

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: August 7, 2020

TIME: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

VIDEO CONFERENCE LOCATION: Virtual WebEx Meeting

I. Call to Order

A. Self-introductions

Self-introductions were skipped since the meeting was held virtually. Jack asked that Call-In users email Garrett Dekker to record attendance.

B. Changes to Agenda

No changes to the agenda were proposed.

C. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (05/08/2020)

No changes or comments were made to the 05/08/2020 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were finalized.

II. DES/ACEC Updates

A. General: Prakash Sah

- ✓ *Prakash Sah reported that Caltrans is still working remotely as they are considered an essential function per the Governor. Despite telecommuting challenges, Caltrans delivered more projects in the fourth quarter of last year than the rest of the year. Prakash noted that Caltrans is meeting with the construction industry every other week, and construction is healthy. The financial implications of COVID are still unknown. Gas tax revenue may see a drop, as vehicular traffic originally dropped by 40%. However, traffic is now picking up and freight has not seen a slow-down.*
- ✓ *Regarding retirement and hiring, Prakash reported that Caltrans is seeing a high rate of retirement, as has been expected for some time. Caltrans has experienced approximately 5% to 7% attrition in Caltrans and DES. Caltrans is backfilling critical positions and since July 1, 2020 has hired 30 new staff. A new Deputy Division Chief of METS was hired, Tim Greutert. Prakash clarified that the State is not on furlough. Staff is taking days off to help bridge a budget deficit.*

B. Technical: Memo to Designers, Technical Research: Sue Hida/Dalores Valls

- ✓ *Sue Hida reported that on July 1, 2019 Caltrans switched to a fully ADA compliant website. As a result, all technical memos had to be pulled. Caltrans is working on Structure Technical Policy (STP) to address items that are not covered by CA Amendments. The STPs also expand on specifications and discuss recent innovations. The STPs are limited to policy only, and guidance literature will be published in BDMs (Bridge Design Memos). Approximately*

four introductory STP will be released. The organization of STP will match that of the LRFD specifications with five additional sections. Jack Abcarius asked if Caltrans will post a summary of the changes from MTD and Bridge Design Practice to STP. Sue responded that the entire table of contents of the STP will be posted, but not all the links will be active at initial release. Sue added that there is not a direct correlation between the old manuals and the new STP. Sue reported that Caltrans is aiming to roll out select STPs within a month, however, there is no set date.

- ✓ *Regarding technical research, Sue reported that there is one project at UC Davis studying shear in post-tensioned box girders. Caltrans is doing tests to validate an AASHTO amendment that allows designers to take full web width without subtracting PT duct diameter. Another "deck loads" research project is underway. This research project studies the current deck design loads and looks for patterns in truck loads and deck deterioration.*

C. Project Development Oversight/Contracting Opportunities: Prakash Sah/Sid Pedaballi

- ✓ *Sid Pedaballi reported that there is only one contract opportunity, and public outreach has already been completed. The contract is through METS for quality management and will be advertised this month. The two Toll Bridge Analysis contracts are on hold but are still planned for eventual release. Sid also reported that Caltrans just closed out two A&E contracts for geotechnical services.*

D. Local Assistance: Robert Peterson/Jeremy Wright

- ✓ *Robert Peterson reported that Eileen Crawford retired, and Andy Chao was hired from DES on July 1 to fill the position. Robert noted that updates are pending to LAPM - Chapter 6 (Guidelines) that are primarily cosmetic. A new manual will be rolled out in January in 2021. Local Assistance is working with a Local HBP Advisory Committee on specific reforms to the HBP program. Funding has stagnated and demand has grown. The program is highly impacted, and Caltrans is looking at nine reform policies. Caltrans is hosting webinars with the committee as a form of outreach. The reform policies are reconsidering reimbursables for HBP projects, refining project scope, and ensuring that updates are approved in a timely fashion. Any major changes will be posted in an office bulletin. Caltrans is targeting fall/winter this year for policy updates.*
- ✓ *This year's funding for bridge projects is exhausted. Robert noted that project funding is typically earmarked early in the year, so agencies need to make funding requests as early as possible. Jack asked for an update on the BIC program. Robert responded that some agencies are using the program, but it has not been as successful as Caltrans had initially hoped. In past committee meetings, Caltrans has brainstormed ways to make BIC more attractive. However, those discussions are on hold until HBP reforms are made. Jack Abcarius asked if someone monitors the credits for the BIC program. Robert responded that BIC credits are tracked by HBP Managers.*

