

SCDOT/CAGC Joint Committee Meeting

May 27, 2010

Minutes

Attendees:

Jim Triplett, United Infrastructure Group
Marty McKee, Thrift Development Corp.
Ted Geddis, HRI Bridge
Scott Fant, Sloan Construction Co., Inc.
Sally Paul, SPC, Inc.
John Jordan, Cherokee, Inc.
Grady Wicker, Eagle Construction Co., Inc.
Randy Snow, United Contractors
Greg Cook, U.S. Group, Inc.
Joe Sox, Sox & Sons
Reid Banks, Banks Construction
Mark Ashmore, Ashmore Bros. Inc.
Benjy Hardee, A.O. Hardee & Son, Inc.
Monica Hardee, A.O. Hardee & Son, Inc.
Ken Atkinson, Palmetto Corp.
Chris Lammons, Peek Pavement Marking
Danny Shealy, SCDOT
John Walsh, SCDOT
Milt Fletcher, SCDOT
Jim Porth, SCDOT
Drew McCaffrey, SCDOT District 2
Kevin DuBose, SCDOT, District 5
Patti Gambill, SCDOT
Kevin Harrington, SCDOT
David Glenn, SCDOT
Doug McClure, SCDOT
Jason Johnston, SCDOT, District 4
Brian Parnell, SCDOT
Robbie Isgett, SCDOT
Mark Attaway, SCDOT
Jim Feda, SCDOT
Christy Hall, SCDOT
Matt Lifsey, SCDOT
Leland Colvin, SCDOT
Bryan Jones, SCDOT
Tad Kitowicz, FHWA
Scott Bowles, FHWA
Cynthia Mills, CAGC
Sammy Hendrix, CAGC

The meeting was called to order by Jim Triplett with introductions.

John Walsh, Deputy Secretary SCDOT opened the meeting. He has met with some of the committee members and will meet with Sammy Hendrix periodically on issues. We need to work toward understanding each others needs. The customer is who we have to focus on and reconfirm our commitment to partnership.

SCDOT will have a representation at the Highway Division meeting for good information and feedback.

Cynthia Mills, President and CEO of Carolinas AGC added we need to be solution finders and address issues together on where we are headed.

Old Business

Update – Going Paperless – Electronic Submittals

Brian Parnell reported the extranet is being updated. There will be a new message board for contractors that is more user friendly. Boxes at the top of page will be more basic and you can sort by letting.

On document submittal, there are some issues on approval submission, but we are moving forward on this also and still looking at Sharepoint.

Action: Brian Parnell will talk with the committee over the next week.

Marty McKee asked about the bidders list on extranet. Brian noted the message board will allow contractors to add this type information. The DBE's have asked about this information.

Update – CPM Schedule Specification

Patti Gambill provided a draft handout of the spec. This spec creates schedules based on monthly payouts. Contractors should review the spec and send any comments back to Sammy Hendrix by June 18, 2010. He will send to Patty. FHWA will have to review the final spec and sign.

Submission process for a regular bid – pay for initial CPM schedule immediately.

A base line schedule is due 30 days after the award. Also new to the spec is payout for bonds and insurance. Contract status evaluation was added.

Addressing Change orders – still working on this.

A system for analyzing weather is not in the spec. It will be settled on a monthly basis, not at the end of the contract. It is incorporated in special provisions for now.

Danny Shealy added the award date plus 30 days is the target for submission of the base line schedule, then we can generate the first estimate for up front cost and start tracking weather for weather analysis. If you are due time and can justify, there will not be a problem.

The NTP tells you the job is available for work and time and tracking begins.

Randy Snow - For A+B projects the NTP is 45 days after award. Some A+B projects need a window of time up front to better prepare before work starts. Danny noted this was in the old spec and now this is decided between the contractor and SCDOT. A+B+C tells SCDOT when to start.

Patty added that over the last month 29 letters were sent for some type delinquency concerning schedule. Latest status on updates (other than Districts 2, 3, & 5) show 24 projects are 10%– 25% behind and 59 projects more than 25% behind. This is 15% of all active/pending projects.

This looks bad on both SCDOT and contractors. Please talk to your schedulers about getting this into SCDOT in the 15 day time frame. If you need help, call Patty and she will be glad to help. We need to work together.

Danny reminded everyone that it was agreed at the January meeting that the first letter of delinquency would not go to the bonding company. Now, once you get the delinquency letter, there are no other warnings after that. Estimates average 7 days. Patty will send another e-mail to the district schedulers to be sure they are aware. If contractors are not receiving estimates, contact her.

Clem Watson added when 15% to 25% of projects are behind, it affects budgets and recommendations as to where to distribute money. What is behind can affect what type work is let.

