

ACEC/Caltrans Division of Engineering Services Structures Liaison Committee

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: July 26, 2013

TIME: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MAIN LOCATION: California Department of Transportation
Division of Engineering Services
1801 30th Street, Room 102 (Farmers Market 1 Building, 1st Floor)
Sacramento, CA 95816

VIDEO CONFERENCE LOCATION: District 12 Office, Room 333
3337 Michelson Drive, Irvine

I. Call to Order

- A. Self-introductions
- B. Changes to Agenda
- C. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (4/26/2013)

II. Old Business

- A. Technical Workshops
 - 1. ACEC/Caltrans Winter Training Seminar – Update (Shawn Cullers)

Shawn gave a brief summary of the recent winter training seminar on falsework design. Nien stated that there was very good attendance along with good technical content. There were approximately 50 people in the LA location and at least an additional 50 people at the Sacramento location for a total attendance of well over 100. Caltrans may distribute the PowerPoint version of the presentation to Local Agencies, but likely cannot distribute to consultants. One area for future improvement is the broadcast technology – sometimes the microphone would cut out and this system needs work. Improving communications for the Q & A portion is particularly important; it should be easier for folks to ask questions without creating a queue. Also, it was agreed that implementing a system where questions are typed could be an option, but that it is often cumbersome and takes too long. All the presentation material is on a web link. Nien reinforced that the content was a great format and very positive.

Rob Stott briefly mentioned upcoming training topics could include: Claims or Bridge Demolition. A more optimal time for the training could be a date closer to early May – late April. Rob noted that there is always a risk that resources would not be available to make it happen, but that Caltrans believes such training is a good use of oversight resources.

2. Structures Design Seminars – Update (Shawn Cullers)

Shawn covered updates to the SDS. Topics of interest include: OSFP Policies and Procedures and Design-Build Lessons Learned. Additional information will be refined and presented by Mark Reno and Mark Ashley, both not present this meeting, in October. It was noted that Sudhakar Vatti has good knowledge on the Design-Build topic and will work with Mark & Mark.

3. 2010 Specifications Training – Update (Nien Wang)

Nien discussed options for the 2010 Specifications training. Many questions regarding the formatting and construction application of the specs exist. One concept is to have training with a small group and have it branch out from there. Nien mentioned previous discussion regarding the 2003 Specs Training as an example. This training had a set of project plans and specs (with specific BEES item list) that formed a cohesive example because it was a singular complete project. Nien thought this format worked very well and could be used in a 2 hour format for training of folks already savvy in specifications. The format could be 1 hr presentation followed by 1 hr Q&A. These folks could then go on and disseminate info to their respective consultants/agencies. Ruth was identified to be a lead on the Caltrans side. Another route that could increase communication efficiently is to record the 1st hour of presentation for replay to a larger portion of industry and then have a single, large group Q&A session.

Chandu Shenoy recommended that more feedback from construction industry be incorporated. Jack Abcarius agreed this would be good, but the primary focus should be first to “train the trainer” and then let the information spread internally. Rob mentioned that the Div. of Construction is going to put out a specs training concentrating in the area of payment and pay clauses. Jack mentioned that local agencies are hesitant to move from 2006 to 2010 specs in particular because of payment and claims concerns. The consensus was that not enough lessons had come back from construction yet and the training should be broken into two segments:

- 1. How to do 2010 Specs via a “train the trainer” approach*
- 2. Lesson learned from construction practice regarding application of 2010 Spec*

Shawn re-iterated the 2 hour format and the importance of a single example project. Roberto Lacalle indicated he would speak to Ruth about the effort of having 10-12 attendees @ HQ to “train the trainer.” There may not be enough spots for every consultant to send a trainer and they may have to be selected geographically. Roberto recommended industry have a plan in place for dissemination of the training information.

