



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

August 30, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: AGC-DOT Joint Cooperative Committee Members
FROM: E. C. Powell, Jr., P. E.
State Construction Engineer
SUBJECT: Minutes to the Joint Committee Meeting

The Joint Cooperative Committee of the AGC-DOT met at 10:00 AM on July 19, 2007, in the Chief Engineer’s Conference Room at the NCDOT Equipment and Maintenance Facility located at Beryl Road in Raleigh.

Members and attendees present included:

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Debbie Barbour | Cecil Jones | Ellis Powell |
| Kevin Burns | Alan Cahill | Bill Rosser |
| Bill Copeland | Don Lee | Kalliopi Sgouros |
| Susan Coward | Bob Lofling | Shannon Sweitzer |
| C.A. Gardner | Jeff Mann | John Sullivan |
| Randy Garris | Graham Moore | Sim A. Wooten Jr. |
| Berry Jenkins | Art McMillan | Jim Wyngaarden |
| Drew Johnson | Donnie Oldham | |

AGENDA

• *Project lettings.....Debbie Barbour*

Ms. Debbie Barbour stated that the 12-month Letting List for 2007 is a realistic list and that the Department has met almost all scheduled dates so far on this list. Ms. Barbour also advised that the US-311 (**R-2606**) Design-Build project will meet the scheduled letting date of April 2008 and will be advertised in the fall of 2007 following the Sunflower study on the project which will take place either in August or early September.

Mr. Berry Jenkins asked for the total dollar amount allocated for the letting of the TIP projects for the year of 2007. Ms. Barbour advised that this amount is \$800 Million and with the addition of \$200 Million Garvey money the total letting amount for 2007 will reach \$1 Billion.

MAILING ADDRESS:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONSTRUCTION UNIT
1543 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1543

TELEPHONE: 919-733-2210
FAX: 919-733-8441

WEBSITE: WWW.DOT.STATE.NC.US

LOCATION:
TRANSPORTATION BUILDING
1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET
RALEIGH NC

•NCDOT Legislative Update.....Susan Coward

Ms. Susan Coward advised that the Legislation passed House Bill #610; an act to set number of Design-Build construction projects that may be awarded by the Department at twenty-five each fiscal year.

Ms. Coward also stated that Senator Clark Jenkins has drafted legislation to increase revenue for transportation infrastructure. The bill would increase Highway Use Tax by 2% (phased in over two years). Proceeds from this increase would generate approximately \$200 Million annually for the Highway Trust fund. The proposal also includes an increase in vehicle registration fees by \$15.00 (phased in over three years) to generate \$100 Million annually to be dedicated to the Highway Trust Fund. These additional \$300 Million in recurring revenue would be used as follows: \$ 30 Million for the NC Turnpike Authority gap funding, \$30 Million for Intrastate Maintenance, \$120 Million for improvements to the Strategic Highway Corridor Network (outside of the equity formula) and \$120 Million distributed inside the equity formula. Revenues generated by the fees could be used to pay debt service on bonds.

Ms. Coward also added that in order to support the NCDOT strategic and organizational assessment conducted by the McKinsey and Company, a draft legislation is under way that would allow the Department of Transportation to pilot talent management initiatives, review and make recommendations regarding prioritization of TIP projects, and permit the Office of State Budget and Management to conduct a statewide logistics study.

• N.C. Turnpike Authority..... Shannon Sweitzer

Mr. Shannon Sweitzer advised that the Turnpike projects **R-2635 B & C** Western Way Parkway are scheduled for the September 2007 letting and the **R-2635 A** Western Wake Parkway portion ready to be advertised on February 2008.

•Cost Containment Update.....Ellis Powell

Mr. Ellis Powell discussed the results of the Conference break out sessions in regards to Cost Containment following an internal meeting with several Department members and chaired by Mr. Victor Barbour. The following 14 items were identified:

- 1). Constructability reviews with Contractors during the design process.
- 2). Identify borrow/waste sites during design process (State furnished).
 - Balance earthwork on projects in the design process.
- 3). Increase advertisement length when appropriate.
- 4). Streamline Value Engineering process.
- 5). Utilize GPS/Allow electronic plans to be available to Contractors.
- 6). Grant more authority to resident engineers resulting in more timely decisions.
- 7). Relocate utilities prior bidding on projects so contractors know it will not be an issue during the life of the project.
- 8). Increase the use of recyclable materials such a RAP.

- 9). Alternate Bid Items in Proposals.
- 10). Group bridge projects for letting.
- 11). Hold pre-bid meetings during advertisement when appropriate.
- 12). More flexible Traffic Control Plans
- 13). Utilize more A+B bidding on time sensitive projects.
- 14). Utilize road closures to facilitate faster construction operations.

Mr. Jenkins suggested a joint meeting with the Department and the private industry to discuss these issues.

• *Best Value Procurement.....Ellis Powell*

Mr. Powell discussed the Best Value Procurement process. The Department is interested this process for a limited number of projects where the design can be easily accomplished in house but the project is complex and of significant importance to be completed as quickly as possible. Certain elements of the Design–Build selection process would be followed, such as scope review, which will provide the industry a more formal method to question the plans and provisions and allow the Department to make needed corrections or clarifications. In addition, it would allow the Department to select potential bidders based on available resources and past performance.

Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Graham expressed their concerns regarding using certain criteria for the disqualification process which might be too limited. Mr. Powell asked that the industry give it consideration and state their concerns in order to be able to put together a process for best value projects. Mr. John Sullivan from the FHWA added that this process would also need Federal approval.

• *Photogrammetric Earthwork Quantity Issues.....Bob Loflin*

Mr. Bob Lofkin questioned the accuracy of the earthwork quantities using Photogrammetry . Mr. Powell suggested that Contractors communicate with the project Resident Engineer to compare notes from the beginning of the project and during the construction process to monitor the earthwork quantities rather than waiting until the end of the job. Mr. Powell also stated that the Department is looking at the current procedures for calculating earthwork quantities using aerial photography and anticipates adjustments to facilitate better communication.

Other issues:

Sampling Aggregate Base Course (ABC).....Cecil Jones

Mr. Cecil Jones stated that the Department has been asked to get involved in solving issues regarding the ABC Quality Control sampling process to investigate what can cause material under the roadway to be different after it had been sampled at the production site. Mr. Jones advised that it is not the intent of the Department to assign responsibility as to the reason why the field samples fail the QC process; these issues should be handled between the Contractors and their Suppliers.

Shoulder Construction.....Bill Copeland

Mr. Bill Copeland wants to add a note to the Traffic Control Notes when there is no Shoulder Construction Bid item. In resurfacing projects NCDOT should fix the low shoulders before the project starts thus eliminating the Contractor's liability for traffic control. Mr. Bill Rosser stated that this issue will be considered and that the Department needs to set a sub-committee for its solution.

The next meeting is scheduled for **September 20, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. in the Chief Engineer's Conference Room on Beryl Road, Raleigh.**

KS:kdI

cc: Mr. Dan DeVane
Mr. W. D. Riddick
Mr. Roberto Canales, P. E.
Mr. W. F. Rosser, Pe. E.
Mr. W. S. Varnedoe, P. E.
Ms. D. M. Barbour, P. E.
Ms. Susan Coward
Mr. S. D. DeWitt, P. E.
Mr. J. G. Nance, P. E.
Mr. L. D. Love, P. E.
Mr. B. G. Jenkins, Jr., P. E.
Mr. C. L. Jones, P. E.
Mr. V. J. Barbour, P. E.
Mr. Art McMillan, P. E.
Mr. C. W. Leggett, P. E.
Ms. Kalliopi Sgouros