Jim Triplett asked what percentage are ahead of schedule. Patty did not have that information and will provide more at the July meeting.

Update – DBE requirements on projects

Danny reported on information SCDOT has to generate for federal reports. Brian added they are still collecting for the semi-annual report. The last report in September 2009 - 10.7% was the goal and we made 11.6%. The two parts are committals (race conscious) and verified payments (race neutral). Anything

above race conscious is race neutral. Of the 11.6%, 5.8% was race conscious and 5.8% was race neutral.

New Business

Safety

Danny reported the QMT report last year was not good. Now focused on that and trying to improve the trend. Also, OSHA has increased enforcement resources and efforts significantly.

Waterborne Paint Shortage

Danny reported this is due to a shortage of a chemical that goes in the paint.

Are there alternates to use?

Charles Eleazer – There is a low VOC that is solvent based. In hot SC weather, acetone may evaporate before it hits the pavement. We have a waiver to use this for one year if necessary. There is also a supply that is used in parking lots which is a little less than the spec, but it might get us through the shortage.

Thermo paint has also been affected due to a bad lumber harvest and what is used from this for thermo paint. Contractors will need a letter from the supplier stating the paint is not available.

These factors are causing an increase price, maybe 20 to 30%.

Hopefully there is enough paint for current contracts. SCDOT Maintenance is aware and will not paint if it is not necessary.

Design Building Projects – Stipend

Jim Triplett discussed the expense to prepare a bid and would like to encourage stipends be provided for short listed contractors not selected. He will take the lead to look at the Southeast and see what is being done in this area and report to the committee at the next meeting. The quality of proposals should increase with a stipend.

Leland Colvin reported this has been done on a few projects. The trend is toward providing less and less information which is what contractors asked for.

We are internally looking at two options: 1) private meetings and 2) alternative technical concepts.

Is a design build subcommittee needed or an ad hoc committee? The SCDOT has a DB Committee with the SC CEC. Leland will look into combining so one committee can handle.

Highway Division Meeting

The meeting is June 24-27, 2010 in Myrtle Beach, SC. SCDOT will have six speakers at the meeting which includes a panel discussion.

Change meeting day to Wednesday

The Joint Committee will change the meeting day from the fourth Thursday to the 4th Wednesday (every other month).

Design-Bidder Conflicts

SCDOT provided a handout. Charles Eleazer added this is to insure there is no conflict of interest on projects. Two statements will be added to the electronic bid. One will be certifying the bidder is not the Engineer of Record for the project, or the bidder is the Engineer but has been approved by the Secretary (proof required). This has always been in place, but not in writing.

Sign Structure Moving Items

Matt Lifsey reported on new statewide spec. This came up on a project where the county asked for a permit.

A spec has been drafted which complies with the 2006 International Building Code. We would like a committee to review the spec before it is implemented. This applies to all signs except basic timber structures.

Jim Triplett – How can the contractor know what scope of work is expected before bidding? This can be a big expense and schedule impact depending on number of signs that might have to be moved, replaced, etc.

Action: Send to the Project Development Committee to coordinate with Road Committee.

Subcommittee Reports

Road Subcommittee

Marty McKee reported the seeding spec draft is being reviewed and expect to see mid-June. On recycling reclamation, Todd Steagall asked the review be completed by June 4. There will be three options, one of which will be specified for the project.

The MSE wall backfill spec is still in the process of being completed.

Ed Eargle asked for a letter to be sent to John Walsh on how much the contractors appreciate access to electronic files. The committee approved Marty to send a letter.

Bridge Subcommittee

Ted Geddis reported topics discussed at the last meeting were culverts in tidal zones, rideability on bridge decks, and approach slabs.

Project Development Subcommittee

No report.

Utility Subcommittee

Greg Cook reported there will be a meeting with Senator Rose on the utility bill. The Utilities are stone walling on what they want in the bill. Senator Rose will support a bill. The meeting will be mid summer and Senator Campbell will moderate.

Sammy Hendrix agreed we are now waiting on input from the Utility companies. He added that some SCDOT cost information will be needed.

Greg reported that on a current project the Utility Window is working well with utilities attending all meetings.

Supplier Subcommittee

Did not meet.

Other Business

Danny reported SCDOT is looking at options with Clemson University and others for certified inspectors and will let us know about future courses.

Clem Watson reported there will be some additional federal funds from stimulus money for projects. It has to be obligated by September 30 and will probably see in the October and November lettings.

Jim Feda added there will be \$25M in federal funds for resurfacing and \$10M for reclamation.

SCDOT thanked CAGC for their help with the Engineering Conference.

The next meeting is Wednesday, July 28, 2010 in Room 306 at SCDOT.

The meeting was adjourned.