For resource expenditures Roberto will look at the total effort required. There is a need to agree on the Scope/Basics of the training: where to get templates/set-up, how to correctly edit specs, format of a specific example of limited items. Training could either be hands-on or a demonstration. Industry could bring laptops to facilitate. Mike Keever stated that the specific scope of what is desired should be detailed. Jack stated he will work to develop an outline. A desired example project will include plans, specs, and foundation report, and item list.

Mike will work with Ruth on the “train the trainer” approach from the Structures Design side. Roberto will fill in from the SP & I side.

Rob mentioned that we are still moving forward to 2015 specs. Rob mentioned that Ruth felt that the spec compiling process was intuitive and the example project should be simple. Nien agreed that the simplest project possible should be selected as the example. All agreed to be efficient and limit the amount of OT used for the effort as much as possible.

III. Recurring Business

A. DES Updates (~~James Davis~~)

Lam Nguyen mentioned several personnel updates. Mike Miles, District 7 Director, will be retiring at the end of the month. In his place Carrie Bowen, District 10 Director, will be the acting District 7 Director. In Carrie's place, Amarjeet Benipal, the head of Pavement Program will be the new acting District 10 Director.

Denix Anbiah, Chief Div of Local Assistance, will be leaving Caltrans to become the new Director of Public Works for the City of West Sacramento. Ray Zhang will be stepping in to act on this role. Mike Keever is the new head of Structure Design. Terry Abbott will be leaving Caltrans and will be replaced by Tim Craggs. Rick Land will now be focused on helping deliver the Bay Bridge. Norma Otega, Caltrans CFO, will be Acting Chief Deputy until Rick returns.

California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) is the new clearinghouse for all CA transportation projects. Caltrans is no longer under the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency as part reorganization plan.

There will soon be announcement for requirement of Project Managers/Contract Managers to take mandatory security awareness training on state contracts.

Eric Fredrickson, SFP is the new replacement for Sudhakar.

The new Acting Deputy Division Chief, Program/Project & Resource Management in the Division of Engineering Services (DES) is Shira Rajendra. Lam Nguyen has returned to Chief of Office of Special Funded Projects, Structure Local Assistance & Structure Contract Management.

On July 31st, there will be outreach to A&E consultants for structure construction inspection services on state project/contracts.

B. DES Updates: Memo to Designers, Technical Research, IQA (Barton Newton)

Roberto discussed that SP&I has finalized review of MTD 8-8, 11-1, and 20-12 for release. All are currently in blue sheet format for submittal to Technical Publications. Research is continuing on embedded lengths required for Type II shafts; it is anticipated it will result with a slight decrease in required lengths. Research is also progressing on the Type 732 barrier w/ an 8' Sidewalk as a TL-2 qualified replacement for the Type 26 in applications with <45mph speeds. The Type 26 was grandfathered in and was never crash tested and will be phased out.

Research is also progressing on a new universal trench footing to meet TL-3 requirements that will work for all railings. This footing is expected to be deeper than the current details shown in Std Plans. The applicability will require a 3' bench on the backside with a 2:1 downslope. It is expected that the footing will be tested with the ST-10 barrier as a post-and-beam barrier results in most stringent requirements.

Roberto mentioned the move towards wider sidewalks in general as a result of ADA compliance requirements (6' Min, 8' Recommended, and 10' Preferred). It should be anticipated that this will result in wider bridge structures as well. The required wider SW lead to a requirement to evaluate the effects of a whole vehicle on the SW, this will be coming up in September.

Mike Keever noted that a SDI PT system has been taken off the pre-approved products list and there should be a memo coming from Rosme Aguilar. This system is primarily used for transverse post-tensioning and should not affect many projects. The removal is expected to be temporary pending additional testing.

Mike also noted that CT has pulled it's guidance on providing RR clearances. This is due to how the guidelines have recently been interpreted regarding permanent vs. future configurations and the CPUC envelope. These issues have led to some significant and costly construction change orders involving changes to falsework on two recent projects even though there was an agreement in place. Caltrans is trying to pull together consensus on interpretations, between itself, FHWA, railroads (BNSF & UPRR).

