

SCDOT/CAGC Joint Committee Meeting

January 24, 2008

Minutes

Attendees:

David Fletcher, Rea Contracting
Scott Fant, Sloan Construction Co., Inc.
Ken Atkinson, Palmetto Paving Corp.
Sally Paul, SPC, Inc.
Lewis Ryan, United Contractors, Inc.
Gene Ellison, Cherokee, Inc.
Marty McKee, Thrift Development Corp.
Reid Banks, Banks Construction Co.
Randy Snow, U. S. Constructors, Inc.
Greg Cook, U. S. Group, Inc.
Mark Ashmore, Ashmore Brothers, Inc.
Danny Shealy, SCDOT
Charles Eleazer, SCDOT
Robert Pratt, SCDOT
Charles Matthews, SCDOT
Ed Eargle, SCDOT
Clem Watson, SCDOT
Jim Feda, SCDOT
Charles Smoak, SCDOT
Bill Mattison, SCDOT
Mark Attaway, SCDOT
Christy Hall, SCDOT
Leland Colvin, SCDOT
Tim Henderson, SCDOT
Kevin Harrington, SCDOT
John McCarter, SCDOT
Robert Dickinson, SCDOT
Milt Fletcher, SCDOT

The meeting was called to order by David Fletcher with introductions.

Old Business

Contractor Ratings (New Form Complete?)

The form is complete. Two are now on the SCDOT web site. Charles Eleazer provided a handout for review. There are no changes since the last meeting.

Update on Tentative List of Projects

Clem Watson reports "it is out there" on the web site. DOT is putting together RFP for Design Build for York and Cherokee in the \$15M - \$20M range. The timeframe is March/April. We will put on the web site what is approved by the Commission for interstate and rehab programs.

Robert Pratt added a lot is missing on the web site including \$90M - \$95M in interstate work that DOT is confident will be included this year. We may also have that same amount for work in 2009.

There is some revision on I-95 and I-385 (total reconstruction project). We are not sure if this will be in 2008 or 2009. It depends on which projects are ready to let first.

The staff is scoping projects. This must be done before they are put on the web site.

There is \$100M bridge work in each year. The Ben Sawyer project should be around May/June. We don't know about Highway 601 because it is in the courts. Seven bridges for Highway 378 should be ready this year. We can only work on the 15 bridges approved by the Commission. These will exhaust bridge funds for 2008.

Jim Feda added there is \$82M Federal Aid money for resurfacing. These projects should be let in March, April and May. Also there is \$65M maintenance work plus \$10M for matching for a total of \$75M (could be as high as \$85M) for maintenance.

DOT is working on 2009 lettings now and will get them out as quickly as possible.

Randy Snow asked about any widening or interchange projects. Robert stated they would be on the tentative list if there were any at this time. There may be a couple of widening projects for I-20 and I-77 and a section in Charleston in 2009.

A presentation was made to the Commission about priorities on the list that may not have funding.

When it gets in STIP, DOT can move forward.

Randy Snow commented that the tentative list is helpful to contractors for planning. We understand some projects can change on a twelve month list. If DOT can keep twelve months available, even a best guess, and then update as necessary, it really helps the contractors.

Clem Watson noted that with the new structure DOT hopes to now be able to forecast further out.

Danny Shealy reminded that other people also look at the list and sometimes criticize too many changes made in the list.

Scott Fant – No one is saying anything about funding which is a major issue. DOT needs more money and this needs to be presented to the Legislature more strongly. The contractors are willing to push this and make it an issue for discussion. We need to put pressure on the Legislators to provide more money to DOT for the roads/bridges in our State.

Federal funding from the Highway Trust Fund is project to run at a deficit as early as 2009 – late 2010. There are some bills pending now, but funding needs to be brought up as a critical issue.

New Business

Project Over and Under Runs

Gene Ellison discussed three of his projects with clearing which are running about 25% of estimate. The quantities affect the bid. Need to look closer at quantities and DOT will get better bids. (these are secondary road projects)

Ken Atkinson is seeing this in full depth paving projects also where there is no room to build the shoulder. Running 20% of volume bid without clearing/grubbing as a pay item.

Danny Shealy will look at these projects.

Discussion followed on utility conflicts. Randy Snow related a recent project in Georgia where utilities moved quickly because of the state law. Greg Cook reminded there are laws in South Carolina. What can be done to get the law applied to affect change?

Gene Ellison has a project now that was supposed to be finished in August, but there are still utility poles that have not been moved and AT&T has lines on the ground. AT&T has not been to the site since before Christmas.

Sammy Hendrix – The Utility Committee is working on some legislation. Catherine Blackwell is checking with DOT Legal. The major utilities are ready to

work, but the Commission has to stand with us to accomplish getting any legislation. We need to determine what SC has now – whether it is a law or a "means".

Danny Shealy asked the Utility Committee to come back with a recommendation to present to the Commission.

3rd Chart for Ride-ability Specification

Danny Shealy provided a handout of a third chart for two to five lanes that can't be paved continuously because of phasing of work. This topic is on the agenda for the Engineering Conference February 28, 2008. Provide any comments to Danny by January 31. DOT will identify which chart applies to a project.

New Lab Procedure Testing for Asphalt Contractors

Danny Shealy provided a handout on the FHWA review and he reviewed the presentation he made to the Commission.

This is random by FHWA and SC actually came out better than most states. Beginning with the June letting it will apply to interstate projects, January 2009 to primary routes, and July 2009 all projects.

Milt Fletcher noted the first handout (9 pages) is from the FHWA.

It applies to asphalt now, but concrete will be next.

2008 SC Highway Contractor-Engineering Conference

The conference will be February 28, 2008 at Seawell's. Notices have been sent to CAGC members and SCDOT. The four agenda items are: As Built Plans, Rideability, Projects Closeouts, and Contractor/SCDOT Ratings – Certification.

Danny asked for any feedback on information attendees want on these topics.

A question was asked about the seeding projects for Districts and if we need to let these again. The contractors say some Districts that did not get contracts still need this work. What would help is a list of the roads so the contractors know what they are bidding.

Subcommittee Reports

Roadway

Charles Eleazer provided a handout on hauling routes spec. This concerns routes revised due to weight restrictions. It will begin in April.

Bridge

Did not meet in December. No report.

Project Development

Did not meet in December. No report.

Utility

Did not meet in December. No report.

Supplier

The next meeting for this committee will be early Spring.

Other Business

The next scheduled meeting is March 27. This conflicts with a DOT meeting and we need to change the date. We will notify members when a new date is set.

The meeting was adjourned.