

## **Meeting Notes**

### **Joint Transportation Committee Meeting MaineDOT – ACEC of Maine**

Date: July 13, 2009

Place/Time: Main Conference Room #216, MDOT; 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Attendees: MaineDOT: Todd Pelletier, Peggy Duval, Joyce Noel Taylor, David Sherlock, Bill Pulver, Debbi Farrell, Brad Foley, Paul Pottle, Jim Mansir, Bob Skehan, Eric Shepherd

FHWA: Gerald Varney, Cassandra Chase

ACEC of Maine: Jason Gallant, JoAnn Fryer, Tony Grande, Dave Andrews, John Theriault, Phil Kendall, Kevin Ducharme, Steve Sawyer, Dale Mitchell

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Meeting Purpose to share recent activity on a number of issues centered on ARRA funding, subcommittee meeting issues and topics for upcoming meetings as well as to gain insight of MaineDOTs upcoming program and how consultants can contribute towards success.

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Our Mission Statement and Goals and Objectives.

#### **Mission Statement**

The MaineDOT and ACEC of Maine seek to enhance our professional relationship in support of the common goal to provide quality, responsive and cost effective transportation solutions through effective communication and cooperative working relationships.

#### **Goals and Objectives**

- Maintain an open dialogue and build working relationships between MDOT and ACEC of Maine
- Through teamwork, affect continuous process refinement that will result in quality products and efficient business practices.
- Provide an open forum to present and consider concerns of either party for further actions, where appropriate.
- Share professional and technical information for the common goal of improving project development, management and delivery systems.

#### **MaineDOT Program Update from Joyce Taylor**

- There is no expectation that extra funding may be coming following initial ARRA funding.
- Legislative Joint Standing Committee on Transportation is currently looking for funds for maintenance funding.
- Early retirements are being offered to MaineDOT employees.
- Shifting folks around to fill positions versus any new hires.
- MaineDOT is still trying to bring on 3-4 new hires college graduates per year.

- There are staffing challenges in the Construction field. Additional staff with higher levels of qualifications are being sought.
- Upcoming program will likely see 'meat & potato' type projects going to consultants, allowing MaineDOT staff to focus on construction.
- Stimulus is now essentially over as far as PCE is concerned. MaineDOT must now regroup to determine what MaineDOT is to look like in coming years.
- There is a definite place for consultants as the MaineDOT is looking to stay constant with assistance from consultants filling the voids and allowing the Team to be more nimble in future.
- Bridge group is quite busy with a large amount of projects to be advertised in 2009.
- Consultant embedment has worked well and will likely continue in some fashion in the future.
- MaineDOT trying to better understand what the program needs to look like to be healthier for the consultants as well as more beneficial to the State.
- Reporting on ARRA funding appears to be going well. Majority of this is/will be on the construction side so mostly up to MaineDOT staff to do.
- DBE goals being met.
- Appears to be a relatively low number of available DBE firms.
- MaineDOT actively working on fostering new businesses and DBE interests.

#### **Bridge Update**

- Bridge Program in a temporary lull as most stimulus projects and projects in current workplan are out into construction. Still have another \$50M to advertise in 2009 but design is mostly done (Winslow & Howland D/B are a major piece).
- 6-8 more projects in current workplan to go in early 2010.
- Next workplan is the largest they have ever had – 150 project, most are small projects.

#### **Highway Update**

- Not much work on the horizon. Most all projects assigned.
- Not much in Workplan.
- Highway Program will look different by Fall/Winter 2009
- Near future will see shelved projects being pulled as money for construction becomes available.
- Goal is to have a healthy backlog of projects on shelf and ready to go.

#### **Multimodal Update**

- Not much work on horizon.
- Projects will come from municipalities.
- As with other programs, waiting on bond issue.
- Trenton project may be big enough to go full RFP

#### **Traffic Update**

- Approximately 10 projects remaining to be put out.
- Next program could see 30-40 projects.
- Hope to get all existing projects out in September/October.
- A good percentage of projects are Safety funded.

#### **Planning Update**

- Several studies underway; finishing up most.
- Not many new planning studies coming in the next two years.
- GCA process is nearly complete; results due out this month.

- Planning has lost 18 positions including lay-offs, open positions & retirements. Hired new transit planner.
- MaineDOT working with Maine Turnpike on Gorham and Central York with each leading one project.
- Future planning funds appear to be low on the FHWA side.
- MaineDOT working on all leads at securing discretionary funds from a number of sources.
- Training for Aviation Locally Administered Projects planned for Spring 2010.

#### **Construction Update**

- MaineDOT currently looking at how embedment might be an opportunity to assist in the larger construction projects where more/wider knowledge base is needed.
- This season going well; plenty of certified staff. Bigger projects continue to be an issue.
- Next season is shaping up to have a big demand for consultants in the field. The size of the maintenance paving program could influence this demand.
- Consultant staff embedment underway and working well. Likely to continue.

#### **CAD/ESSG Update**

- Bob Skehan is leading effort for this group (Engineering Support Services Group)
- MaineDOT is looking to develop a User Group to help guide future. An internal and external group would likely be a good fit. Bob will work with the ACEC CAD subcommittee to get started then evaluate as it progresses.
- Training will be offered but it will likely be different than in the past. The goal will be to have a number of folks, likely on the internal User Group, that can serve as first line of question/answer then move towards full group and Bob. The goal is to minimize 'administrative' time and effort and keep it as job chargeable as possible.
- Internal group to be developed
- MaineDOT welcomes input from CAD subcommittee and wants to get this group active again. Dale to provide Bob with contacts.

#### **GCA Process Update**

- Pre-Qualified list now complete.
- GCA contracts and notification underway.
- Construction Support GCAs done.
- Environmental has no new GCAs.
- 2010 will be when next GCA process starts.
- RFP/RFQ subcommittee to begin addressing in Fall 2009.
- MaineDOT will likely be looking for 'field' rates in addition to office rates as program moves forward. A number of questions and comments were posed, all of which were determined to be topics for discussion as the staff embedment moves forward.

#### **Report From Subcommittees**

- Time prevented lengthy updates however it was noted the Highway and Bridge subcommittees have recently met with a bulk of topics discussed being those discussed here.
- QUIC – D/B task force (DOT only) is working on putting together scoring teams.

#### **Agenda Items to be carried forward:**

- Consider a small working group to discuss future staff embedment and what type of contract conditions and/or assignments are most beneficial to the Consultant, e.g. overhead rates, salary caps, duration of assignments, number of staff at any given

time, lead notice necessary, etc.

- Construction staff needs; it might be helpful if the Bridge and Highway subcommittees address first. This would include type of staff needed and numbers.
- Status of CAD user group including internal and external (CAD Subcommittee)
- It would be helpful for the subcommittees to hear what expectations there may be for them and what agenda items they could address to be most helpful to the full committee.
- What is the Department's goal for design model development, i.e. to what extent should projects be modeled?
- Working group to review and 'de-brief' the recent RFQ process.

**Other Items discussed**

- ACEC is reviewing representation on committee and subcommittee level to be sure all areas are covered, a good cross section of member firms are being offered, and that all open seats are filled. The goal is to have this evaluation complete prior to the next meeting.

**Next Meeting**

- Goal is to have meetings more regularly, at least three if not four per year. Next meeting on November 16, 2:00pm at MaineDOT.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dale Mitchell, Co-Chair**