C. ACEC Updates

None

D. Project Development Oversight/Updates/Contracting Opportunities (Lam Nguyen)

Lam noted that the only current contracting opportunities were for construction inspection and source inspection. There will be an outreach meeting regarding upcoming inspection contracts at the Farmer's Market III building between 10am and noon on 7/30/2013.

E. Statewide ACEC Committee Update (Mark Reno)

Mark was not present and this item was pushed until the next meeting. Jack announced he would also be attending the Statewide ACEC Committee. He mentioned one issue of business being worked on was a recent conflict involving appropriate per diem and whether contracts should be based on State or Prevailing wages.

IV. New Business

Rob and Mike discussed the new issue of air pressure testing PT Ducts. Shawn noted that on the Dist 6 Braided Ramps job, Schwager Davis recently performed elective testing and found two ducts initially failed (criteria on the order of a 50% pressure drop within a minute) but it was determined to be leaking at the stressing heads.

Rob stated that the Air Test SSP is nearly complete and ready to go. It will be released pending a decision on what the criteria for allowable leakage will be. The spec will require testing to occur after stressing. Rob stated that Caltrans hopes testing happens early and often by the Contractor and that it is very important, particularly for precast-segmental construction. Again, the criteria of what constitutes a leak are important and the ultimate goal is not to let grout leak into sensitive areas.

Majid Sarraf asked if there would be another call for research problem statements (call for proposal). Mike stated that Tom Ostrom may go through another 4 or 5 existing problem statements from the current backlog but will not be soliciting for new problem statements. Currently Utilities are becoming one of the larger issues in construction along with resolving R/W issues.

Majid asked if Caltrans relayed experiences involving issues with prestressing curved girders. Majid asked if Caltrans considered a blanket requirement for duct ties. Rob stated the Div of Construction would not object to the slight relative construction cost increase, but there was no blanket policy forthcoming. Mike and Roberto iterated that the more recent guidance, including MTD, on this issue was sufficient, although designers often elect to exceed minimum's at their discretion.

Rob mentioned a change between the hierarchy of documents in the move from 2006 to 2010 standards. In 2010, the order of Std Plans and Std Specs have been reversed.

*2006 Hierarchy: Specials, Project Plans, Standard Plans, and Standard Specs.
2010 Hierarchy: Specials, Project Plans, Standard Specs, and Standard Plans.*

Meeting was closed at 11:55 am.

V. 2013 Meeting Schedule

~~February 1st (Friday)~~

~~April 26th (Friday)~~

July 26th (Friday)

October 25th (Friday)

Distribution:

Robert Pieplow, Caltrans
Sudhakar Vatti, Caltrans
Rob Stott, Caltrans
Mike Keever, Caltrans
Eric Fredrickson, Caltrans
Barton Newton, Caltrans
Dolores Valls, Caltrans
Lam Nguyen, Caltrans
Phil Stolarski, Caltrans

Walt LaFranchi, URS Corporation
Wei Koo, WKE
Mark Ashley, TY Lin International
Thomas Post, HNTB
Jay Holombo, TY Lin International
Nien Wang, HNTB
Jim Frost, Simon Wong Engineering
Tom Walker, Nolte Associates, Inc. (NV5)
Jack Abcarius, Nolte Associates, Inc. (NV5)

Chandu Shenoy, Nolte Associates, Inc.
(NV5)
Mark Reno, Quincy Engineering
Steve Tayanipour, Huitt Zollars
John Woelfel, HNTB
Todd Goolkasian, Cornerstone Struct. Eng.
Greg Zeiss, HDR
Majid Sarraf, TTG
Shawn M. Cullers, Cornerstone Struct. Eng.
Kevin Coates, WKE
Syed Kazmi, URS
Po Chen, Mark Thomas & Company
Sunny Jhutti, AECOM
Kevin Thompson, URS
Patricia Preston, Apex Civil Engineering
Todd Lambert, TRC