E. Statewide ACEC Committee: Gary Antonucci

- ✓ *Gary Antonucci reported that Cathy Avila is leading a subcommittee working on the allowable fee for "cost plus fixed fee" contracts, that would set the maximum fee at 15%. Cathy is gathering input from consultants and will send a proposal back to Local Assistance within the week.*

- ✓ *A Bikeway Facility Memo has been released by Design. The Environmental group is looking for guidance on SB743 requirements, specifically vehicle miles traveled, for environmental documents. This requirement has resulted in many scope questions from consultants*
- ✓ *Gary reported that prevailing wage continues to be a challenge for consultants. A committee is working with DPAC and Division of Industrial Relations to determine what current regulations cover.*
- ✓ *Standards have been posted for consultants to serve as the Resident Engineer on Caltrans construction projects.*

III. Sub Committees

A. ABC (Accelerated Bridge Construction): Gary Antonucci/Dorie Mellon

- ✓ *Gary Antonucci reported that the ABC Manual is currently being prepared by TY Lin International. It was started in July 2020 with the goal of having it complete by April 2021. A peer review of the document may be scheduled for major milestones, the first of which may be late this year.*
- ✓ *Gary noted that Caltrans is making more use of Ultra High-Performance Concrete (UHPC) superstructure connections. Several bridges are currently out to bid that use UHPC. Jack Abcarius asked if there is a special specification for UHPC yet, and Gary responded that he did not know. Sudhakar Vatti agreed to look up available SSPs or NSSPs for this material. It was reported that, so far, Caltrans has used proprietary products for UHPC.*
- ✓ *Gary also reported that there are now standard, predesigned, single span ABC bridges which will be released soon. Spans range from 18-ft to 116-ft. No XS sheets are available yet but designs and drawings have been completed by the ABC Design group. Caltrans ultimately intends to release the drawings as XS Sheets; however, they are currently only available internally. There is no timeframe for when they might be available as standards. Jack asked if Caltrans would be willing to give a short presentation on one of the bridges being used for these "standard ABC" bridges, and Caltrans responded that they would.*
- ✓ *Gary reported that the committee is still contemplating whether another ABC Workshop can be conducted virtually by the end of the year.*

B. CMGC/Design-Build: Mark Reno/Sudhakar Vatti

- ✓ *Mark Reno reported that the committee is planning to hold a workshop in the spring of 2021. Mark is working with local assistance to develop a "lessons learned" on local agency CMGC projects.*

C. BIM (Building Information Model): Doug Dunrud/Shawn Cullers

- ✓ *Doug Dunrud reported that Autodesk is holding an industry workshop on August 25, 2020 to review the BIM infrastructure package. The workshop will cover the BIM workflow for Autodesk.*

D. Technical Subcommittee: Jack Abcarius/Sudhakar Vatti

- ✓ *Bridge Scour: Cathy Avila reported that she is working to hold another committee meeting with Caltrans to resolve discrepancies between MTD 16-1 and FHWA criteria. Cathy also noted that MTD 16-1 will be updated soon.*
- ✓ *MASH compliance: Sudhakar Vatti noted that many barriers were released a couple of weeks ago. Mark Reno noted that there are several detailing discrepancies with the Type 85*

barriers, and Mark is working with Caltrans on this. It was reiterated that the Type 85 barrier is 2-ft wide, and the old Type 80 Barrier was 1'-9" wide. Designers were expected to account for this difference during project planning.

- ✓ *Friction testing: Rob Scott noted that many folks in the industry are interesting in doing friction testing work and are trying to get equipment certified. Rob offered to help coordinate with METS, if needed. This discussion item was tabled for the next meeting.*

E. Education training/seminar/webinar: Y. Nien Wang/ Emil Vergara

- ✓ *Nien Wang reported on possible trainings and asked the group to identify worthwhile training opportunities.*
- ✓ *ABC Presentation - It may be possible to have a presentation on predesigned ABC bridges towards the end of the year. Nien will work with Gary Antonucci and Gudmund Setburg on this presentation.*
- ✓ *SDC 2.0 Webinar - Nien suggested that we hold a combined webinar to review SDC 2.0 and Structure Technical Policy towards the end of the year, if STP is released by then. Sue Hida said that she can't speak to the STP portion of the presentation since it is unknown how many STP's will be rolled out by the end of the year.*
- ✓ *2020 Winter Training - John Lammers reported that Caltrans was almost wrapped up with the internal winter training before COVID forced employees to work from home. Caltrans converted the last couple of classes to online video. When the training is complete, Caltrans can share with consultants. The timeline on format is to be determined.*

