

Road Subcommittee Meeting
February 18, 2010
Minutes

Attendees:

Marty McKee, Thrift Development Corp.
Shawn Godwin, Palmetto Corp.
Greg Ashmore, Ashmore Bros.
Sally Paul, SPC, Inc.
Michael Crenshaw, King Asphalt
Charles Eleazer, SCDOT
Jamie Kendall, SCDOT
Brian Parnell, SCDOT
Kevin DuBose, SCDOT
Stephanie Jackson-Amell, SCDOT
Ben Olson, SCDOT
Todd Steagall, SCDOT
Sammy Hendrix, CAGC

The meeting was called to order by Charles Eleazer with introductions.

Old Business

Update on Seeding Specification

The spec should be sent to FHWA next week for review. It should be approved and ready by the May letting.

Sally Paul asked what is considered organic top soil and is the watering amount the same.

That is natural or "earth" top soil, and the watering will be in line with the amount of seeding. The "3 million gallon" inflated quantities have been stopped. Todd Steagall added DOT will be taking water out for DBE.

Update on SCDOT/CAGC Recycling/Reclamation Task Force

Todd Steagall reported Greg Ashmore and Stephanie Jackson-Amell are working on this specification and have provided good revision comments. There will be

two or three curing options and the districts will specify which option will be used before the project is bid. It will be on the strip map. The tentative timeline is the May letting.

Todd will send to the DCE's for their review. After the DCE's review, Charles Eleazer will send to FHWA for approval.

Stephanie added the current spec states not to mill the cured surface, but it is happening.

Update on Going Paperless

Marty reported this discussion began at the Joint Committee meetings and is intended to cut down on the amount of paperwork required by utilizing more forms and submittals on line. A task force has been formed to sit down and review items that can be submitted on-line. Send any ideas you have to Marty.

One example/idea that was discussed is taking required samples at a concrete plant and then certifying the plant (as SCDOT does asphalt plants) so another contractor who needs to use the same plant soon thereafter does not have to get another approved sample. This would save everyone time, trouble and money to pull and test additional samples. Currently a sample is tested for every project even if the same plant is being used.

This is just one example of areas we can look at to streamline the process. Stephanie noted the districts need a person appointed to take care of samples, testing, etc.

Brian Parnell will help the committee with the details of how this can/will work.

Ed Eargle noted at the last Joint Committee meeting that SCDOT is working toward electronic plans for the lettings.

Update on MSE Wall Backfill

Jamie Kendall reported there has not been any movement toward a new spec. The 2004 spec is still being used.

Sally Paul added that she would like to see the wall backfill material specified. A standardized backfill is needed so everyone knows what it will be and bid accordingly. Jamie will talk with GEO Tech for comments.

New Business

Highway Division Meeting

A reminder that the CAGC Highway Division meeting is June 24 – 27, 2010 at Myrtle Beach. There will be credits given.

Engineering Conference

The Engineering Conference is March 23, and 24, 2010. DOT is still working on the final agenda. There will be a dinner Monday evening before the conference at Seawell's which CAGC is helping host.

Possible Second Round of Stimulus Money

Charles Eleazer reported there is nothing definite, but the feeling is there will not be a second stimulus based on the last update. Federal Highway and the White House now report the first stimulus did produce new jobs which counters the previous week's report that it did not. SCDOT is continuing their process to be ready if the stimulus is approved.

Sammy Hendrix reported that \$20 million in TIGER money did come through. \$10 million will be for I-73 and \$10 million for Highway 17 projects.

Charles added that getting insurance certificates will be added in the cover letter to the contractors and hopefully will help get those in as needed. They are project specific.

DBE Requirement on Projects

This was discussed in the January, 2010 Joint Committee meeting. DOT has met their goal on the last four semi-annual reports. DOT has re-evaluated how the goals are set and reduced the cap on some projects.

Marty McKee noted 20% is usually the cap. It has been higher on some ARRA projects (up to 50%). Commitments on ARRA projects are up.

Shawn Godwin added it has been harder to get the DBE portion of the work done. Often the Prime Contractor finishes the majority of the work and has to wait on the DBE. It makes it harder to complete the project and meet the schedule.

Communicate these type problems to the DBE office and they will send someone out to help. Also, let Todd Steagall know about these situations and which DBE is involved.

Charles explained with Federal laws there are no set asides. With State laws there are set asides, but cannot set a DBE goal.

There is a new DBE special provision coming out that focuses more on a good faith effort and meeting committal.

Discussion followed on clarification of “goal” and “commitment”. Example is a goal is 10% and the contractor commits to using three firms. You have to meet the 10%, but also have to meet using three firms to reach that goal. If you have a DBE that does not perform, document and show your good faith effort.

“Tolerance” on Pay Items and Varying Interpretation

There are some items where there is more subjectivity. Do we need a range to eliminate some of the subjectivity and be more uniform? There are differences in the districts and this determines how you bid. A tolerance would prevent disagreements later.

An example of a possible area is curb and gutter. Guardrail and handicap ramps currently have specific tolerances. Charles stated that SCDOT would be willing to examine possible tolerances on these items.

Utility Legislation

Sammy reported a bill has been filed in the Senate concerning underground utilities. There is a federal mandate in three years concerning this and we are trying to get compliance before these mandates go into effect. The utility companies are giving some resistance as expected. Secretary Buck Limehouse did thank us for doing this and we hope that means SCDOT support of this effort.

Bidders List

Marty McKee reported on concerns of the subcontractors that SCDOT does not provide a bidders list. Their desire is to have an actual bidders list to help them know who to contact to quote work. They want to quote but don’t know who to contact. Many other states provide this, or a plan holders list.

Brian Parnell showed on his laptop where contractors can go on the SCDOT Extranet site to list and see potential bidders. Many were not aware this is available. Charles stated SCDOT will look at ways to get this information to

general contractors and subs. One method will be to inform contractors at the upcoming DBE Conference.

Marty McKee explained that this is also available on the CAGC website. Brian went to this website and members were shown how to access the voluntary bidders list there.

A suggestion was made to survey for comments on how to use the information available on the SCDOT extranet site. Also, Brian agreed to review ways to make the list more "user-friendly". There needs to be more maintenance on this site to purge old information

Sally Paul added that SCDOT does a great job with their on line drawings which are much better than NC or GA for viewing.

Other Business

Mary asked if the specified maximum length for interstate lane closures is still applied. Charles responded nothing in the spec has changed. If you have a specific request it will be addressed case by case.

The next meeting of the Road Subcommittee is April 15, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned.