and expects to receive quality plans (not an 85-page field plan review report) and cost estimates
  - Evaluations reviewed by SME's

*Information was condensed from meeting recording at the Forum. Please send any additions and/or revisions to Ossie Brewer, [obrewer@dpengr.com](mailto:obrewer@dpengr.com) Thank You!*