IV. Discussion Items

A. Friction Testing - METS Update

- ✓ *Discussion tabled for next meeting.*

B. COVID-19 Impacts

- ✓ *Gudmund Setburg reported that COVID has not had a big impact since it hit in the fourth quarter when many project designs are complete. The ultimate impacts have yet to be seen. Caltrans estimates that they are about 80% effective and are trying to improve that number.*
- ✓ *Jack Abcarius reported that virtual meetings have completely replaced face-to-face meetings. Consultants are getting used to it and are slowly working out glitches. Laptops are being updated to better handle audio and video.*
- ✓ *It was reported that design documents have been submitted electronically which is working well for Caltrans. Jack noted that some districts are asking for hard copy submittals and asked if Caltrans would make electronic submittals standard throughout the State. Caltrans responded that DES cannot control the submittal format for all departments. As an example, hard copies of Geotechnical Reports are still required. It was noted that reviews by Caltrans have been expedient.*

C. Annual Report Electronic Posting Format (ADA Compatibility)

- ✓ *Sudhakar reported that Caltrans would pass along any guidance on how to convert documents to ADA format. Sudhakar will also send an example "go-by" document to use.*

V. 2020 Meeting Schedule

~~February 7, 2020 (1st Friday)~~

~~May 8, 2020 (2nd Friday)~~

~~August 7, 2020 (1st Friday)~~

October 23, 2020 (4th Friday)

VI. Invited Attendees (Actual Attendance not Recorded)

Emil Vergara Jr, Caltrans

Dolores Valls, Caltrans

Sudhakar Vatti, Caltrans

Prakash Sah, Caltrans

Tom Ostrom, Caltrans

Robert Peterson, Caltrans

Roberto Lacalle, Caltrans

Sid Pedaballi, Caltrans

Joel Magana, Caltrans

Rich Foley, Caltrans

Gudmund Setburg, Caltrans

John Lammers, Caltrans

Tim Greutert, Caltrans

Susan Hida, Caltrans

Keith Hoffman, Caltrans

Michael Johnson, Caltrans

Jack Abcarius, NV5

Mark Reno, Quincy Engineering

Garrett Dekker, Moffatt & Nichol

Bobby Zermeno, Cornerstone

Yung-Nien Wang, HNTB

Todd Lambert, TRC

Shawn Cullers, Cornerstone

Mark Ashley, TYLI

Moe Amini, HNTB

Gary Antonucci, Moffatt & Nichol

Douglas Dunrud, WSP

Bob Fish, TYLI

J. Hickey, Mark Thomas

Syed Kazmi, AECOM

Robert Scott, TRC

Wellington Chu, HDR

M. Martin, WKE

M. Griggs, Dokken

M. Burgard, Dewberry

J. Mosquera, Michael Baker

Cathy Avila, Avila and Associates

Holly Callahan, Avila and Associates

Richard Campbell, STV

Distribution:

<p><u>Caltrans:</u></p> <p>Tom Ostrom, Caltrans, DES</p> <p>Dolores Valls, Caltrans, SP&I</p> <p>Rich Foley, Caltrans, SC</p> <p>Roberto Lacalle, Caltrans, GS</p> <p>Tim Greutert, Caltrans METS</p> <p>Gudmund Setberg, Caltrans, SD</p> <p>Michael B. Johnson, Caltrans, SMI</p> <p>Prakash Sah, Caltrans, PPM & OE</p> <p>Sudhakar Vatti, Caltrans, OSFP/SLA</p> <p>Sid Pedaballi, Caltrans OPD&SCM</p> <p>Emil Vergara, Caltrans, OSFP</p> <p>Robert Peterson, Caltrans, HQ/LA</p> <p>John Lammers, Caltrans, SC</p> <p>Sue Hida, Caltrans SP&I</p> <p>Keith Hoffman, Caltrans METS</p>	<p><u>ACEC Regular Committee Members:</u></p> <p>Member 1: Districts 1-3, 9 & 10 – Mark Reno, Quincy Engineering</p> <p>Member 2: District 11 – Jack Abcarius, NV5</p> <p>Member 3: District 4 – Garrett Dekker, Moffatt & Nichol</p> <p>Member 4: Districts 7, 8, and 12 – Y. Nien Wang, HNTB</p> <p>Member 5: Districts 5 & 6 – Bobby Zermeno, Cornerstone Structural Engineering Group</p>
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